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, cultural and interpretation resource to the State. It is of national significance in terms of its cultural 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 an important Aboriginal and European cultural heritage site.

As one of Australia’s premier cool climate gardens with a plant collection in excess of 4,000 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 1,710 collections of 1,103 taxa and 40.5 million viable seeds.

The RTBG is home to the world’s only Subantarctic Plant House which holds collections from Macquarie Island and links the RTBG with the Antarctic community.
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It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Board, to report that the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (RTBG) has made steady progress through the year 2015/2016.

We have experienced an increase in visitor numbers, concluded important infrastructure maintenance projects, and changes to our management team, board membership and licensing of the restaurant have all been affected with minimum disruption.

The role which the RTBG plays in the life of Tasmania for both locals and visitors is an important one, demonstrated by the fact that this year the number of visitors to the Gardens rose to 443,000, an increase of 31,000 on last year, making the Gardens one of the most visited publicly owned assets in the State.

The work outlined in the body of this report explains the diverse responsibilities of the RTBG, we are not just a recreational facility, but the home of a precious collection of botanical gems, and a resource which assists in understanding and preventing the spread of plant disease while playing a pivotal role in seed conservancy.

Our educational and community engagement roles are also important, accepting that we do not have the resources to engage in the direct provision of formal educational courses, instead working collaboratively with others in so doing.

The increase in visitor numbers to the RTBG is pleasing and, in the main, reflects the increase in tourist visits to the State. While we are not in a position to detail a precise breakdown of local and tourist visitor numbers, earlier research enables us to suggest that approximately 60% of our visitors are from mainland Australia and overseas. Our growing status as a tourist destination, achieved without any formal ties to or arrangements with Tourism Tasmania, has caused the board to consider the status of our relationship with the tourism industry and the expectation of tourists whose focus is on the ‘garden’ reputation of Tasmania.

I have mentioned previously that the Board had determined to achieve better commercial outcomes through our restaurant and catering services. Our restaurant was closed at the start of the year with a major renovation of the kitchen and dining room and then the process of licensing the restaurant and catering functions to Hobart Function and Catering Centre. The introduction of an experienced restaurant and catering business to the Gardens will achieve a better level of service delivery to our visitors, enhancing the visitor experience and achieving a better commercial outcome for the Gardens. I take this opportunity to thank all those involved in the renovation and transition process, particularly our staff and our patient, loyal supporters within the community.

The RTBG will celebrate its bicentenary in 2018, we are the second oldest Botanical Gardens in Australia, and the Board and the Staff at the Gardens have been working to settle an achievable set of goals to celebrate that important milestone in the history of the Gardens.

During the year Gary Davies was appointed Director of the Gardens, replacing Robert Cockerell who had been our Acting Director for almost a year. I wish to thank Robert for the work he did while acting as Director, and to welcome Gary to the Gardens with the best wishes of the Board.

The results outlined in this report have been achieved through the hard work of a dedicated and talented team at the RTBG, our Staff, along with the volunteers and Friends of the Gardens and support team from the Department of Justice. The encouraging comments we receive from visitors to the RTBG reflect the positive results of all that hard work, and I record the Board’s thanks.

During the year two long serving Board members retired, Roger Viney and Scott Gadd and our ex officio member, John Whittington, nominated his replacement. All have made a significant contribution to the RTBG as Board members and through strategic use of their external roles developed better working arrangements and collaborations both departmentally and with the Hobart City Council. I thank Scott, Roger and John for their contribution and acknowledge the significant benefit to the RTBG and therefore the Community which is obtained through the cohesive working relationships we have with the Department (DPIPWE) and the Hobart City Council.

I welcome to the Board our new members, Beth Mathison, Paul Oxley, Jo Bailey and Tim Baker (replacing John Whittington), and look forward to working with them in the coming year.

Finally I record our appreciation to the Minister, the Honourable Matthew Groom, MHA, for his ongoing support and interest in the wellbeing of the RTBG.

Dr. Damian Bugg AM QC.
Chairman
It was an honour and a privilege to be appointed as Director of our Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (RTBG) and taking up that position in December 2015.

I trust my appointment will bring with it some stability with regards to leadership and management and over time I can lead the direction of the Gardens achieving our vision and mission and in accordance with the key management goals and objectives set by the Board.

I wish to thank both Mark Fountain and Robert Cockerell who acted as Director during the first five months of the year. Their contributions to the achievements and successes of the year are much appreciated.

In the relatively short time that I have been the Director I have quickly come to the realisation that one needs to appreciate all the different components that need to cohesively work together to get the RTBG to successfully operate to the high standard that it does. This takes a lot of time and effort by dedicated staff, volunteers and Board members.

This year has been a busy one for the Gardens, both from the aspect of visitation and our core business activities. Visitation has increased substantially this year attracting some 443,000 visitors. This is the highest visitation on record and it is pleasing to note that visitation increased not only during the busier summer months but also during the usually quieter winter months.

There have been many highlights for the year and include the following:

The Board and senior management of the RTBG undertook an important strategic planning session, the outcomes of which were firstly the re-setting of our Vision and then core competencies that make our Vision a reality in the form of the Mission. Secondly six key goals were identified as priorities for the next 5 years and what was needed in achieving these goals in the form of setting objectives. These goals and objectives formed the basis for the formulation and adoption of the five year Business Operational Plan.

Concerted effort has been made in returning the RTBG’s budget to surplus which has been achieved through the continued implementation of savings strategies and maximising revenue. This has included the outsourcing of the operation of the RTBG restaurant, kiosk and catering services for functions. Initial work has been undertaken to investigate and implement innovative financial diversification and business sustainability strategies.

The RTBG was awarded a Certificate of Excellence in the 2015 Trip Advisor awards, which is testament to the excellent work of all the staff and volunteers who contribute to the continual improvement of the RTBG’s high standard of Gardens and visitor experience.

This includes the on-going work of the RTBG’s Horticultural team and the consistent quality of the Gardens presentation and the completion of a number of development projects covered in more detail in this report.

A major upgrade of the website has provided the RTBG with a new and more contemporary platform that maximises the potential of the Gardens online presence and builds on the already popular Gardens social media area including Facebook.

The major highlight for the Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre was the RTBG’s first collection of Huon pine seeds as part of the collecting season on the west coast of Tasmania. Over 92,000 viable seeds were collected.

The Tasmanian Orchid Conservation and Research Program had a successful year with flowering for the first time of rare and endangered Caladenia seedlings. The program continues to implement critical recovery actions and research for threatened Tasmanian orchids both in the laboratory and in the field.

Achievements such as those accomplished this year are a result of team work and an enormous amount hard work.

I take this opportunity to recognise and congratulate the Board, staff, Friends of the Gardens and volunteers of the Gardens for their continued unselfish dedication and commitment to ensuring the Gardens continue to remain such an iconic place to visit.

Gary Davies
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, showcases and contributes to the conservation of the flora of Tasmania and educates the community about the importance of plants.

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.

The Mission
The Mission of the RTBG is that we sustainably manage the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, conserve and develop our living collections and heritage, and create and deliver an exemplary and enlightening visitor experience and thriving organisational culture.

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 heritage, 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

Six 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 objectives for their achievement that are included later in this document. The RTBG’s goals are:

- To promote the Gardens and engage with the Tasmanian Community including a successful bicentenary that the community values
- The strategic management of thriving living collections
- A quality environment that provides an exemplary visitor experience
- Partnerships that deliver maximum value for the Gardens
- Our people and culture deliver a quality visitor experience
- A sustainable, self-supporting enterprise
In accordance with the Botanical Gardens Act 2002, the RTBG Board comprises seven members appointed by the Minister, one of which is the Deputy 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 for the Environment, Parks and Heritage, manages the RTBG under the Act. The current business model provides for an annual State government grant supporting approximately 52.9% of the RTBG’s current total operating budget, with the other 47.1% 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 the seedbank, 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 Mitigations 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, which 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 WH&S Committee provides a representative and professional development opportunity for all staff to be actively involved in a wide range of Gardens-related WH&S matters. The Committee meets monthly and records outcomes and recommendations to RTBG management. It also implements regular WH&S 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

During 2015-2016, the RTBG worked to make positive contributions towards the achievement of the Government’s policies and objectives.

Tackling Tasmania’s unemployment rate / Creating a job ready generation
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.

The Gardens remain 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 apprenticeships and traineeships.

The Gardens endeavour to provide a range of educational programs aimed at meeting the needs of the community including, school curriculum based programs, horticultural programs and community programs focusing on horticultural and environmental topics.

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.

Additional support for people living with a disability / Celebrating seniors / Children, Young people and Families / A long term plan for mental health
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 Work 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.

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.

To encourage healthy lifestyles the Gardens continues to provide a diverse range of stimulating and enjoyable, educational 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 endeavors.

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.

Growing jobs in the creative industries / Growing our Tourism Industry / Unlocking the potential of our parks
Through its 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 are currently one of the most visited cultural venues in Tasmania with visitation in excess of 440,000 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 provide sound stewardship of the heritage assets under its control.

Aboriginal culture and heritage is recognised through significant key themes outlined for implementation in the RTBG’s Thematic Interpretation Plan and the Strategic Master Plan.

Backing small business / Growing Tasmania’s hospitality industry
The RTBG runs a number of activities to sustain its operations and continues to provide a diverse range of high quality products, services and activities to meet the needs of visitors to Tasmania.

The RTBG provides additional opportunities for small business through the lease of its restaurant and catering services and through business linkages to the Gardens events.

Looking to the future with energy
As custodians of an iconic cultural heritage landscape, the Gardens provide 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) 2011-2020 Targets for Botanic Gardens Agenda, which contributes to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC).

The Gardens remain committed to achieving environmental sustainability in all aspects of its operations.
The Board and RTBG Management reviewed the Gardens’ vision, mission, goals and objectives with an emphasis on recognising the priority key activities that guide the day to day running of the Gardens.

A new more targeted five year Business Operational Plan was also developed with an initial emphasis on focus on the Gardens Bicentenary in 2018. Discussions are continuing to progress change management with the aim of developing a structure that reflects the current management requirements and needs, particularly giving adequate focus to the business enterprise area.

The annual visitor numbers for the RTBG as at the end of June 2016 were 443,626. This is a record visitation and equates to a substantial increase of 31,057 more visits that the same period last year.

The RTBG was awarded a Certificate of Excellence in the 2015 Trip Advisor awards - this is a testament to the excellent work of all the staff and volunteers who contribute to the continual improvement of the RTBG’s high standard visitor experience. This includes the on-going work of the RTBG’s Horticultural team and the consistent quality of the Gardens presentation. In addition to the commitment to the high standard horticultural presentation the Horticultural team completed a number of development projects, including:

- The renovation of the Greater Hobart Collection, with the addition of 250 new plants;
- The complete overhaul of the irrigation system in the Chinese collection, and
- The deaccession and the planned redevelopment of the Iris Collection.

The major projects for the Bicentenary year were identified and agreed upon by the Bicentenary Working Group and the Board. Project plans are under development and funding has been allocated toward the progression of the selected projects.

The focus of the Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre collecting season was the west coast of Tasmania with targets primarily driven by RBG Kew’s, Global Trees and 1000 Species Projects. A major highlight of the collecting program was the RTBG’s first collection of Huon pine, *Lagarostrobos franklinii*. Over 92,000 viable seeds were collected using a punt to access trees on the banks of the Pieman River.

The Tasmanian Orchid Conservation and Research Program had a successful year with flowering for the first time of rare and endangered *Caladenia* seedlings. The program continues to implement critical recovery actions and research for threatened Tasmanian orchids both in the laboratory and in the field.

The first major upgrade to the RTBG website in more than a decade has provided the Gardens with a new and more contemporary platform that maximises the potentials of the Gardens online presence. There has also been a concerted effort to build on the already popular Gardens social media area including Facebook.
Collections & Research
The 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 is incorporated within this unit.

**Botanical Resources**
Responsible for the maintenance of documentation contained in the plant collections database, site mapping and labeling collections, maintaining the ancillary library, herbarium and archival collections. In addition this unit provides support for the Seedbank and 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.

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 of 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.
Case Study 1:

West Coast Collecting

The collecting season of 2015-2016 saw the TSCC focussing its collecting efforts on Tasmania’s west coast. This collecting effort was driven by two funding programs coordinated by the Australian Seedbank partnership – 1) the Millennium Seed Bank’s Global Tree Project and 2) ASBP’s 1000 species program. The Global Trees Project (GTP) targeted four Tasmanian endemics that we have not collected – Acradenia franklinii, Anodopetalum biglandulosum, Eucryphia lucida and perhaps most notably the iconic, Lagarostrobos franklinii. The 1000 species program (TSP) aimed for a further 23 shrubs and herbs more common in the west.

In total seven trips to the west coast were carried out and tended to follow a regular pattern – 1) head to Strahan stopping of at one or two spots along the Lyell Highway, 2) stay in Strahan for two nights and survey from Strahan to Zeehan, 3) head over to Corinna and stay 2-3 nights and survey around Balfour, Savage River and Corinna. In addition several trips to Lake King William, Lake Augusta and Great Lake were carried out to facilitate tracking down targets. Some species were found with relative ease but others proved to be tricky to find in locations and numbers suitable for collecting.

Sixty collections were made in the field this season. For the GTP only two of the four species were collected. One was missed due to the extensive west coast fire experienced during January-February. The second species was missed due to timing issues. For TSP of the 23 targets, 11 were successfully collected, however a further fourteen collections were made meeting TSP criteria bringing our final total to 25.

Despite a rather difficult collecting season we made a number of notable additions to our facility. Most significant is probably the collection of Lagarostrobos. Based at Corinna in a two and half hour boat trip along the Pieman River we collected over 92,000 viable seeds. This is a fantastic result for such an important, iconic and restricted tree. Also notable is our first collection of a recently described and highly restricted endemic – Euphrasia amplidens (6000 viable seeds), a species known only from the serpentinite rocks near the Wilson River. 21,000 viable seeds of the endemic Juncus ratkowskyanus were collected in April and this is the first record of this species since 1990. Also in April, over 150,000 viable seeds of Xanthorrhoea australis were collected from Bruny Island, a huge collection from the most southerly population of this species.
Goals and Objectives

RTBG Senior Management and the Board identified new goals and current objectives to more strongly align the RTBG with its core business.

The new goals and objectives are:

To promote the Gardens and engage with the Tasmanian Community (including a successful bicentenary that the community values)

1. To define, prioritise and fund strategic and appealing bicentenary projects
2. To develop strategic partnerships that deliver value to the Bicentenary
3. To promote and engage with the Tasmanian community in Bicentenary celebrations

The strategic management of thriving living collections

4. To maintain, sustain and develop the living collections
5. To maintain and develop the Botanical Estate
6. To maintain our commitment to plant conservation programs
7. To improve the experience for visitors in the Gardens
8. To improve visitor access to the Gardens
9. To deliver high quality interpretation to visitors based on core values
10. To facilitate use of the Gardens for creative and targeted education opportunities
11. To ensure environmental sustainability of the Gardens

Partnerships that deliver maximum value for the Gardens

12. To achieve a collaborative, focused approach with Friends, Volunteers and Support groups
13. To deliver mutual benefits with key strategic partners
14. To engage the corporate sector in the Gardens
15. To attract, develop and retain skilled and appropriate staff
16. To develop Volunteer capability and their contribution to the Gardens

A sustainable, self-supporting enterprise

17. To maximise revenue to support Gardens’ development
18. To investigate new revenue opportunities
19. To increase the contribution of philanthropy to the Gardens resources
20. To operate under an effective governance model

Our people and culture deliver a quality visitor experience

21. To attract, develop and retain skilled and appropriate staff
22. To develop Volunteer capability and their contribution to the Gardens

A quality environment that provides an exemplary visitor experience

23. To improve the experience for visitors in the Gardens
24. To improve visitor access to the Gardens
25. To deliver high quality interpretation to visitors based on core values
26. To facilitate use of the Gardens for creative and targeted education opportunities
27. To ensure environmental sustainability of the Gardens

Partnerships that deliver maximum value for the Gardens

28. To achieve a collaborative, focused approach with Friends, Volunteers and Support groups
29. To deliver mutual benefits with key strategic partners
30. To engage the corporate sector in the Gardens
31. To attract, develop and retain skilled and appropriate staff
32. To develop Volunteer capability and their contribution to the Gardens

A sustainable, self-supporting enterprise

33. To maximise revenue to support Gardens’ development
34. To investigate new revenue opportunities
35. To increase the contribution of philanthropy to the Gardens resources
36. To operate under an effective governance model
To Promote the Gardens and Engage with the Tasmanian Community (including a successful bicentenary that the community values)

1. To define, prioritise and fund strategic and appealing bicentenary projects
2. To develop strategic partnerships that deliver value to the Bicentenary
3. To promote and engage with the Tasmanian community in Bicentenary celebrations
A Bicentenary Working Group comprised of RTBG management staff and Board members was established to oversee the planning of projects for the Bicentenary of the Gardens in 2018. A number of projects were considered and four were selected to progress. These included:

- The Front Entrance Revitalisation project.
- The Sustainable Learning Centre upgrade.
- A New Lily Pond Viewing Platform.
- The Tasmanian Rainforest Experience project.

**Front Entrance Revitalisation**

The Front Entrance Revitalisation Project aims to rejuvenate the entrance through the Main Gates. The Gates were erected in 1878 and the avenue of trees in the carriage way planted around that time. Currently the Gardens attract approximately 440,000 visitors a year, most passing through the main entrance way. A business case and prospectus has been prepared by the working group to be used to secure funding.

**Sustainable Learning Centre**

The Sustainable Learning Centre upgrade aims to develop a multifunctional facility based around the Tasmanian Community Food Garden and the current Education Pod. Funding has been secured from Skills Tasmania and the development is timed to be completed prior to 2018 with the launch taking place during the Bicentenary. A business plan and draft brief for building works has been prepared and a sketch plan for the western side of the building has been prepared in-house with the aim of creating community spaces that can be utilised as an events site.

**Lily Pond Viewing Platform**

The proposed development for the Lily Pond aims to provide a water level viewing platform for visitors that fits in sensitively with the surrounding landscape. A project scope and briefing document has been prepared to go out to landscape architects for the development of a concept plan for the deck to be submitted by early August. The aim is for the project to be completed prior to the Bicentenary and launched in 2018.

**Tasmanian Rainforest Experience**

The Tasmanian Rainforest Experience has the objective of providing an immersive encounter for visitors to experience a Tasmanian rainforest. Preliminary planning has involved the development of a project précis for decision-making in regard to the future of the concept and the development of a draft prospectus.

**Appointment of a Promotions and Marketing Specialist**

A vitally important and pivotal role in establishing a strategy that enhances our business enterprise is the appointment of a new Promotions and Marketing Manager to drive this strategy.

Interviews for this manager position have been undertaken and appointment due to take place shortly. With this position in place, branding and marketing priorities will be set and an events calendar finalised for the Bicentenary years and beyond.
The Strategic Management of Thriving Living Collections

4. To maintain, sustain and develop the living collections

5. To maintain and develop the Botanical Estate

6. To maintain our commitment to plant conservation programs
Living Collections Management

Display Development

Tasmanian Community Food Garden
The TCFG continues to be a popular display with visitors and viewers of ABC’s Gardening Australia with host Tino Carnivale regularly filming segments for the program in the garden. The TCFG is a venue for a number of community groups including the Red Cross, Colony 47 and the Department of Veteran’s Affairs. Produce was harvested from the garden each week by Second Bite for distribution to people in need and produce was also supplied to Colony 47 to support their annual Christmas lunch.

The TCFG plantings have continued to develop over the past year with the installation of a fixed metal framework for passionfruit on the retaining wall below the Education Pod. Five more olive trees with permanent under-plantings have also created a substantial improvement to the existing three olives.

Estate Team Inmate Program
A number of the inmates working with the Estate Team are currently undertaking horticultural training through TasTafe. They have been working with the Eastern Team to gain practical experience as part of their training. Projects the inmates participated in included refurbishments in the Grey Garden and planting on the bank below the Fuchsia House. Experience in the use of landscape machinery was also gained with the grappling of paths in the Mixed Border. The experience has been positive for both staff and inmates together with the obvious pride taken in their work.

Iris Garden

The Iris garden was de-accessed in June 2016 to make way for further development of the Mixed Border. The Iris garden has been a popular display bed over the last six years and has now been integrated into the mixed border perennial plantings. The new planting layout will feature prominent plantings of large Miscanthus standing high above a mix of herbaceous perennials, roses, and a number of the bearded iris from the original plantings.

Succulent Bed

The shrub planting in the raised beds around the glasshouse behind the succulent bed was removed and various succulent species and cultivars were planted to tie in with the succulent beds below. Plantings included the black tree aeonium, Aeonium arboreum ‘Schwarzkopf’ and the tree crassula, Crassula arborescens.

Lawn Renovations

A number of lawn renovations were undertaken including dethatching and levelling of the lawn in front of the Superintendent’s Cottage. Lawn renovation was also carried out on the lawn around the Fuchsia House and Erica Garden and new lawn was laid in front of the Tasmanian Community Food Garden.

Lily Pond Rills Landscaping

Horticulturist Kath Saunders coordinated a project to create better access around the Californian redwood, Sequoia sempervirens, above the Lily Pond that was begun in May 2016. This work has included the removal of unsubstandard concrete paths, construction of beautiful new dry stone walls by horticulturist Adam Lancaster, replacement of irrigation and selective branch removal to create a more open woodland area for planting at the top of the Pond.

Nursery

Natural Resource Management South Funding

Curator Lorraine Perrins submitted and was successful in receiving Natural Resource Management (NRM) South Biosecurity funding for new signage and upgrading of protocols relating to hygiene practices of the RTBG, both in the field and on-site, particularly in regards to disease spread.

The Tasmanian Orchid Conservation and Research Program received funding from NRM South to purchase the raw materials for the construction of 9 metal benches for the nursery area. Constructed in-house by our capable maintenance crew, these benches have the capacity to provide a possum-proofed area for the future expansion of the native orchid and other conservation collections.

Lone Pine

In 2014 Rose Bay High School grade 9 students approached the RTBG and members of the Veterans and Families’ Garden Plot to grow seedlings of the Lone Pine, Pinus halapensis, from Gallipoli with the intention of making the trees available to schools and other organisations during the four year commemoration of the World War One.

RTBG staff collected seed from a descendent of the original tree from the Battle of Lone Pine at the Hobart War Cemetery at Cornelian Bay. Rose Bay High students worked with horticulturist Margot White to sow 140 seeds into tubes that were grown on by the Nursery Growing Group volunteers. The trees were distributed to veterans, schools and community groups for planting on ANZAC Day 2016.

Arboriculture

The arboriculture program has been managed by Eastern Team Leader Anne Griffin over the past year with the use of contractors to carry out tree maintenance. Works have included removal of storm damage and dead-wooding, crown reduction on a large ash and removal of a number of dying and senescing trees that posed a risk to public safety. Work was done in October 2015 to prune the trees growing under a powerline in the storage area. RTBG staff treated the Elm Collection for elm leaf beetle in November 2015.
Contract arborist Alister Hodgman undertook PICUS sonic tomography on a large oak, Quercus x robur and grey ironbark Eucalyptus paniculata to measure the amount of decay and live wood in the trunk. Following the tomograph, remedial works were undertaken on the oak and a cable was installed on the ironbark to support the main leaders. The cables on 16 other trees were checked in January 2016 as part of the routine tree maintenance program. The cable on a large Spanish fir, Abies pinsapo, in the Pinetum was found to no longer be effective and the tree was removed due to the likelihood of failure.

**Estate Team**

The Estate Team continued their valuable work, assisted by Corrective Services inmates, ensuring the Gardens are maintained to the highest standards. The Estate Team is responsible for the management and processing of all green waste produced within the Gardens throughout the year. This work is of critical importance to the organisation as it provides an ongoing source of premium composted organic matter for the horticulture teams. The processing of green waste also contributes to the RTBG’s commitment to reducing the amount of waste material sent to landfill. The team is also responsible for lawn maintenance and waste disposal.

Management of the Domain Highway and the Lower Domain Road edges, including weeding, slashing and regular rubbish patrols is another important task undertaken by the team. Other duties include the ongoing management of the RTBG portion of the Derwent Foreshore and Pavilion Point sites and maintenance of the Bridge to City project precinct on the Derwent Foreshore including brush-cutting, weeding and rubbish removal.

**Biosecurity**

**Myrtle Rust**

Myrtle Rust, *Puccinia psidii*, was introduced into the state in February 2015 and since that time RTBG staff have been comprehensively involved in the DPIPWE myrtle rust eradication response, including over the summer of 2015-2016. Horticultural Coordinator David Reid represented the RTBG at the key stakeholder meetings and staff members Adam Lancaster, Chris Lang, Kenneth Littler and Lorraine Perrins were appointed as Inspectors under the Plant Quarantine Act and seconded to undertake surveillance activities for this disease.

Assisted by staff member David Morrison and RTBG trainees Lachlan Girschik and Jimmy Corrigan, staff conducted targeted nursery and street surveys through urban areas of Hobart and east coast towns from December to March. Gardens’ trainee Lachlan Girschik spent a week assisting with operations in the north of the state. Our important work resulted in the addition of a significant number of new sites surveyed and a better understanding of the distribution of the highly susceptible *Lophomyrtus* species and cultivars. There were no positive detections reported in southern or eastern Tasmania during summer.

The RTBG on-ground myrtle rust monitoring continued from November to May with no detection of the disease in the living collection but there were impacts on the Gardens generally as the purchase of plants from local nurseries was halted over the peak disease period. The RTBG Nursery Growing Group volunteers provided seedlings for ABC’s Gardening Australia during that time.

**Hazelnut Mite**

Leaf samples from the RTBG’s hazelnut collection were supplied to the Plant Biosecurity Diagnostics Branch of DPIPWE for a survey of plants growing in residential, public and commercial sites state-wide for the hazelnut mite, *Tetranycopsis horridus*, which was detected in Victoria earlier in 2016. There was no evidence of the pest mite in all material tested across the state and a good sign was that many samples contained a beneficial predatory mite that feeds on pest mites.

**Curator of Tasmanian Flora**

**Greater Hobart Collection**

The Northern Horticulture Team has made substantial progress with the redevelopment of the Greater Hobart Collection. The addition of almost 40m$^2$ of a specially formulated soil mix, along with the installation of an automatic irrigation system, ensures that plants are provided with ideal growing conditions. The planting of larger groupings of species that demonstrate the diversity and appealing qualities of Greater Hobart’s rich flora is almost complete. The Northern Team and Manager Learning and Community Engagement are currently developing an engaging interpretive strategy for this important display.

**Tasmanian Ericaceae Collection De-accession**

Planning is well underway to determine an alternative display in the area currently occupied by the Tasmanian Ericaceae Collection. The decision to remove the display was a carefully considered one, with the presence of the soil borne root rot pathogen, *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, to which members of the Ericaceae family are highly susceptible, being the primary motivation for de-accession. The collection was established in 1994 to showcase an important plant family that is represented in Tasmania by around 100 species, 62% of which are endemic. The RTBG will ensure that Tasmanian Ericaceae species are broadly represented throughout existing displays and future collection developments.
Living Collections Management

Tasmanian Native Collection Development/Improvement Overview for the Board

The Curator Tasmanian Flora, Chris Lang, Deputy Director, Mark Fountain and Horticultural Coordinator, David Reid provided the RTBG Board of Trustees with an overview of proposed Tasmanian Native Collection developments and improvements. The overview served to further familiarise the Board with recommendations made through the Living Collection Planning process and our ambition to comprehensively represent Tasmania’s flora through the Northern Region of the Gardens.

Provision of Plant Samples to the Tasmanian Herbarium

Curator Chris Lang provided Mathew Baker and Alan Gray from the Tasmanian Herbarium with samples of Pimelea sp. Freycinet. The samples cut from flowering specimens growing on the East Coast Collection will assist with the formal scientific description process. A paper on the newly described species is set for publication early next year.

Bothwell Cemetery Species List

Dick Burns of the Australian Plants Society was provided with a list of native plant species that naturally occur in the Bothwell Cemetery. Dick will be leading a 5 day tour as part of the upcoming (January 2018) Australian Plants Conference during which participants will visit a number of sites of botanical interest including the cemetery.

Curator Conservation Collections and Subantarctic Flora

Azorella macquariensis Dieback Program

The RTBG’s ex situ conservation project, “The establishment and monitoring of the Azorella macquariensis ex situ seedbank orchard on Wireless Hill, Macquarie Island”, is now continuing into its sixth year. The 54 ex situ plantings on Macquarie Island continue to be monitored closely with assistance of regular images sent to the RTBG via the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Rangers based on the Island. All plants appear to be growing well. The hostile on-island conditions for the infrastructure of this project were highlighted this year with the degradation of the guttering for water harvesting requiring complete replacement, as well as irrigation weeper hose and pump issues. Thankfully close monitoring by the Rangers enabled remedial actions to be implemented. Plans are in place for the possible seed harvest from this collection in early 2017.

The RTBG is grateful for support for this project from the Australian Antarctic Division and the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service.

Seedbank Orchard Activity

The RTBG Nursery has developed 40 seed orchards since the RTBG Seedbank commenced in 2005. 24 seed orchards have been completed to date, with outstanding results this season for three threatened species, Boronia gunnii, Ranunculus acaulis and Crassula moschata, yielding 51,800, 32,000, and 33,000 seeds respectively. A dedicated group of Friends of the RTBG provided invaluable support in the tedious task of harvesting seeds from the dune buttercup collection, Ranunculus acaulis.

Aquisitions

There were 169 new accessions for the period July 2015 to the end of June 2016. New accessions included donations of Gasteria × Aloe and Billbergia ‘Afterglow’ hybrids from James Wood for the RTBG Conservatory displays. Seed of Begonia species was donated by the Australian and Melbourne Begonia Societies for propagation to add to the RTBG begonia collection.

44 plants of two Tasmanian orchid species were accessed from germinants propagated by the RTBG Tasmanian Orchid Conservation and Research Program. Both orchids, the pungent leek orchid, Prasophyllum olidum, and the golfer’s leek orchid, Prasophyllum incorrectum, are listed at the highest level of threat as critically endangered under the Federal EPBC Act and endangered under the Tasmanian TSP Act.

Ancillary Collections

Library

Seventy new books were added to the RTBG library over the 2015-2016 financial year. The RTBG received a number of donations which included a copy of the 1888 Australian Orchids from the family of the late Leonard and Marjory Wall and two titles on begonias donated by the late Peter Sharp. Both Marjory and Peter were active members of the Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. A two CD set of Edible Plants in Tasmania and Edible Plants of the World was donated by Bruce French of Food Plants International.

RTBG Herbarium

The Herbarium continues to house specimens from the RTBG in-ground collection of exotic species, together with voucher specimens of Tasmanian native species that were collected by Gardens’ staff for propagation to display in our Tasmanian Collections.
Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre (TSCC)

Collections
Collecting Statistics
2015-2016 Up to 30/6/16

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West Coast Focus
This season saw a focus on collecting on the west coast of Tasmania. This focus was primarily driven by the collecting targets for RBG Kew’s Global Trees and 1000 Species Projects. A major highlight for this season’s collecting program was our first collection of Huon pine, *Lagarostrobos franklinii*. Collecting on the Pieman River for three hours obtained over 92,000 viable seeds.

The Australian Plant Society (Hobart Group) donated $3000 to the field work fund of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. This donation assisted the 2015-2016 seed collecting work on Tasmania’s West Coast. The RTBG would like to thank the Society for their very generous support.

Germination Testing
Testing Statistics
2015-2016 Up to 30/6/16

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New Test Regime
In January 2015 the Seedbank received its tenth incubator provided with funding from the Friends of the RTBG. After an initial short set of testing with an extreme alternating regime of 29/05°C, the incubator was set to 12/00°C to explore the benefits of a cold alternating regime. This new cold testing regime has proven to be extremely useful in resolving the germination requirements of a number of species which had been, up until now, completely intractable.

We now have relatively rapid high level germination of several snow gentian, *Gentianella*, collections. This regime may also be highly productive in eliciting germination in many of Tasmania’s stone-fruited Epacrids. This is a notoriously difficult group of species, and early indications are looking promising with some of our most rapid germination events recorded so far in *Planocarpa*, *Monotoca* and *Pentachondra*. There are indications that this regime may also prove useful with members of the Cyperaceae.

Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre Support
Members of the horticulture teams continue to provide valuable support to the Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre through the regular involvement in seed collection trips throughout the state. Horticulturist Adam Lancaster and Trainee Lachlan Girschik provided support for the West Coast seed collecting program over the summer period. The RTBG trainees spend a half day per week working in the Seedbank undertaking germination testing as part of their training.

Tasmanian Orchid Conservation and Research Program
The Tasmanian Orchid Conservation and Research Program (TOCRP) has had a successful year with flowering for the first time of rare and endangered Caladenia seedlings. The program continues to implement critical recovery actions and research for threatened Tasmanian orchids both in the laboratory and in the field. Laboratory activity is completed in the transportable behind the TSCC and is functioning well.

The propagation work benefits from excellent support from RTBG Nursery staff who take care of watering and pest and disease management. Research to better understand orchid-fungi associations is ongoing, supported by the Australian Orchid Foundation and Herman Slade Foundation. The Threatened Flora Link has provided significant capacity to undertake field based orchid and other threatened plant surveys and monitoring as well as coordination of volunteers to assist with ex situ orchid propagation.

The Tasmanian Orchid Conservation and Research Program annual report is available from Dr Nigel Swarts at nigel.swarts@gmail.com

Outputs for the 2015-2016 financial year include:

- Program led through in kind contributions by Drs Nigel Swarts and Magali Wright;
- Securing over $40,000 of new funding for the TOCRP;
- Signed Threatened Flora Link MOU between the RTBG, Friends of the RTBG, NRM South, NRM North and NRM Cradle Coast to assist with future ex situ orchid conservation with the provision of approximately $10,000 for the 2015-2016 season;
- New $32,000 Australian Orchid Foundation project to complete IUCN Red List assessments for threatened Australian orchids led by Dr Nigel Swarts;
Living Collections Management

- TOCRP supported by 450 volunteers hours (or 90 days) contributed to ex situ orchid conservation activities state-wide. Continued training of volunteers in ex situ orchid conservation methods;
- DNA sequencing of 110 Tasmanian orchid mycorrhizal isolates and an additional 250 isolates from other Australian states; and
- Germination of over 200 seedlings of the critically endangered orchids Caladenia saggicola, Pterostylis ziegeleri and Prasophyllum incorrectum.

Research Projects

Lomatia tasmanica
Research into the tissue culture propagation of the critically endangered King’s Lomatia, Lomatia tasmanica, continues in collaboration with the Biological Sciences Department of the University of Tasmania (UTAS). The RTBG has worked with UTAS research assistant Aina Price since 2005 on research into the propagation of this species and another trial was undertaken in November 2015. A variety of treatments were trialled with and without carbon sources in the media such as glucose, as well as inoculating some media with soil isolates harvested from around the RTBG plant specimens. This research is still ongoing.

Azorella macquariensis
The RTBG has provided support for the four year project titled ‘Nowhere to hide? Conservation options for a subantarctic keystone species’. This project’s focus is to look at identifying climatic refugia for the critically endangered Macquarie Island cushion, Azorella macquariensis, and predict the species response to a range of climate change and other scenarios. Professor Melodie McGeogh from Monash University is the chief investigator for this project, and has recently been joined by PhD candidate Ms Catherine Dickson, who visited the RTBG in June to learn more about the RTBG’s Azorella macquariensis conservation work and prepare for a gap analysis for this species.

Cyphanthera tasmanica Soil Seedbank Trial
Cyphanthera tasmanica is endemic to the east coast of Tasmania and listed as rare under the Tasmanian Threatened Species Protection Act 1995. It is not a long lived species, regenerating from seed, usually following fire, and seed is thought to persist in the soil for up to 20 years. A seed longevity trial was set up at the Bluff River Gorge in March 2011 in which 25 bags containing 20 seeds each were buried in order to check the viability of the soil seed bank over a 5 year period. The final bags were retrieved in May 2016 with one bag unaccounted for. 73% of the original seed in the bags was retrieved with a total viability of 87% indicating that a soil seed bank is likely to persist until the next fire.

Research Exchanges
- Flower samples of Crassula moschata were sent to Mani Shrestha, Adjunct Postdoc/Research Assistant, Monash University for studies into the evolution of flowers.
- Leaf and flower samples were collected from Lomatia tasmanica and Telopea truncata and sent to Dr Rebecca Miller, University of Melbourne for research into the extraction of cyanide compounds found in Proteaceae.
- The RTBG plant collection of Pimelea sp. Freycinet from Schouten Island was utilized for the publication of the new description for this species by the Tasmanian Herbarium.

- Samples of Harpullia arborea, Pittosporum bicolor, Podolepis jaceoides, Doryanthes palmeri and Melicytus lanceolatus were sent to phytochemist Dr Owen Hellyer at the University of Western Sydney to examine plant extracts for biopesticides, acetylcholinesterase inhibitors and pancreatic cancer treatment.
- Cone material of Tasmanian native conifers Athrotaxis selaginoides, A. cupressoides and Microcachrys tetragona and exotic conifers Metasequoia glyptostroboides, Sequoia sempervirens and Sequoiadendron giganteum were provided to Dr Andrew Rozefelds and Professor Trevor Clifford of the Queensland Museum.
- Seed of Hakea megadenia and H. ulicina were sent to Mark Joekler, the acting director of Hawkesbury Institute of the Environment of the University of Western Sydney.
- Seeds of Stilbocarpa polaris were provided to Lazlo Papp of the Eötvös Loránd University Botanical Garden in Bucharest Hungary for studies in germination ecology.
A Quality Environment that Provides an Exemplary Visitor Experience

7. To improve the experience for visitors in the Gardens
8. To improve visitor access to the Gardens
9. To deliver high quality interpretation to visitors based on core values
10. To facilitate use of the Gardens for creative and targeted education opportunities
11. To ensure environmental sustainability of the Gardens
Learning and Community Engagement

This year the unit has focused on the redevelopment of the Gardens online media area including the design and establishment of a new Gardens website. This has been the first major change of the website in more than a decade and has provided the Gardens with a new and more contemporary platform that maximises the potentials of the Gardens online presence. There has also been a concerted effort to build on the already popular Gardens social media area including Facebook. Additionally, the unit is currently working on both an Instagram and YouTube presence, which will enable the Gardens to reach a broader demographic and assist in directing our audience back to our main website.

The year has also brought with it some structural changes for LCE, with the inclusion of the important role of interpretation programs for the Gardens. This and a new three year directional plan for Gardens education programs, due in December 2016, will see a new phase in the provision of visitor engagement.

Big Monkey Theatre

Performances by Big Monkey Theatre in the Botanical Gardens are firmly established as a family favourite on Tasmania’s summer entertainment calendar. Last season saw a successful production of Pinocchio which brought over eleven thousand people through the gates. This re-telling of the classic tale marked the twenty second year of an undeniably successful partnership with RTBG.

With some new faces joining the talented cast the story of the puppet who wanted to be a real boy enchanted a wide ranging audience from kinder to grandparents. Bold performances, crisp comedy and a beautiful setting were enhanced by the costumes of Nicole Winspear who excelled in her first-time design for the company. This coupled with Craig Wood’s polished arrangements of Les Winspear’s songs created a wonderful experience for an appreciative audience.

Big Monkey would like to thank all the staff at the Gardens who, as usual, gave us all the support necessary to make the season successful.

‘24 Carrot’ School Gardens Project Teachers’ Training Session

Nine teaching staff from the 24 Carrot School Gardens program attended a training session in the Tasmanian Community Food Garden at RTBG. The session was led by RTBG horticulturist Adam Lancaster and focused on various methods of soil preparation and planting of vegetable seedlings. Following this, participants were given a tour and an insight into the work carried out in the Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre.

To finish the day, the group was taken through the RTBG Nursery to observe the work associated with the production of Heirloom seedlings and the building of a Heirloom tomato seedbank.

Threatened Species Day


The trail encouraged the public to seek out a variety of Tasmanian threatened plants in our collections and learn more about the factors influencing their survival in the wild. An additional display of threatened native orchids and sedges were on display in the RTBG Conservatory. Permanent red labels were produced for all Tasmanian rare and threatened species to highlight their importance to visitors at any time of the year.

Heritage Works

The RTBG received $200,000 over two financial years from the State Government through an Essential Infrastructure Funding grant with the work to be undertaken divided into two discreet projects.

The Essential Infrastructure Funding grant supported critical maintenance of the RTBG’s significant heritage structures the Arthur and Eardley-Wilmot Walls and the Superintendent’s Cottage. A Condition and Defect Assessment and Management Report was commissioned as part of the Heritage Works through the Oatlands Centre for Heritage in March 2015. This substantial report was used to guide conservation on the Eardley-Wilmot Wall work for the second year of the two year Essential Infrastructure Funding grant and will be used to direct conservation works on the RTBG’s heritage infrastructure into the future.

Following completion of works on the Arthur Wall, restoration works to the Eardley-Wilmot Wall were undertaken beginning in November 2015. This work commenced in the south east corner and continued to the western end adjacent to the RTBG Nursery. Works included repointing and cleaning of capping along entire length of the section of wall running east to west. A substantial amount of drainage work was carried out within the RTBG Nursery alongside the wall. The second round of works on the Eardley-Wilmot Wall and Superintendent’s Cottage was completed in June 2016.
Partnerships that deliver maximum value for the Gardens

12. To achieve a collaborative, focused approach with Friends, Volunteers and Support groups
13. To deliver mutual benefits with key strategic partners
14. To engage the corporate sector in the Gardens
Community Events

Spring Festival
Held on the second weekend in October 2015, SpringFest offered a vibrant display of spring floral colour as a wonderful backdrop for a program of family entertainment, music and activities. This year the program included a very popular series of talks and presentations by a range of specialists on a variety of topics, including popular speaker, author and writer, Jennifer Stackhouse; best-selling cooking author Sally Wise; garden designer Karen Wagner; WaterSense presentations with Marcus Ragus; poultry farmer and gardener Paul Healy and tree specialist Yoav Daniel Barr-Ness.

While celebrating spring remains the central theme of the festival, increasingly the event has become a celebration of Tasmania’s cultural diversity, fine food and wine, performers and vibrant community spirit. This was reflected by the inclusion of community organisations and charities, through to the stalls, suppliers and entertainment, highlighting the strong bond between the Tasmanian community and the Gardens. This benefits the festival and significantly contributes directly to the community and charities involved, providing economic benefits and helping to build a strong sense of community across the diverse cultural backgrounds and age groups represented throughout Tasmania.

Teddy Bears Picnic
The annual Teddy Bears Picnic was held in October 2015 in perfect spring weather and attracted over 2000 people. Organised by Play Group Tasmania, it was a fun filled morning for all involved, with lots of activity for children under 5 years. Activities included a jumping castle, merry go round, a magic show, craft activities, Tasmanian Fire Brigade truck for the kids to explore, Family Food Patch and lots of activities by Playgroup Tasmania.

Tomato Sale
The annual Tomato Sale in September 2015, coordinated by Horticulturist Margot White with the help of a dedicated group of volunteers, was again a great success. In total the volunteers gave 800 hours of their time from the first planting of seed to the sale of the plants on the day. Thirty of the 110 varieties for sale were new varieties grown from seed specially sourced from the USA. The sale was held over 2 days with members of the public paying an entrance fee of $10 for the prelude day raising a total of $2,800 for the Gardens before a single tomato had been sold. On the full sale day crowds were large and steady all day with one keen buyer from Launceston lined up at the gate for the 9am opening for the third year in a row.

Veteran’s Day
The annual Veteran’s Day in the Gardens was held on October 14, 2015. This day provides the opportunity for those people that have dedicated their services to the defence and emergency services to explore and experience the benefits of gardening within the Food Garden and the RTBG Nursery.

Open House Hobart
As part of Hobart Architecture week and under the umbrella of Architecture on the Domain, Wombat One in the Northern Section of the Gardens was an Open House over the weekend of November the 7th and 8th. Wombat One was designed as a project by architecture students working under the mentorship of Richard Leplastrier one of the doyens of contemporary Australian Architecture. Architect David Travallia (one of the original students) was on hand to talk about the building and its development.
Case Study 2:

The Gardens Web

2015-2016 saw the development of a totally new RTBG web administration platform and public website plus a new reinvigorated online and social media strategy. The basis of this was to create an online space that provides essential visitor information but also encourages visitors to spend more time in the site and to dig deeper into the current news of the Gardens, its people, plants, collections and landscapes as well as providing an interpretation platform for the fundamental core business areas of horticulture, conservation science, learning and community.

Currency of information and ease of administration were all fundamental aspects of the design of the website with the majority of its development being completed in-house and within a relatively short period of time. The site currently has one principle manager and developer who maintains the content and develops the detail required for the site’s everyday operation and maintenance. Staff have contributed to articles and other content on a regular basis throughout the year and this will continue with periodic new and creative features being planned.

The site itself is a fully responsive platform that displays across all devices from standard PC’s to various mobile devices and tablets; thus ensuring a diverse range of users and their interactive use of it through both onsite and offsite interactions. The use of smart tags and QR codes that allow visitors to download information for “just in time” or later use, are being increasingly integrated into the interpretation onsite, thereby adding value to the visitors experiences.

The use of the site is the base for this information providing a cost effective “self-service” platform for visitors while at the same time allowing the RTBG to collect analytical data which assists in driving content and design of the site and associated activities.

The site was one of the first to provide creative “virtual” garden walks which are 360 degree sphere view environments similar to that of Google street view. Some of these also include interactive embedded links that present interpretive information as the online visitor moves through the walk. There are more than 92 areas, an estimated 70% across the Gardens which are covered by the walks. The site also includes aerial views of the Gardens, slide shows, videos, with many more planned initiatives for future updates.

It is intended that the site will have regular assessments of its design with periodic facelifts to ensure its contemporary relevance into the future.
Charity Functions

Easter Egg Hunt and Family Picnic
The Gardens again hosted Tasmania’s Biggest Easter Egg Hunt to raise money for the Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation in April 2016. Following the success of last year’s event an extra 1000 tickets were issued with ticket sales exceeding $26,000. With 50,000 chocolate eggs donated by Cadbury for the event, attractions included the Cadbury Easter egg hunt, pin the tail on the bunny and entertainment for all by Exit Left Productions. The Easter Bunny was also on hand to give out eggs. Monies raised go towards medical research in Tasmania.

Celebrate Christmas in the Gardens
This special Christmas Event was held on the 20th of December 2015 and supported the work of the Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation. The event was promoted and managed by Exit Left Productions and this first time event attracted over 3,000 patrons.

Partnerships

Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens
During 2015/16 the Friends of the RTBG continued in their tireless efforts to support the Gardens, providing volunteer time for 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 of the RTBG raise funds for various projects, many of which could not go ahead without this funding.

Bridge to Hobart City Project: Linking Place and People through Coastal Restoration
Work on this important community project continued throughout the year. Curator Tasmanian Flora, Chris Lang and Horticultural Trainee, Jimmy Corrigan collected propagation material from local indigenous species on the Queens Domain and Foreshore areas for Stage 3 of the project.

Another planting day was held in July 2015 and was attended by a diverse group of people including Bushcare groups and local residents. Planting of over 300 new plants took place to provide a great addition to the established plants from previous planting days. The ongoing maintenance of the area is undertaken by the RTBG Estate Team and the way in which this area is developing has already exceeded expectations. Stage 3 plantings are expected to commence in September 2016.

Gardens for Wildlife
The RTBG has recently registered with the Gardens for Wildlife scheme. The placement of Gardens for Wildlife signs on both the Tasmanian and Greater Hobart collections demonstrates our support for a wonderful conservation initiative and commitment to protecting wildlife species in the Gardens. Our plantings provide a friendly, safe haven for a variety of both resident and visiting native wildlife species including the eastern-barred bandicoot, a species listed as vulnerable under the national Environment Protection and Biodiversity Protection Act 1999.

Second Bite
Second Bite continued its involvement in the Tasmanian Community Food Garden throughout the year, harvesting well over 1100kg of fresh produce from the garden this year. Volunteers from Second Bite attend each Thursday to assist in the garden, helping with harvesting of produce as well as regular maintenance of the vegetable crops.

Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority (PAHSMA)
The RTBG were asked to submit a proposal for a Gardens Maintenance Program and Manuals Project by the Conservation Project Officer of Environment and Research at PAHSMA, Dr Caitlin Vertigan. RTBG staff Mark Fountain, David Reid and Anne Griffin visited the site in June 2016 to discuss the management of the project.
Our People and Culture Deliver a Quality Visitor Experience

15. To attract, develop and retain skilled and appropriate staff

16. To develop Volunteer capability and their contribution to the Gardens
Staff Development

Trainees

Two new trainees commenced with the horticulture teams during the 2015-2016 period. Lachlan Girschik commenced in the RTBG Nursery in July 2015, and successfully completed Certificate II in Horticulture in June 2016. He has now commenced Certificate III and Trainee Jimmy Corrigan commenced Certificate III in October 2015. The trainees work with all the Garden Operations teams, including the Nursery and Estate Teams, to ensure they receive a comprehensive training experience in horticulture. Both have had a very successful year and are making excellent progress in their Certificate III Horticulture studies.

Work Placements

During April and May the RTBG hosted a second-year student from France who is currently enrolled in a five-year program of studies at the ENSNP (National School of Advanced Studies in Landscape Architecture) in Blois, France. Perrine Malautier spent eight weeks working alongside RTBG horticulturists in the Gardens and the Nursery.

Internal staff development

- Chris Lang, Ken Littler, Kath Saunders, Adam Lancaster, Lachlan Girschik, Jimmy Corrigan, David Reid and Lorraine Perrins attended a Myrtle Rust and Biosecurity training session conducted by Biosecurity Tasmania and DPIFW staff in preparation for Myrtle Rust Surveillance secondment during the summer 2015-2016 period.
- All Horticultural staff attended a presentation on Neutrog fertilizer products held at the RTBG.
- All staff attended a presentation for the photography application “Woz’ere”.
- Lachlan Girschik and Adam Lancaster conducted a field trip to assist with the seed harvesting of targeted species from the West Coast of Tasmania for the TSCC.
- As a component of their Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, Megan Marrison and Anne Griffin presented a training session for Horticultural Trainees Lachlan Girschik and Jimmy Corrigan on plant propagation techniques and assessing growing environments for particular species.
- Lorraine Perrins commenced training in seed germination testing practices in the TSCC.

Professional Development

- RTBG Staff Adam Lancaster and Jeremy Patterson were trained in the use of tree injection equipment for the control of elm leaf beetle.
- Megan Marrison and Anne Griffin continued their Certificate IV in Training and Assessment with assistance from the Friends of the RTBG Scholarship.

Celebrating Long Service

On the 22nd of September 2015 the RTBG staff celebrated and acknowledged the current longest serving member of staff, Margot White, who has been working as a horticulturist at the Gardens for the past 40 years. James Young reached the 40-year milestone in February 2016.
Case Study 3:
RTBG Trainees

The RTBG had 3 trainees working at the Gardens in the 2015-2016 reporting year with Bridgette Quinn in Administration and Jimmy Corrigan and Lachlan Girschik as part of the Gardens Operation team. All trainees are employed by Work and Training with the RTBG acting as the host business.

Bridgette is completing a Certificate III in Business Management with the aim of using the skills gained to run her own business in the future. The traineeship has allowed her to improve her business management skills, particularly in the area of finance record keeping. The combination of study and work has allowed for hands on experience to apply what she has learnt in her Certificate III classes. Bridgette has enjoyed working with the Administration Team while experiencing the wonderful outdoor environment that the Gardens provide. She has learnt about the history of the Gardens and is developing an interest in learning some of the names of the plants that surround her in her everyday work.

Jimmy Corrigan is completing a Certificate III in Horticulture after undertaking his Certificate II as part of the Gardens Academy. Jimmy discovered his passion for horticulture when he moved to Tasmania three years ago and is using the skills he has gained to design a native landscape at home with the possibility of creating a market garden in the future. He considers that there is no better place to be immersed in plants and has enjoyed sharing his passion for plants with other members of staff. Jimmy feels one of the advantages of training in a botanical garden is the wide range of experiences he has been exposed to from gaining knowledge of particularly native plants to hard landscaping and working as part of the myrtle rust response team.

Lachlan Girschik completed Certificate II in Horticulture in the first 10 months of his traineeship and is now undertaking Certificate III with the intention of seeking a position in agronomy and the possibility of running a small nursery as part of a hobby farm. As part of the Gardens’ Nursery team Lachlan has been able to gain a wide range of skills in plant production as well as a variety of other experiences that would not be gained in a commercial production nursery. In particular Lachlan has enjoyed the opportunity to propagate the more challenging plant species grown in a botanic garden. He has been part of the myrtle rust response, spending a week in Launceston surveying native bushland for the disease and a week as part of the Seedbank west coast collecting program over summer 2016. Lachlan has also worked in the Seedbank each week carrying out germination testing on Tasmanian native species.
Workplace Health & Safety

The RTBG continued with its involvement and representation on the DPIPWE Work Health and Safety Committee throughout 2015-2016. Development of critical risk assessment documents was undertaken by RTBG staff as part of a departmental project.

RTBG senior staff attended a one day workshop on WHS for Managers and Supervisors. All staff were provided with the opportunity to receive the departmental supplied flu and tetanus injections.

Volunteerism

The work undertaken by the volunteers is invaluable to the Gardens with volunteers contributing in a wide range of programs. Activities include volunteers who welcome visitors at the Main Gates and tour guiding to participation in the Nursery and Seedbank programs. The Learning and Community Education unit provides management and liaison for all volunteers onsite with more than 80 volunteers currently working in various locations throughout the Gardens.

A new photographic ID system has been implemented that will assist in the management of volunteer currency and job roles. New professional development opportunities will become available from August 2016 covering various horticultural, botanical, and front of house topics to help upskill and support volunteers into the future.

**Ranunculus acaulis seed collection**

A dedicated group of Friends of the RTBG provided invaluable support for the Nursery by assisting with the tedious and time-consuming task of harvesting seeds from the dune buttercup collection, *Ranunculus acaulis*. Over a period of 15 weeks nine willing volunteers poured over the potted plants, searching with tweezers under a lighted magnifying glass to pick out seeds. After an accumulated 153 hours of volunteer and staff time the collected seed was cleaned and counted by Seedbank Coordinator James Wood. The total of 32,000 seeds was an outstanding result and one that could not have been achieved without so many dedicated and capable helpers.

**Begonia Volunteers**

This group of volunteers aim is to expand the collection of species Begonia to create a collection that will provide a display in the Conservatory, highlighting the diversity of the genus. The group currently has six regular volunteers who attend fortnightly sessions of 3 hours, and is led by Nursery horticulturist Megan Marrison.

**Orchid Group**

Every second Friday, members of the Tasmanian Orchid Society work with Margot White, Nursery horticulturist, busily dividing and repotting plants, feeding and nurturing this wonderful collection of specimens as part of an ongoing process of maintenance and development. The Orchid collection is continually expanding and as always we greatly appreciate the efforts of this group.

**Growing Group**

Our Volunteer Growing Group again contributed significantly to a very successful plant sale in September 2016. A total of 7000 heirloom tomato plants were produced, representing over 100 different varieties. The Growing Group is also involved in the ongoing production and supply of vegetable seedlings for the Tasmanian Community Food Garden.
A Sustainable, Self-supporting Enterprise

17. To maximise revenue to support Gardens’ development
18. To investigate new revenue opportunities
19. To increase the contribution of philanthropy to the Gardens resources
20. To operate under an effective governance model
Maximise Revenue

Concerted effort has been made in returning the RTBG’s budget to a sustainable position through the continued implementation of savings strategies identified in the 2015-16 Budget. To deliver on this commitment the RTBG has continued to implement savings and maximising revenue, including the outsourcing of the operation of the RTBG kiosk, restaurant and catering services for functions across the site, strategic reductions to program budgets and staffing adjustments to achieve operational efficiencies.

The introduction of an experienced restaurant and catering business to the Gardens will achieve a better level of service delivery to our visitors, enhancing the visitor experience and achieving a better commercial outcome for the Gardens.

Increase Philanthropic Contribution

We have prioritised ongoing planning and fundraising to gain maximum benefit from the RTBG’s Bicentenary in 2018. This has focused on seeking funding to support the celebration of the Bicentenary and enable the RTBG to take advantage of the Bicentenary to start up a number of key projects, and to build on the RTBG’s brand and profile.

Investigate Revenue Opportunities

Initial work has been undertaken to investigate and implement innovative financial diversification and business sustainability strategies including the further development of RTBG commercial products and services. This forms the basis for a full analysis of business opportunities to take place.
**Bequests and Sponsorship**

**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 2013-2014 Tree sponsors were:
- S Cooper, G & I Fulton $1,300 Spotted Gum
- Tony James & Stephanie Auchincloss $1,000 Golden Elm
- Diane E Matthews $1,000 Southern Magnolia
- Lyndall Ayers & Anne Geard $500 Dawn Redwood
- Jan Tierney $500 Cork Oak
- Peter Stevenson $500 Norfolk Island Hibiscus

**Total** $4,800

**Mixed Border – Rose Sponsorship**
- David & Dannielle Hunt $500 Rosa ‘Renae’ Arch
- Gavin Thorne $250 Rosa ‘Penelope’
- Rob Cooper $250 Rosa ‘Complicata’
- Dr Rod Griffin $250 Rosa moyesii ‘Geranium’
- Anne Suter $200 Rosa ‘Alba Semi-plena’
- Dr Penny Jools & Brad Freeman $200 Rosa ‘Penelope’
- Margaret Butler $200 Rosa ‘Alba Semi-plena’
- Christine Beven $200 Rosa ‘Cousin Essie’

**Total** $2,050

**Community Sponsorship & Grants**
- Hobart City Council $25,000 Annual Grant
- Council of Heads of Australian Botanic Gardens $23,500 MSB-ASBP Fieldwork Grant
- Australian Orchid Foundation $10,000 Global Listing Project
- Australian Orchid Foundation $7,200 Orchid Project
- The Hermon Slade Foundation $8,000 Orchid Project
- Perth Plant Propagation Pty Ltd $5,000 Natural Area Orchid Project
- Australian Plants Society Tas $3,000 Seed Conservation Project
- Tasmanian Orchid Society Inc $2,000 RTBG Orchid Collection

**Total** $83,700

**General Sponsors**
- Roslyn Gibson $5,500 Memorial Seat
- Estate of Jaap Wim Vermaas $1,000 Bequest
- William Heap $250 General Donation
- Wendy Witham $250 General Donation
- Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans Association $244.50 General Donation
- Friends of the Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery $215 General Donation
- Peter & Jan Richardson $200 General Donation
- Carinya Kappler $200 General Donation
- Dr Clare Roberts $200 General Donation
- Kate Shaw $200 General Donation
- Richard Tucker $100 General Donation
- Suzanne Lewin $70 General Donation
- Lenah Valley Garden Club $50 Azorella Conservation Fund
- JJ & DC Neylan $50 Azorella Conservation Fund
- Madeline Chung $50 General Donation
- Southern Channel Garden Club $20 General Donation
- Thomas & Diana Potter $20 General Donation

**Total** $8,619.50
Our Supporters

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 RTBG continue to provide invaluable support through 2015-2016 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 a new incubator for the Seedbank and a contribution towards the purchase of a new Toro medium duty vehicle for Horticultural staff.

Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre (TSCC) Project Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Australian Seed Bank Partnership (ASBP), Tasmanian Herbarium (TMAG), DPIPWE:
The 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 development of the TSCC provides a critical "insurance policy" for Tasmanian flora into the future. The TSCC is especially grateful for the dedicated work of the seedbank volunteers.

The Tasmanian Orchid Conservation and Research Program
This program is focused to conserving Tasmania’s rare and threatened orchids. Orchid specialists Dr Nigel Swarts and Dr Magali Wright volunteer their time to co-manage the Orchid program through self-generated grants and sponsorship with the support of a dedicated team of volunteers. The Tasmanian Orchid Conservation and Research Program is grateful to Threatened Plants Tasmania for their ongoing support and to NRM South for funding for new Nursery benches and hygiene kits and continuing to sponsor Magali’s time on this project.

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 and through the aegis of our shared MOU.

Department of Justice - Corrective Services Labour and Training Program
The long-standing Corrective Services labour and training partnership program between the 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.

Nursery Programs
The RTBG Nursery’s work to conserve the rare and threatened Lomatia tasmanica is made possible through on-going tissue culture research supported by the School of Biological Sciences at UTAS.

Marketing and Events
The Gardens’ diverse events program would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors and partners. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Powercom, TasWater, Bendigo Bank and the Royal Automobile Club of Tasmania for the Spring Festival 2015.
Staff List as at 30 June 2015

EXECUTIVE
Director
Gary Davies
Deputy Director
Mark Fountain

BUSINESS SERVICES
Manager Business Services
David Hunt
Business Services Assistant
Christine Santi
Business Services Trainee
Bridgette Quinn

VISITOR SERVICES
Retail Shop Coordinator
Yvette Rance
Visitor Services Officer
Les Winspear
Visitor Services Officer
Else McAndrew (Casual)

PROJECTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE
Maintenance Coordinator
Don Heazlewood
Utility Officer
Mark Johnson

CLEANING SERVICES
Antony Moroni
Stephen Ross

MARKETING & EVENTS
Vacant

LEARNING & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Manager Learning & Community Engagement
Marcus Ragus

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

Horticulture Trainees
James Corrigan
Lachlan Girschik

Estate Assistant
Jeremy Robinson

BOTANICAL RESOURCES
Horticultural Botanist
Natalie Tapson
Archival Assistant
Michael Lowe

SEEDBANK
Seedbank Coordinator
James Wood

RTBG Annual Report 2016
Presentations / Publication / Media / Representation

**Presentations & Media**

**Seedbank Coordinator – James Wood**

- In August 2015 presented a tour of the TSCC Azorella macquariensis project and Seed Orchard Program to the Australian Plants Society (Hobart Group).
- Gave a presentation in October 2015 to the state Landcare Conference on the problems posed by native seed germination and the work that seedbanks carry out to resolve these issues, with examples from the TSCC’s own work.
- In November gave a tour and presentation of the Seed Orchard Program to the Kingston Combined Probus Club.
- A talk on germination of native species was given to the Tasmanian Field Naturalists in February 2016 with a review of the ten years of collecting work carried out by our seedbank program.
- In March 2016 James Wood presented a talk summarising part of his current PhD research on the germination behaviour of cutting grass, *Gahnia grandis*, at the National Seed Science Forum held at the Australian Botanic Garden in New South Wales.

**Tasmanian Orchid Conservation and Research Program – Nigel Swarts**

- International Orchid Conservation Congress (IOCC6), 16–20 May 2016, Hong Kong
- Tasmanian Royal Society
- Continued social media presence on Facebook and Twitter

**Curator Conservation Collections and Subantarctic Flora – Lorraine Perrins**

- Interviewed by East Side FM Community Radio, NSW and ABC local radio about the *Lomatia tasmanica* conservation program.
- In August 2015 presented a tour of the TSCC Azorella macquariensis project and Seed Orchard Program to the Australian Plants Society (Hobart Group). This resulted in the donation of $3000 which was used to assist in the 2015-2016 seed collecting work on Tasmania’s West Coast.
- In October 2015 presented an overview of the RTBG Conservation projects in the RTBG Conservatory to the Friends of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.
- In November gave a tour and presentation of the TSCC Azorella macquariensis conservation project and Seed Orchard Program to the Kingston Combined Probus Club.
- Wrote an article for the Friends of the RTBG Fagus Magazine regarding the *Ranunculus acaulis* seed orchard harvest.

**Nursery Horticulturist – Margot White**

- In January 2016 Margot was interviewed by ABC local radio about the bat flower plants, *Tacca chanteri*, displayed in the Conservatory.

**Nursery Horticulturist – Megan Marrison**

- In February 2016 Megan conducted a tour of the RTBG Begonia collection for the Hobart Horticultural Society.
- Presented a lecture on Begonia species in March 2016 to the Middleton Garden Club.
- March 2016 co-presented 2 sessions on vegetable propagation and planting to 25 students from Rosny College - UTAS is responsible for this program.
- May 2016 Tour of Nursery for TAFE students.
**Horticultural Botanist – Natalie Tapson**

- Presented a talk for the Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club on the *Azorella macquariensis* project.
- In August 2015 presented a tour of the TSCC *Azorella macquariensis* project and Seed Orchard Program to the Australian Plants Society (Hobart Group).
- In October 2015 presented an overview of the RTBG Conservation projects in the RTBG Conservatory to the Friends of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.
- In November gave a tour and presentation of the TSCC *Azorella macquariensis* conservation project to the Kingston Combined Probus Club.
- In June 2016 presented a slide show on kakapo conservation on New Zealand’s Codfish Island.

**Horticultural Coordinator – David Reid**

- ABC Radio interview for Wattle Day in September 2015
- Attendance at the 7th BGANZ congress, held in Wollongong NSW form October 26 – 28, 2015. Theme “Connecting with Communities”

**Curator Tasmanian Flora – Chris Lang**

- Presentation on plant adaptations of Tasmanian native species to St Mary's College Grade 5 students.

**Publications**

Dr Nigel Swarts of the Tasmanian Orchid Conservation and Research Program published three manuscripts where the RTBG was identified as host organisation:

- Phillips, RD; Barrett, MD; Dalziel, EL; Dixon, K and Swarts, ND, “Geographical range and host breadth of *Sebacina* orchid mycorrhizal fungi associating with *Caladenia* in south-western Australia”, *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*, 182 (1) pp. 140-151.
- Reiter, N; Whitfield, J; Pollard, G; Bedggood, W; Argall, M; Dixon, K and Davis, B and Swarts, N, “Orchid re-introductions: an evaluation of success and ecological considerations using key comparative studies from Australia”, *Plant Ecology*, 217 (1) pp. 81-95.
- Phillips, RD; Peakall, R; Retter, BA; Montgomery, K; Menz, MHH; Davis, BJ; Hayes, C; Brown, GR; Swarts, ND and Dixon, KW, “Pollinator rarity as a threat to a plant with a specialized pollination system”, *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*, 179 (3) pp. 511-525.

**Representation**

Council of Heads of Australian Botanic Gardens: Gary Davies, Mark Fountain
Botanic Gardens of Australia & New Zealand Editorial Committee: Mark Fountain
Queens Domain Advisory Committee: Mark Fountain
24 Carrot Schools Garden Program Steering Committee: Mark Fountain
Australian Cultivar Registration Authority: Mark Fountain
Australian Network for Plant Conservation Steering Committee: Natalie Tapson
Australian Seed Bank Partnership Steering Committee: James Wood
DPIPWE Myrtle Rust Management Group: David Reid
DPIPWE Work Health & Safety Committee: David Reid
Blooming Tasmania Committee Member: David Reid
Financial Statements

Year Ended 30 June 2016

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the Year Ended 30 June 2016 47
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Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 30 June 2016 49
Statement of Changes in Equity for the Year Ended 30 June 2016 50
Notes to the Financial Statements 51
Independent Auditor’s Report

To Members of the Tasmanian Parliament

Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens


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 2016 and the statements of comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement of compliance by the Chairman of the Authority.

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 2016, and its financial performance, cash flows and changes in equity for the year then ended

(b) is in accordance with the *Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens Act 2002* and Australian Accounting Standards.


The Directors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Section 16 of *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

To provide independent assurance to the Parliament and Community on the performance and accountability of the Tasmanian Public sector.

Professionalism | Respect | Camaraderie | Continuous Improvement | Customer Focus

Strive | Lead | Excel | To Make a Difference
An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on my judgement, including the assessment of risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, I considered internal control relevant to the Authority’s 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 Authority, 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.

My audit is not designed to provide assurance on the accuracy and appropriateness of the budget information in the Authority’s financial report.

**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* promotes the independence of the Auditor-General. The Auditor-General is the auditor of all Tasmanian public sector entities and can only be removed by Parliament. The Auditor-General may conduct an audit in any way considered appropriate and is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which audit powers are to be exercised. The Auditor-General has for the purposes of conducting an audit, access to all documents and property and can report to Parliament matters which in the Auditor-General’s opinion are significant.

**Tasmanian Audit Office**

E R De Santi  
Deputy Auditor-General  
Delegate of the Auditor-General

Hobart  
26 September 2016
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 2016, and performance for the year then ended.

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

Dated this the twenty sixth day of September 2016

On behalf of the Board

Signed: [Signature]

Damian Bugg (Chairman)
## Statement of Comprehensive Income for the Year Ended 30 June 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2016 Budget</th>
<th>2016 Actual</th>
<th>2015 Actual</th>
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<td>$</td>
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### Revenue and other income from transactions

- **Sales of goods and services**: $551,000 (2016), $705,846 (2015)
- **Interest**: $25,000 (2016), $25,055 (2015)
- **Other Revenue**: $258,000 (2016), $500,935 (2015)

**Total revenue and other income from transactions**: $3,518,000 (2016), $3,957,836 (2015)

### Expenses from transactions

- **Employee Benefits**: $2,582,000 (2016), $2,349,531 (2015)
- **Depreciation and amortisation**: $303,000 (2016), $302,523 (2015)
- **Cost of Goods Sold**: $174,000 (2016), $184,723 (2015)
- **Supplies and consumables**: $1,345,000 (2016), $1,345,850 (2015)

**Total Expenses from transactions**: $4,404,000 (2016), $4,182,627 (2015)

### Net result from transactions (net operating balance)


### Other economic flows included in net result

- **Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets**: 10,000 (2016), - (2015)
- **Changes in Asset Revaluation Reserve**: 9(b) - 3,482,744 (2015), 658,275 (2015)

**Comprehensive Result**: **(876,000)** (2016), **3,045,133** (2015), **433,484** (2015)

This Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Budget information refers to original estimates and has not been subject to audit.

Explanations of material variances between budget and actual outcomes are provided in Note 2 of the accompanying notes.
## Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2016

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**Total assets**

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**Non-financial Assets**

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**Total assets**

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<th>2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>Actual</td>
<td>Actual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$10,381,000</td>
<td>$14,626,660</td>
<td>$11,613,221</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Liabilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>$142,000</td>
<td>$20,959</td>
<td>$84,226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>$629,000</td>
<td>$534,300</td>
<td>$513,213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>$89,000</td>
<td>$10,486</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total liabilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$860,000</td>
<td>$565,745</td>
<td>$597,439</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Net assets (liabilities)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$9,521,000</td>
<td>$14,060,915</td>
<td>$11,015,782</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Equity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>$10,237,000</td>
<td>$14,378,000</td>
<td>$10,895,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>($716,000)</td>
<td>($317,085)</td>
<td>120,526</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total equity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$9,521,000</td>
<td>$14,060,915</td>
<td>$11,015,782</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes. Budget information refers to original estimates and has not been subject to audit. Explanations of material variances between budget and actual outcomes are provided in Note 2 of the accompanying notes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2016 Budget</th>
<th>2016 Actual</th>
<th>2015 Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash Flow from Operating Activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash inflows</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>2,684,000</td>
<td>2,684,000</td>
<td>2,941,213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales of goods and services</td>
<td>549,000</td>
<td>502,145</td>
<td>738,596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GST receipts</td>
<td>171,000</td>
<td>212,793</td>
<td>125,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest received</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>39,723</td>
<td>25,318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other cash receipts</td>
<td>275,000</td>
<td>216,084</td>
<td>285,722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total cash inflows</td>
<td>3,704,000</td>
<td>3,654,745</td>
<td>4,115,869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash outflows</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee benefits</td>
<td>(2,582,000)</td>
<td>(2,274,986)</td>
<td>(2,513,643)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GST payments</td>
<td>(171,000)</td>
<td>(212,793)</td>
<td>(171,749)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies and Consumables</td>
<td>(1,717,000)</td>
<td>(1,431,700)</td>
<td>(1,533,499)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total cash outflows</td>
<td>(4,470,000)</td>
<td>(3,919,479)</td>
<td>(4,218,891)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash from (used by) operating activities</td>
<td>(766,000)</td>
<td>(264,733)</td>
<td>(103,022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash flows from investing activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payments for acquisition of non-financial assets</td>
<td>(60,000)</td>
<td>(31,545)</td>
<td>(329,445)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds from the disposal of non-financial assets</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash from (used by) investing activities</td>
<td>(45,000)</td>
<td>(31,545)</td>
<td>(329,445)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held</td>
<td>(811,000)</td>
<td>(296,278)</td>
<td>(432,467)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and deposits at the beginning of the reporting period</td>
<td>1,484,000</td>
<td>841,700</td>
<td>1,274,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and deposits at the end of the reporting period</td>
<td>673,000</td>
<td>545,422</td>
<td>841,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes. Budget information refers to original estimates and has not been subject to audit. Explanations of material variances between budget and actual outcomes are provided in Note 2 of the accompanying notes.
### Statement of Changes in Equity for the Year Ended 30 June 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Retained Earnings $</th>
<th>Asset Revaluation Reserve $</th>
<th>Total $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 30 June 2014</td>
<td>345,317</td>
<td>10,236,981</td>
<td>10,582,298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Comprehensive Result</td>
<td>(224,791)</td>
<td>658,275</td>
<td>433,484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 30 June 2015</td>
<td>120,526</td>
<td>10,895,256</td>
<td>11,015,782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Comprehensive Result</td>
<td>(437,611)</td>
<td>3,482,744</td>
<td>3,045,133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 30 June 2016</td>
<td>(317,085)</td>
<td>14,378,000</td>
<td>14,060,915</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This Statement of Changes in Equity 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 76% of the Garden’s income in 2016, 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.

Changes in Accounting Policies
The RTBG has adopted all of the new and revised accounting standards and interpretations issued by the Accounting Standards Board that are relevant to its operations and are effective for the current annual reporting period.

New and revised accounting standards adopted this year.
No new standards have been adopted this year.

The following applicable Standards have been issued by the AASB and are yet to be applied:

- AASB 9: Financial Instruments and associated Amending Standards (applicable to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018). Although the directors anticipate that the adoption of AASB 9 may have an impact on the company’s financial instruments, it is impracticable at this stage to provide a reasonable estimate of such impact.
- AASB 15: Revenue from Contracts with Customers (applicable to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018, as deferred by AASB 2015-8: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Effective Date of AASB 15). When effective, this Standard will replace the current accounting requirements applicable to revenue with a single, principles-based model. Except for a limited number of exceptions, including leases, the new revenue model in AASB 15 will apply to all contracts with customers as well as non-monetary exchanges between entities in the same line of business to facilitate sales to customers and potential customers. Although the directors anticipate that the adoption of AASB 15 may have an impact on the company’s financial statements, it is impracticable at this stage to provide a reasonable estimate of such impact.
- AASB 16: Leases (applicable to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019). When effective, this Standard will replace the current accounting requirements applicable to leases in AASB 117: Leases and related Interpretations. AASB 16 introduces a single lessee accounting model that eliminates the requirement for leases to be classified as operating or finance leases. Although the directors anticipate that the adoption of AASB 16 will impact the Group’s financial statements, it is impracticable at this stage to provide a reasonable estimate of such impact.

RTBG Annual Report 2016 51
• AASB 124: Related party Disclosures (applicable to reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2016). Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Extending Related Party Disclosures to not-for-profit Public Sector Entities was issued in March 2015. This standard makes amendments to AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures to extend the scope of that standard to include not-for-profit public sector entities. There is no financial impact. The RTBG will be required to disclose executive and directors remuneration, including comparative information for the first time in 2016-17.

Accounting Policies

(a) Income Tax

The RTBG is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits 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:

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

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 $1 000. 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 salaries, wages, annual leave, sick leave, long service leave, superannuation and any other post-employment benefits.

Liabilities for salaries, wages and annual leave are recognised when an employee becomes entitled to receive a benefit. Other employee benefits are measured as the present value of the benefit at 30 June 2016, 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

Revenues 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 (GST), 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 held for distribution are valued at cost adjusted, when applicable, for any loss of service potential. Inventories acquired for no cost or nominal consideration are valued at current replacement cost. Inventories are recorded using the perpetual system and are measured using the weighted average cost formula.

(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.

2 Explanations of Material Variances Between Budget and Actual Outcomes

The following are brief explanations of material variances between Budget estimates and actual outcomes. Variances are considered material where the variance exceeds 10 per cent of Budget estimate.

Statement of Comprehensive Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016 Budget $</th>
<th>2016 Actual $</th>
<th>Variance $</th>
<th>Variance %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>39,877</td>
<td>14,877</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>258,000</td>
<td>222,478</td>
<td>35,522</td>
<td>(14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Benefits</td>
<td>2,582,000</td>
<td>2,210,346</td>
<td>371,654</td>
<td>(14)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes to Statement of Comprehensive Income

(i) Appropriation funding was budgeted to be received quarterly but was provided in full in the first quarter allowing for longer investment periods.

(ii) No new major funded projects were commenced during the year resulting in a reduction in project income compared with previous years.

(iii) Several vacant positions remained unfilled during the year resulting in a salary savings.

(b) Statement of Financial Position

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016 Budget $</th>
<th>2016 Actual $</th>
<th>Variance $</th>
<th>Variance %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Deposit (i)</td>
<td>673,000</td>
<td>545,421</td>
<td>127,579</td>
<td>(19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables (ii)</td>
<td>43,000</td>
<td>29,714</td>
<td>13,287</td>
<td>(31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventories (iii)</td>
<td>116,000</td>
<td>81,877</td>
<td>34,123</td>
<td>(29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prop., Infr. and Equip. (iv)</td>
<td>9,549,000</td>
<td>13,902,903</td>
<td>4,353,903</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payables (v)</td>
<td>142,000</td>
<td>20,959</td>
<td>121,041</td>
<td>(85)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee benefits (vi)</td>
<td>629,000</td>
<td>534,300</td>
<td>94,700</td>
<td>(15)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes to Statement of Financial Position

(i) The project outcomes of the Living Learning Centre project were renegotiated with Skills Tasmania and substantially changed during the period. To facilitate these changes, $266,000 of unused Grant funds were returned to Skills Tasmania in 2015-16 and will be returned to the RTBG in 2016-17 via a new Grant arrangement. The return of Grant Funds to Skills Tasmania were not included in the 2015-16 budget. This cash outflow was partially off-set by savings in salaries and operating expenses.

(ii) Due to the timing arrangements of the restaurant licence, $47,000 was recorded as accrued income in the 2015-16 financial year but could not be invoiced until 2016-17.

(iii) Reflects a strategic change to the shop inventory control to reduce stock levels over the winter months to accommodate more new season stock the following summer.

(iv) A revaluation of land as at 30 June 2016 by the Valuer General has determined a higher fair value for these items.

(v) The reduction of payables was due to reduced payroll accruals and GST liabilities.

(vi) The reduction in employee benefits was due to the departure of three senior staff members, each with high leave liability balances.
3 Remuneration and Superannuation of Board

(a) Board Remuneration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016 $</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fees paid or payable to all Board members</td>
<td>14,160</td>
<td>7,523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salary Band $10,000 and above</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salary Band $0 to $9,999</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Mr D Bugg (Chair)
Mr T Baker (Representing Secretary DPIWPE)
Mr S Gadd (Term expired 1/1/16)
Mr R Viney (Term expired 1/1/16)
Mr D Davey
Ms B Mathison
Mr P Oxley
Ms J Bailey

In 2015-16 only four board members elected to be paid their remuneration.

(b) Board Members Superannuation Payments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016 $</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,312</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Related Party Transactions

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

4 Auditor’s Remuneration

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016 $</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fees for Audit</td>
<td>13,450</td>
<td>12,450</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016 $</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash on Hand</td>
<td>2,940</td>
<td>2,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at Bank</td>
<td>179,651</td>
<td>485,076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at Bank - 24 Carrot School Gardens Project</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>179,655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Deposits</td>
<td>362,830</td>
<td>174,029</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016 $</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>545,421</td>
<td>841,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6 Receivables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016 $</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trade Debtors</td>
<td>28,507</td>
<td>15,677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Due</td>
<td>1,206</td>
<td>1,052</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Less: Provision for Impairment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016 $</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29,713</td>
<td>16,729</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

Note

7 Other Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016 $</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trade Debtors (i)</td>
<td>47,088</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Due (ii)</td>
<td>19,658</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(i) Due to the timing arrangements of the restaurant licence, $47,000 was recorded as accrued income in the 2015-16 financial year but could not be invoiced until the 2016-17.

(ii) An adjustment to the renewal dates of RTBG Insurance Policies has resulted in a portion of the payment becoming a prepayment for the following financial year.

8 Inventories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016 $</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retail stock - at cost</td>
<td>81,877</td>
<td>71,429</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016 $</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>81,877</td>
<td>71,429</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 9 Property, Infrastructure and Equipment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Land:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5,400,000</td>
<td>1,917,500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Buildings:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revaluation June 2013</td>
<td>9,589,525</td>
<td>9,589,525</td>
<td>(4,386,226)</td>
<td>(4,264,027)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Accumulated Depreciation</td>
<td>5,203,299</td>
<td>5,325,498</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Roads/Paths at:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revaluation June 2015</td>
<td>1,796,338</td>
<td>1,796,338</td>
<td>(923,866)</td>
<td>(866,887)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Accumulated Depreciation</td>
<td>872,472</td>
<td>929,451</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Walls at:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revaluation June 2015</td>
<td>1,692,901</td>
<td>1,692,901</td>
<td>(894,273)</td>
<td>(878,894)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Accumulated Depreciation</td>
<td>798,628</td>
<td>814,007</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fences/Gates at:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revaluation June 2015</td>
<td>395,642</td>
<td>395,642</td>
<td>(177,238)</td>
<td>(170,628)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Accumulated Depreciation</td>
<td>218,404</td>
<td>225,014</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pergolas/Garden Elements at:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revaluation June 2015</td>
<td>498,625</td>
<td>498,625</td>
<td>(284,248)</td>
<td>(267,894)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Accumulated Depreciation</td>
<td>214,377</td>
<td>230,731</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ponds/Water Features at:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revaluation June 2015</td>
<td>773,774</td>
<td>773,774</td>
<td>(423,364)</td>
<td>(402,362)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Accumulated Depreciation</td>
<td>350,410</td>
<td>371,412</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Water Services/Irrigation at:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revaluation June 2015</td>
<td>559,253</td>
<td>559,253</td>
<td>(363,017)</td>
<td>(357,261)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Accumulated Depreciation</td>
<td>196,236</td>
<td>201,992</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stormwater at:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revaluation June 2015</td>
<td>198,132</td>
<td>198,132</td>
<td>(106,803)</td>
<td>(102,102)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Accumulated Depreciation</td>
<td>91,329</td>
<td>96,030</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sewer at:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revaluation June 2015</td>
<td>510,421</td>
<td>510,421</td>
<td>(266,328)</td>
<td>(261,045)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Accumulated Depreciation</td>
<td>244,093</td>
<td>249,376</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Utility Services Infrastructure at:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revaluation June 2015</td>
<td>240,128</td>
<td>240,128</td>
<td>(35,201)</td>
<td>(25,596)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Accumulated Depreciation</td>
<td>204,927</td>
<td>214,532</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plant and Equipment at Cost:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>823,465</td>
<td>774,920</td>
<td>(714,737)</td>
<td>(671,120)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Accumulated Depreciation</td>
<td>108,728</td>
<td>103,800</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Property, Infrastructure & Equipment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$13,902,903</td>
<td>$10,683,363</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Land was revalued by the Valuer General as at 30 June 2016. Buildings were revalued as at 30 June 2013 by a qualified valuer, Campbell Palfrey and indexed to 30 June 2016. Roads/paths, walls and fences/gates, pergolas/garden elements, ponds/water features, sewer, stormwater, water services /irrigation and utility services infrastructure were revalued by Campbell Palfrey, a qualified valuer, as at 30 June 2015.

**Fair Value Hierarchy**

Fair value measurements are categorised into Level 1, 2 or 3 based on the degree to which the inputs to the fair value measurements are observable and the significance of the inputs to the fair value measurement in its entirety, which are described as follows:

- **Level 1 inputs** are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date;
- **Level 2 inputs** are inputs, other than quoted prices included within Level 1, that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly; and
- **Level 3 inputs** are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

There have been no transfers between levels during the current year.

**Less Accumulated Depreciation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computers</td>
<td>97,880</td>
<td>97,880</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 4,019
## (a) Measurement of Fair Value

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset</th>
<th>Fair Value as at 30 June 2016 ($)</th>
<th>Fair Value as at 30 June 2015 ($)</th>
<th>Fair Value Hierarchy</th>
<th>Valuation Technique &amp; Key Inputs</th>
<th>Significant Unobservable Inputs</th>
<th>Relationship of Unobservable Inputs to Fair Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>5,400,000</td>
<td>1,917,500</td>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Specialist Advice &amp; Indexation</td>
<td>Index rate</td>
<td>Higher rates lead to higher fair value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td>5,203,299</td>
<td>5,325,498</td>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Specialist Advice &amp; Indexation</td>
<td>Useful Life: 30-250 yrs Index Rate: 7%</td>
<td>Higher rates &amp; useful lives lead to higher fair value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roads/Paths</td>
<td>872,473</td>
<td>929,452</td>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Specialist Advice &amp; Indexation</td>
<td>Useful Life: 30-75 yrs Index Rate: 2.48%</td>
<td>Higher rates &amp; useful lives lead to higher fair value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walls</td>
<td>798,628</td>
<td>814,007</td>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Specialist Advice &amp; Indexation</td>
<td>Useful Life: 20-500 yrs Index Rate: 2.48%</td>
<td>Higher rates &amp; useful lives lead to higher fair value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fences/Gates</td>
<td>218,405</td>
<td>225,014</td>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Specialist Advice &amp; Indexation</td>
<td>Useful Life: 40-500 yrs Index Rate: 2.48%</td>
<td>Higher rates &amp; useful lives lead to higher fair value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pergolas/Garden Elements</td>
<td>214,377</td>
<td>230,731</td>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Specialist Advice &amp; Indexation</td>
<td>Useful Life: 20-100 yrs Index Rate: 2.48%</td>
<td>Higher rates &amp; useful lives lead to higher fair value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ponds/Water Features</td>
<td>350,409</td>
<td>371,411</td>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Specialist Advice &amp; Indexation</td>
<td>Useful Life: 50 yrs Index Rate: 2.48%</td>
<td>Higher rates &amp; useful lives lead to higher fair value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Services/Irrigation</td>
<td>196,236</td>
<td>201,992</td>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Specialist Advice &amp; Indexation</td>
<td>Useful Life: 25-80 yrs</td>
<td>Higher rates &amp; useful lives lead to higher fair value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stormwater</td>
<td>91,330</td>
<td>96,031</td>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Specialist Advice &amp; Indexation</td>
<td>Useful Life: 50-100 yrs Index Rate: 2.48%</td>
<td>Higher rates &amp; useful lives lead to higher fair value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewer</td>
<td>244,092</td>
<td>249,376</td>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Specialist Advice &amp; Indexation</td>
<td>Useful Life: 100 yrs Index Rate: 2.48%</td>
<td>Higher rates &amp; useful lives lead to higher fair value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utility Services Infrastructure</td>
<td>204,927</td>
<td>214,532</td>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Specialist Advice &amp; Indexation</td>
<td>Index Rate 2.48%</td>
<td>Higher rates &amp; useful lives lead to higher fair value</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(b) Fair Value Reconciliation

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016</th>
<th>Balance at beginning of year</th>
<th>Additions &amp; Acquisitions</th>
<th>Disposals</th>
<th>Revaluation Increment/ (Decrement)</th>
<th>Depreciation Expense</th>
<th>Impairment</th>
<th>Carrying Amount at end of year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>1,917,500</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,482,500</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5,400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td>5,325,498</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(122,199)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5,203,299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roads/Paths</td>
<td>929,452</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(56,979)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>872,473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walls</td>
<td>814,007</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(15,379)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>798,628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fences/Gates</td>
<td>225,013</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(6,609)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>218,404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pergolas/Garden Elements</td>
<td>230,731</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(16,354)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>214,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ponds/Water Features</td>
<td>371,411</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(21,002)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>350,409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Services/Irrigation</td>
<td>201,992</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(5,756)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>196,236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stormwater</td>
<td>96,031</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(4,701)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>91,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewer</td>
<td>249,376</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(5,284)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>244,092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utility Services Infrastructure</td>
<td>214,532</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(9,605)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>204,927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant &amp; Equipment</td>
<td>103,800</td>
<td>48,545</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(43,617)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>108,728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computers</td>
<td>4,020</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(4,020)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,683,363</strong></td>
<td><strong>48,545</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>3,482,500</strong></td>
<td>(311,505)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>13,902,903</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015</th>
<th>Balance at beginning of year</th>
<th>Additions &amp; Acquisitions</th>
<th>Disposals</th>
<th>Revaluation Increment/ (Decrement)</th>
<th>Depreciation Expense</th>
<th>Impairment</th>
<th>Carrying Amount at end of year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>1,728,611</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>188,889</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,917,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td>4,787,139</td>
<td>220,784</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>439,774</td>
<td>(122,199)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5,325,498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roads/Paths</td>
<td>946,293</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>40,138</td>
<td>(56,979)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>929,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walls</td>
<td>810,275</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>19,111</td>
<td>(15,379)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>814,007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fences/Gates</td>
<td>225,081</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,608</td>
<td>(6,676)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>225,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pergolas/Garden Elements</td>
<td>214,644</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>32,441</td>
<td>(16,354)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>230,731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ponds/Water Features</td>
<td>371,955</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20,458</td>
<td>(21,002)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>371,411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Services/Irrigation</td>
<td>304,542</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>196,794</td>
<td>(5,756)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>201,992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stormwater</td>
<td>98,556</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,176</td>
<td>(4,701)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>96,031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewer</td>
<td>255,934</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,274</td>
<td>(5,284)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>249,376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utility Services Infrastructure</td>
<td>157,345</td>
<td>57,187</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,748</td>
<td>(6,748)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>214,532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant &amp; Equipment</td>
<td>90,015</td>
<td>51,474</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(37,689)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>103,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computers</td>
<td>7,776</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(3,756)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,998,166</strong></td>
<td><strong>329,445</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>658,275</strong></td>
<td>(302,523)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>10,683,363</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notes 2016  2015

$  $  

10 Trade and Other Payables
Trade Creditors  20,856  20,997
Accrued Expenses  15,256  24,205
Payroll Accruals  9,881  74,521
GST Payable on June 2016 BAS  (25,034)  (35,497)
TOTAL  20,959  84,226

(i) 2015 Payroll Accruals totalled 9 days accrual. 2016 Payroll Accruals totalled 1 day accrual.

11 Employee Benefits

CURRENT
Annual Leave  151,669  159,005
Long Service Leave  306,934  228,229
TOTAL  458,603  387,234

NON-CURRENT
Long Service Leave  75,697  125,979
TOTAL  75,697  125,979

TOTAL LEAVE PROVISIONS  534,300  513,213

12 Other Liabilities
Prepaid venue hire  (i)  8,636  -
Unallocated funds  1,850  -
TOTAL  10,486  -

(i) Venue Hire bookings prepaid for 2016-17

13 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.

14 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.

Unexpensed Grant Funding received in 2015-6 has been deferred. See note 11(i)

The items mentioned below are the unspent proportion of Grant funding as at 30 June

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Funding</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 Carrot Schools Gardens Project</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>149,718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASBP Field Work Grant</td>
<td>25,816</td>
<td>6,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Orchard Foundation</td>
<td>13,928</td>
<td>12,229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Orchard Foundation Global Listing Project</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Slade Foundation Grant</td>
<td>53,479</td>
<td>45,479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inspiring Australia Grant</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT Equipment</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Garden Project</td>
<td>18,015</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living Learning Centre</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>305,249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macquarie Island Azorella Conservation Project</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Area Orchid Project</td>
<td>6,146</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRM Grant</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seed Orchard Project</td>
<td>1,322</td>
<td>1,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar Installation Project</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5,813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasmanian Community Food Garden</td>
<td>6,054</td>
<td>6,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>218,995</td>
<td>561,073</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional to the sanctioned Grant funding detailed above, the RTBG has sanctioned $335,000 of moneys that have been bequested to the Gardens to be used for special purposes. $106,000 of this was used in 2014-15 for renovations to restaurant prior to tendering the license. The Board resolved that this money is to be repaid to the bequest fund from the Restaurant Licence Fees. The remainder of the bequest funds are held in fixed term deposits.
15 Operating Lease Commitments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not later than 1 year</td>
<td>27,302</td>
<td>11,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years (i)</td>
<td>35,182</td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Later than 5 years</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Lease Commitments</strong></td>
<td><strong>62,484</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,070</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The operating lease commitments include 2 x utility vehicles, a truck and office equipment leases. All amounts are shown exclusive of GST. The RTBG currently has no other material commitments to disclose.

16 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 no contingent assets or liabilities.

17 Economic Dependency

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

18 Events Occurring 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.

19 Cash Flow Information

Reconciliations of Cash Flows from Ordinary Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operations with Operating Result</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net operating balance</td>
<td>(437,611)</td>
<td>(224,791)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Non Cash Flows in Operating Surplus

| Depreciation                      | 311,505 | 302,523 |
| Donation of Vehicle               | (17,000) | -       |
| Bad and Doubtful Debts            | 278     | -       |

Changes in Assets and Liabilities

| (Increase)/Decrease in Receivables | (13,017) | 33,013 |
| (Increase)/Decrease in Prepayments | (19,658) | -      |
| (Increase)/Decrease in Accrued Revenue | (19,658) | -      |
| (Increase)/Decrease in Inventories | (10,448) | 40,066 |
| Increase/(Decrease) in Payables   | (63,267) | (118,063) |
| Increase/(Decrease) in Employee Entitlements | 21,087 | (135,770) |
| Increase/(Decrease) in Other Liabilities | 10,486 | -      |
| **Net Cash provided by Operating Activities** | **(264,733)** | **(103,022)** |

20 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.

(a) 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 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.

(b) 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 $78,601 (2013: $58,454), 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 2015 will be paid within 30 days.
(c) 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable rate instruments</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$545,421</td>
<td>$841,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$545,421</td>
<td>$841,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Profit or Loss</th>
<th>Equity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100 Basis Point increase</td>
<td>100 Basis Point decrease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 June 2016</td>
<td>$5,454</td>
<td>$(5,454)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 June 2015</td>
<td>$8,417</td>
<td>$(8,417)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 approximate their carrying value. Financial assets consist of Cash and Trade and Other Receivables. Financial liabilities consist of Trade and other Payables.

21 Reserves

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Property &amp; Infrastructure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asset Revaluation Reserve</td>
<td>$10,895,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revaluation Increments</td>
<td>$3,482,744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 30 June 2016</td>
<td>$14,378,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asset Revaluation Reserve</td>
<td>$10,236,981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revaluation Increments/ (Decrements)</td>
<td>$658,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 30 June 2015</td>
<td>$10,895,256</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

22 Additional Information

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