



BOTANIC
GARDENS
OF SYDNEY



Annual Report

2023–24



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Botanic Gardens of Sydney
acknowledges the traditional
custodians of the lands on which
we work.

We pay our respects to the Elders
past, present and future for they
hold the memories, the culture
and dreams of Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

We recognise and respect their
cultural heritage, beliefs and
continual relationship with the
land, and we recognise the
importance of the young people
who are our future leaders.

Published by
Botanic Gardens of Sydney
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Designed by
Swell Design Group



Printed on 100% recycled
ecoStar uncoated which is
manufactured carbon neutral

Connections by Darren Charlwood,
a Wiradjuri man from the Yibaay
Wagaan kin group.



The Hon. Paul Scully MP
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
52 Martin Place, Sydney NSW 2000

31 October 2024

Dear Minister

We have the pleasure of presenting the Annual Report of Botanic Gardens of Sydney for the year ended 30 June 2024 for presentation to Parliament. This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018*.

Yours sincerely

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

Richard Nunn
Chair, Royal Botanic
Gardens and Domain Trust

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

Simon Duffy AM
Chief Executive, Botanic
Gardens of Sydney

Ooline (*Cadellia pentastylis*) is the only member of its genus and confined to dry rainforests of eastern Australia. N. Emery

CONTENTS

Experience the power of plants

Feed your curiosity at Botanic Gardens of Sydney,
the meeting place of people and plants,
science and seasons, nature and nurture.
Discover. Learn. Enjoy.

Eilish McMaster — Scientific Officer, Biodiversity Research collecting fruits of the endangered
subtropical rainforest species Southern Ochrosia (*Ochrosia moorei*). G. Dixon

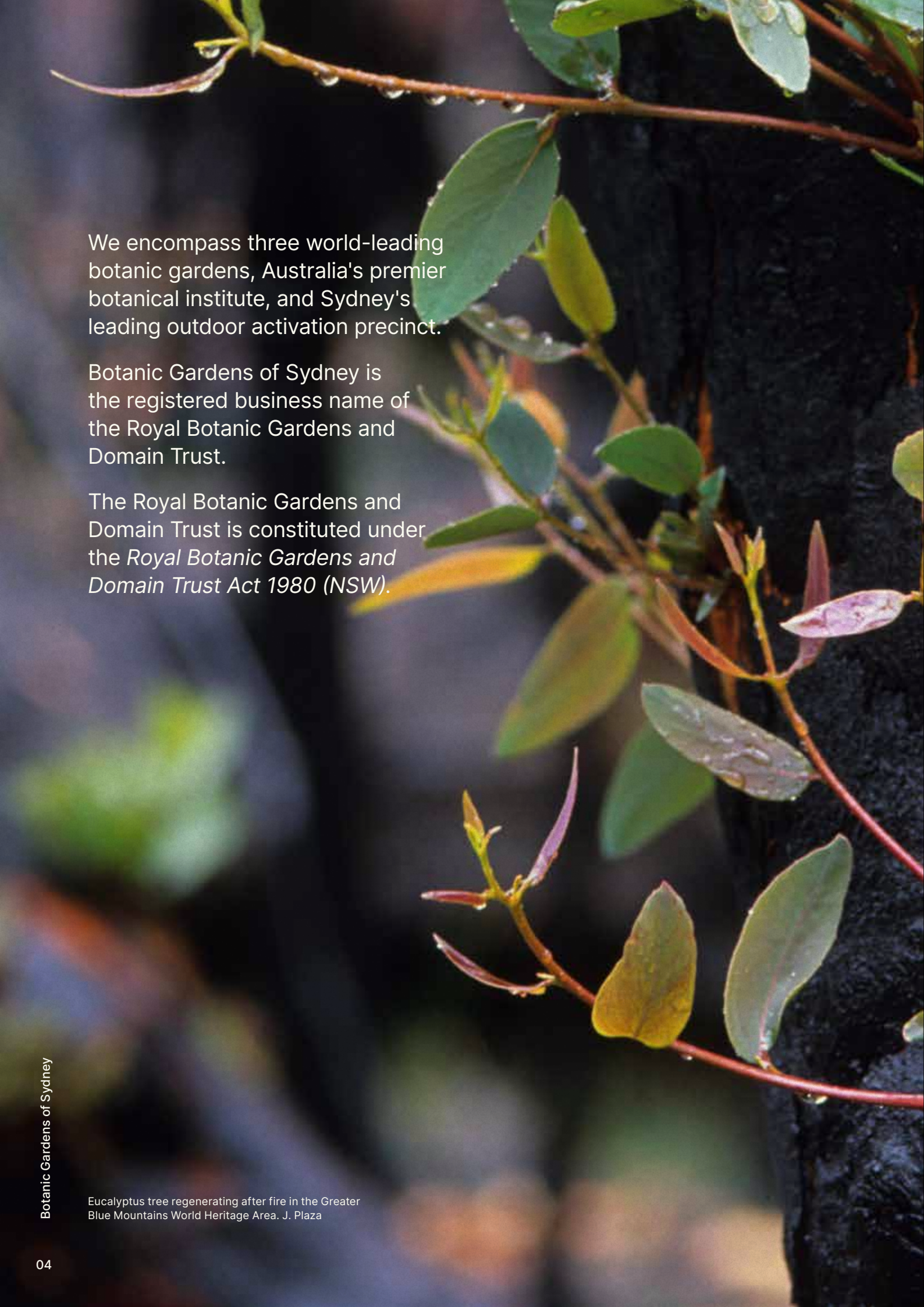


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About Us

Botanic Gardens of Sydney is Australia's oldest scientific institution. Our goal is to inspire and help people discover the power of plants and the inherent value they provide to our everyday lives.



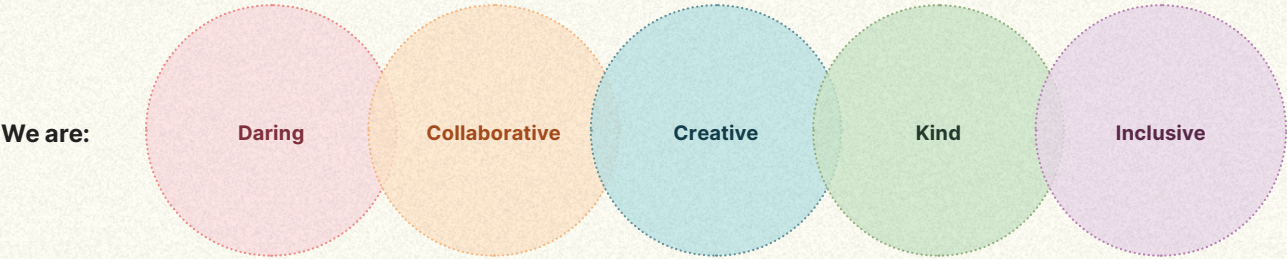


We encompass three world-leading botanic gardens, Australia's premier botanical institute, and Sydney's leading outdoor activation precinct.

Botanic Gardens of Sydney is the registered business name of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust.

The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust is constituted under the *Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Act 1980 (NSW)*.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Underpinned by: Outstanding assets, safe workplaces, good governance and accountability.

OUR KEY PILLARS

Royal Botanic Garden Sydney

Gadigal Country

Established in 1816, the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney is Australia's oldest botanic garden and oldest scientific institution. Situated across 30 hectares on the edge of the iconic Sydney Harbour, the Royal Botanic Garden is home to an outstanding collection of more than 4,500 species of plants from around the world. Encompassing 15 themed gardens, including an Australian Rainforest Garden, a Tropical Garden and one of the largest vertical gardens in the southern hemisphere inside The Calyx – it is a living testament to the beauty of nature, and one of Sydney's top attractions for tourism and leisure.

Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan

Dharawal Country

Located southwest of Sydney's CBD, the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan is the largest botanic garden in Australia, covering 416 hectares between Camden and Campbelltown. With more than 2,500 species of native plants representing all of Australia's major vegetation types, the Australian Botanic Garden is a living collection showcasing the enormous diversity of our country's unique flora. The Australian Botanic Garden is the flagship campus of the Australian Institute of Botanical Science and home to the National Herbarium of New South Wales and the Australian PlantBank.

Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah

Darug Country

Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah extends over 18 hectares of curated garden and a further 234 hectares of wilderness conservation. The Blue Mountains Botanic Garden is home to more than 4,000 species of plants, including rare and endangered species and many exotic and unusual plants from around the world.

The Domain Sydney

Gadigal Country

Wrapped around the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, The Domain encompasses 34 hectares of urban parkland endowed with significant natural and historical values. The Domain plays a central role in Sydney's cultural and social life and the recreational and sporting pursuits of Sydneysiders.

Australian Institute of Botanical Science

One of the nation's premier botanical research organisations, the Institute comprises the physical and virtual scientific collections, research, services and staff of Botanic Gardens of Sydney.

FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT

Botanic Gardens of Sydney is passionate about embedding First Nations cultural protocols, knowledge, and perspectives in all aspects of our activities, guided by our inaugural First Nations Engagement Strategy.

On 18 July 2024, we marked a significant milestone for the Dharawal people with the first cultural burn in 200 years taking place within the Cumberland Plain Woodland at the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan. For thousands of years, First Nations groups have used a practice known as cultural burning, or cool burning, to maintain the land and prevent the spread of uncontrolled fires. Fire holds an immense connection and spiritual place in First Nations groups as a tool passed on from Elders to younger generations.

Now we can see the land is being managed in a way that restores these traditions and will encourage the health of the plants and the animals, and keep local residents safe. Thank you to Traditional Owners, Elders, community, and partners NSW Local Land Services and Firesticks, for their help in planning and coordinating our cultural Fire and Mentoring Program.

We were delighted to unveil a new First Nations artwork at the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney as part of NAIDOC Week celebrations.

The distinctive sculpture titled *Yer'ung - Spirit Tree* embodies a Welcome to Country for Gadigal land, waters, and sky using natural materials found on Gadigal Country. It also recognises and celebrates the deep cultural significance of the site to First Nations peoples. We are so thankful to Wiradjuri artist Darren Charlwood and Aunty Rhonda-Dixon Grosvenor for creating this important and permanent visual celebration of Connection to Country.

The 2024 National Sorry Day event at the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan attracted more than 500 people. Local community members from the Macarthur, Liverpool, and Wingecarribee areas came together for a day of healing through the sharing of stories of strength and resilience of the survivors of the Stolen Generations.

Another important project is our First Farm Indigenous Signage at the Cadi Jam Ora Garden, which aims to educate the public and interpret First Nations culture in an authentic and respectful way. It recognises the continued Connection to Country and the innovative scientific and land management practices of Australia's First Nations Peoples.

Our Reconciliation Action Plan working group and staff have been instrumental in implementing these actions and deliverables. Their hard work has played a huge factor in respect and recognition for our Indigenous and non-Indigenous staff and community through connection, friendship and acknowledging cultural and heritage protocols and practice. Consultation and design of our future cultural and heritage strategic priorities is currently underway to strengthen and solidify the important work we are committed to implementing within our organisation.



Local Dharawal dance group Wiritjiribin at the *Life Blood* community launch, 25 January 2023.

JOINT MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE & CHAIR

This year has been one of significant achievement and also transition. Throughout the changes our focus continues to be upholding the aims of the Gardens to provide research, education, and enjoyment through the power of plants.

We have been able to fully get back to business and realign our vision and focus across science, education, horticulture, world-class events and First Nations collaboration. This has allowed us to make major advances in our strategic priorities that are underpinned by our enduring obligations to maintain and improve our beautiful gardens and living collections, to increase and disseminate knowledge of plant life, and to encourage all to enjoy our world-leading public spaces.

It's been a huge year for our scientists who collaborated on global projects advancing our understanding of the environment. One piece of work that stands out is the 'Tree of Life' study released earlier this year from Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. 279 scientists from 27 countries worked together to unravel the mystery of flowering plants. It was the first time DNA was sequenced from over 800 species, including specimens dating back hundreds of years. This extraordinary global effort gave access to data that would take a computer 18 years to process. With it we've helped to unlock the past and understand how flowering plants evolved.

We continue to engage with and learn from the scientific community on a global scale. At the 8th Global Botanic Gardens Congress in Singapore our presentations demonstrated our leadership in our global botanical networks and received fantastic feedback from our peers.

As part of NAIDOC Week celebrations, we unveiled the *Yer'ung Spirit Tree* sculpture to welcome visitors to Australia's natural masterpiece and oldest botanic garden on the shores of Warrane - Sydney Harbour. Wiradjuri artist Darren Charwood worked closely with Gadigal Elder Aunty Rhonda Dixon-Grosvenor to create the piece which recognises and celebrates the deep cultural significance of the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney site to First Nations peoples.

We also held the first cultural burns in over 200 years on the Cumberland Plain Woodland in the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan. It was a poignant experience as we become part of this important revival of ancient practices in partnership with Traditional Owners. We will continue our focus on engaging and sharing which includes truth telling, deep listening, and moving beyond just consulting to partnering.

In education, we have re-shaped our programs to provide a range of captivating learning experiences for people of all ages, helping them to discover the power of plants and the inherent value they provide to our everyday lives.

Our beautiful living collections and venues at all three Gardens have once again proved to be a favourite location for couples to tie the knot. Royal Botanic Garden Sydney received the esteemed Australian Wedding Award in the categories of Chapels, Churches, and Ceremony Locations on a national level. With both the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan and Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah securing positions in the Top 5 contenders. Furthermore, all three Gardens were recognised in the Top 5 Garden Venue category.

We saw an increase in visitation across all Gardens, boosted by our incredible offering across events and education. Garden favourites such as paper daisies were once again big drawcards, as was the return of free public entry to our harbourside vantage points in The Domain for New Year's Eve.

The Garden Gallery and new Research Centre for Ecosystem Resilience laboratories inside the refurbished Robert Brown Building at Royal Botanic Garden Sydney have now opened. In a fusion of science and art, The Garden Gallery's inaugural exhibition by the Florilegium Society saw our vital work to protect and conserve plants through cutting-edge science and research be put on display. The building – which still holds the Daniel Solander Library – is filled with further exciting opportunities for expanding our scientific, education, and hospitality offerings.



Of course, none of this would have been possible without our dedicated volunteers. In the last year, 250 volunteers across Botanic Gardens of Sydney decided what kind of difference they want to make by donating almost 17,000 hours of their time to the organisation. We recognise that when our community adds its voice to the vision and purpose, our collective volume, reach and impact grows.

All life depends on plant life. If we are going to combat the issues of climate change and biodiversity loss, we have to start with saving plants first. We recognise that it is our responsibility to inspire friends, visitors and future generations, to empower them with knowledge, and to encourage their capacity for change in their own community and as future conservationists and advocates for plants.

We would like to thank the NSW Government, Foundation & Friends of the Botanic Gardens, and our partners and donors for their financial support. It is through your enduring generosity that we are able to continue to create impact.

We would like to thank former Chair Philip Marcus Clark AO and former Chief Executive Denise Ora for their leadership in advancing so many landmark projects and initiatives that further the purpose of the Gardens and the core objects of our Act. Thanks also to Professor Brett Summerell AM for acting Chief Executive for the first half of 2024 and for keeping the Gardens flourishing.

We are grateful and encouraged by our staff and volunteers for their dedication, our members and donors for their continuing loyalty and love for the Gardens, and the Board for their guidance and support.

The actions we took this year, no matter how big or small, are also the beginning of something even greater. As we work towards a future rich in nature, we share each victory as a source of hope and are encouraged by what we can achieve when we work together. This year we have begun the process of drafting the next inspiring Strategic Plan for Botanic Gardens of Sydney. This is an exciting opportunity to be innovative in our advancement of the Gardens objectives as we look to build on our past achievements.

Richard Nunn
Chair, Royal Botanic
Gardens and Domain Trust



Simon Duffy AM
Chief Executive, Botanic
Gardens of Sydney



LEADERSHIP

Trustees



Richard Nunn
(Chair)



Mark Fleming



Anna Guillan AM



**Distinguished Professor
Michelle Leishman**



Professor Andy Marks



Tony Pearson



Debra Townsend



Australian Institute of Botanical Science Advisory Council

Distinguished Professor
Michelle Leishman – Chair (Trustee)
Professor Andy Marks (Trustee)
Jolyon Burnett

Dr Ian Cresswell
Simon Duffy AM
Senior Professor Kris French

Professor Robert Henry
Clarence Slockee
Professor Brett Summerell AM



Executive Team



Simon Duffy AM
Chief Executive



Professor Brett Summerell AM
Chief Scientist and Director Science,
Education and Conservation



Gabrielle Collins
Director Finance, Property
and Corporate Services



George Salouros
Director Asset Management,
Planning and Projects



John Siemon
Director Horticulture and
Living Collections



Carla Armanet
Director Experiences,
Partnerships & Engagement
*on secondment from 22 January 2024

Audit and Risk Committee

Mark Fleming – Chair
Anna Guillan AM
Tony Pearson

Trustees, Advisory Council and Committee Members are current as of 31 October 2024.

Our Science, Horticulture & Collections

Championing a world where plant conservation is front of mind and helping to ensure the survival of plants for future generations.



RESEARCH

Plant Discovery and Evolution

This year was marked by the recruitment of two Systematic Botanists (ongoing roles), Francis Nge and Trevor Wilson, and a Weed Botanist (new three-year role co-funded by the NSW Department of Primary Industries), Patricia Lu-Irving. The three new Botanists are bringing significant experience and new skills complementing those of existing team members. The Plant Discovery and Evolution team also went on their first retreat at the UNSW Smiths Lake Field Station in November 2023 to think creatively about current flagship projects and future opportunities.

Team members and Honorary Research Associates published a total of 49 peer-reviewed scientific articles, 18 flora treatments, and two other publications (69 in total). Of these, a major landmark was the contribution (along with members of other teams) to a major global study published in *Nature* on 25 April 2024. The study built the most comprehensive flowering plant Tree of Life to date, using genomic data from over 9,500 species representing 60% of all known flowering plant genera in the world. Led by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, this work involved 279 co-authors from 138 organisations in 27 countries and was broadly covered in the media worldwide. Botanic Gardens of Sydney's involvement in this effort was made possible through our contribution to the national Genomics for Australian Plants (GAP) Framework Initiative, which collaborated closely with Kew on sharing large amounts of novel genomic data for Australian plants. Ongoing research in the team also led to the scientific description of 26 new species (as well as three new genera) and 15 new combinations.

The Plant Discovery and Evolution team had again an active field work period, with a total of 18 field trips (primarily in New South Wales) from which 794 herbarium voucher specimens and 562 DNA samples were collected. Of particular significance was the large group expedition to the North Head Sanctuary on 28 September 2023 to document the flora of this unique site through the collection of herbarium vouchers, involving 29 Botanic Gardens of Sydney staff members and conducted in collaboration with the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust and the North Head Sanctuary Foundation. The trip targeted one of the largest remaining stands of the critically endangered Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub. In total, the participants divided in eight teams collected 231 voucher specimens for the National Herbarium of New South Wales, representing at least 132 distinct plant species. The trip also proved a highly successful and effective opportunity for collaboration among Botanic Gardens of Sydney teams and internal knowledge transfer on plant specimen collection.



Haloragodendron lucasii, cross pollination at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Nursery. C.Doyle



RESEARCH

Australian PlantBank

The Australian PlantBank is a centre for integrated plant conservation. It houses a seed bank of national significance that stores taxonomically and genetically representative collections of plant species from New South Wales and other parts of Australia that are used for a variety of purposes. Our research focusses on how to germinate and to store viable seeds across the diversity of Australian flora, including those species with complex biology, such as many orchid species. We collect and test seeds of different species for their ability to be dried and stored in the freezer, but many species are proving to need other forms of conservation. These alternative conservation techniques include tissue culture, cryogenic storage and increasingly, integration of genetically diverse plants into our garden collections. We also work on projects that are returning or bolstering threatened Australian species in the wild as 'translocated populations'.

In October 2023, the Australian PlantBank celebrated its 10th year of operation.

Australian PlantBank Research

This year saw the launch of two nationally and globally important conservation projects where we worked with a range of partners to increase diversity of highly threatened rainforest species in botanic gardens collections as 'metacollections'. The concept of metacollections is relatively new to plant conservation and is particularly useful for those species that are deemed 'exceptional', that is they can't be seed banked because their seeds don't survive the process of drying and freezing, they don't produce seeds, or the seeds are short lived in storage. Using information developed by Research Centre for Ecosystem Resilience (ReCER) on the genetic diversity held in the ex situ and in situ populations of Wollemi Pine, we propagated 36 sets of six plants each with a slightly different genetic mix. Working with Botanic Gardens Conservation International and Forestry England, the 'six packs' were sent to participating gardens or arboreta in Australia, Europe and the USA and will be monitored for their relative growth.

The locations for the plantings were informed by a study by Cathy Offord published in 2023 in *Plants, People, Planet* on how Wollemi pines are growing in different parts of the world. A second metacollection project was established in response to the myrtle rust pandemic. Working with ReCER, the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and the Australian Network for Plant Conservation, we assembled genetically representative ex situ collections of three of the most affected rainforest species, *Rhodomnia maideniana*, *Rhodomnia psidiodes* and *Rhodomomyrtus rubescens*. During the year, representative sets of the last two species were sent to participating gardens in eastern Australia including Australian National Botanic Garden, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and Lismore Botanic Gardens.

Our study of the seed biology of rainforest species continued under Dr Karen Sommerville, with a new project established to study the conifer family Araucariaceae in partnership with scientists in New Zealand and Fiji. Dr Nathan Emery completed work for the ACARP funded project on inclusion of species of high importance on mine sites and took up the role of Manager of the Seedbank and Conservation Collections.

Seedbank and Conservation Collections

The Seedbank and Conservation Collections (SBCC) team had a renewed focus on increasing seed testing efforts of our incoming collections to provide data and recommendations that support conservation and restoration managers. Specifically, the team has applied this focus to the *Saving our Species* seed collecting program by undertaking seed testing on four threatened *Grevillea* species. Expanding on workflows previously developed and published by the Australian PlantBank teams, the experiments on the germination response of these species to current and future temperatures using Thermogradient Plates will identify species that are likely to be impacted by future climate change. The team is also trialing a new workflow to determine the optimal temperature for maximising germination success. This workflow aims to quickly and efficiently identify species with complex seed dormancy mechanisms that require further research to develop effective germination protocols.

This year, Nathan Emery led the harmonisation and analysis of data for the Australian Seedbank Partnership's Collections Review project. This project, a gap analysis of seed collections stored in seed banks across Australia between 2000 and 2020, aims to understand the representativeness and functionality of these collections to inform future seed banking efforts in Australia.

RESEARCH

Research Centre for Ecosystem Resilience (ReCER)

The Research Centre for Ecosystem Resilience undertakes relevant research that guides the restoration and conservation of resilient ecosystems. Our diverse range of research projects are underpinned by large-scale, technologically advanced knowledge infrastructure systems that allow us to undertake genomic research on hundreds of species at a time.

In the past year the team sequenced 14,560 leaf samples for 315 species. Leaf samples have now been collected from more than 89,000 plants across eastern Australia from over 2,000 species, with DNA sequencing of 54,000 plants finished. This single unprecedentedly large dataset underpins all of ReCER's diverse research projects.

Key achievements include:

ReCER moved into their new office and laboratory facilities within the refurbished Robert Brown Building. With the team now numbering twenty staff, it is great to have the team housed together in a space that encourages collaboration.

Restore and Renew, our main flagship program, is moving forward with planning and implementation of our genetically informed seed sourcing guidelines for a range of collaborative landscape-scale restoration projects including for the critically endangered lowland subtropical rainforest (in collaboration with Big Scrub Rainforest Conservancy) and box-gum grassy woodland (in collaboration with Taronga Conservation Australia). The latter will help ensure the long-term self-sustainability of koala habitat restoration.



Guidelines for sourcing genetically diverse climate adjusted seed are freely available to restoration practitioners, community groups and others who are restoring native vegetation for 82 species via the *Restore and Renew* webtool. This number continues to grow each month and we are working with Adapt NSW on v2.0 of the webtool.

Our conservation genomic research continues to inform the NSW Government's *Saving our Species* program. We've produced conservation genomic guidelines for another eighteen threatened plant species in the past year, taking our total to 37 conservation genomic reports in five years. Each of these reports have practical application, including helping to restore lost genetic diversity and to guide the design of translocation programs.

Our collaborative project, developing a seed collection strategy for *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* in the Hunter Catchment was featured on ABC Landline in October 2023.

We are continuing to work with collaborators (NSW Government's *Saving our Species* program, Landcare, Local Land Services, and local government) to develop a regional seed bank and implement our seed sourcing guidelines and develop a regional seed bank that will be split between it and the Botanic Gardens of Sydney Australian PlantBank.



ReCER team in lab 3. T. Hogbin

Notable statistics:

Numbers of leaf samples sequenced
(for both *Restore and Renew* and *Saving our species* – a single dataset)

14,560
(54,000 in total)

Numbers of species for which leaf samples sequenced

315
(2,000 in total)
(or if exclude outgroup taxa
with <10 samples, only 152)

Species added to *Restore and Renew* webtool

31
(82 in total)

Conservation genomics reports (for *Saving our species*) completed

18
(37 in total)

Number of projects supporting large scale landscape restoration

7

COLLECTIONS

Living Collections Strategy

This year saw the launch of our Living Collections Strategy 2023+, providing a comprehensive overview of the entire living collections across the organisation. The new Strategy has roots deeply grounded in the organisation's values, strategic priorities and vision for the future. The custodianship of our unique and precious living collections is a privilege and a great responsibility. With 11,997 unique species from 2,629 genera and 300 plant families, Botanic Gardens of Sydney is dedicated to growing our highly diverse and significant conservation collections, overseen by our expert horticulturists and scientists.

Wide collaboration and consultation throughout the Strategy's development has resulted in a considered, holistic approach that will support and guide our commitment to the highest standards of curation, development and use of the living collections: from cutting-edge research, conservation and land-management, to creating the spaces and places that engage and inspire, offering connection to nature, culture and community.

Living Collections and Records

The primary purpose of the Living Collections and Records (LCR) team is to ensure that plant records are maintained effectively and efficiently. They assist in the accessioning, data entry, and analysis of plant data to support the management of the living collections. The team is responsible for contributing to the development and upkeep of the living collections and the database, IrisBG, along with digital tools for staff and public use. The team conducts regular stocktakes across the Gardens, updating records and mapping plant locations, adjusting coordinates as necessary. They assist in research and data analysis to provide accurate information for the Living Collections Policy, the Living Collections Strategy, reports and interpretations, including those for The Calyx.

The LCR team produce plant identification tags, which include the taxa and accession number for each record and assist in the development of interpretive information and the manufacture of plant labels. They also deliver training to various stakeholders on using living collections information systems, such as IrisBG and the Floria mobile app and record data entry policies and procedures to support records management activities.

Key achievements include:

Launch of the Living Collections Strategy 2023+ in September 2023, providing the strategic framework for the acquisition, curation and use of living collections for the next 20 years.

The LCR team completed 95%+ of the stocktake of The Domain, a total of 34Ha to ensure its taxonomic diversity is included as part of the living collection.

Horticulture and Arboriculture teams have been involved in the stocktaking process for skill development and collaboration. The knowledge of the Horticulture team provides key information into the living collection they manage and also offer the historic information of the areas they have managed.

The LCR team has begun rolling training, piloting at the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney to gauge need for additional training by Horticulture staff. The response has been very positive prompting additional training to be rolled out to all sites to ensure staff are confident in their record keeping abilities.

As of 30 June 2024 the living collections curated by Botanic Gardens of Sydney include:

Percentage global plant families represented	66%
Number of species from the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Plant Species	888
Percentage of nationally listed plant species under the Commonwealth's <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999</i>	20%
Percentage of plant species listed in the <i>NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>	47%
Percentage of accessions that are of wild origin	61%
Number of species from 2,745 genera within 303 plant families	12,494
Number of unique subgeneric taxa	13,997
Number of species held in the Seedbank living collection, PlantBank	6,042
Number of living specimens (seeds, tissue, and whole plants) held within Australian PlantBank	70.4M

BOTANIC GARDENS OF SYDNEY LIVING COLLECTIONS

Botanic Gardens of Sydney curates 92 living collections across three Botanic Gardens, The Domain, glasshouses, nurseries and PlantBank. These collections were identified through an annual review of Botanic Gardens of Sydney's IRIS BG database, alongside a rolling audit of 'in-ground' collections. These 92 collections have evolved over many decades and are the result of multiple influences, including the purpose of each individual Botanic Garden and PlantBank. Other factors influencing the development of the collections include providing visual amenity through horticultural display, scientific research, conservation, targeted and opportunistic acquisition of specimens through fieldwork, or donations made to the organisation. Of these, 24 are described as key collections. Botanic Gardens of Sydney define key collections as those that have significance to the organisation, the people of Australia and/or the international community for botanical, historical or cultural and heritage reasons, or for conservation and research purposes.

Top ten families represented in Botanic Gardens of Sydney's living collections, by number of accessions.

LAMIACEAE

ARECACEAE

ASTERACEAE

PROTEACEAE

OTHER

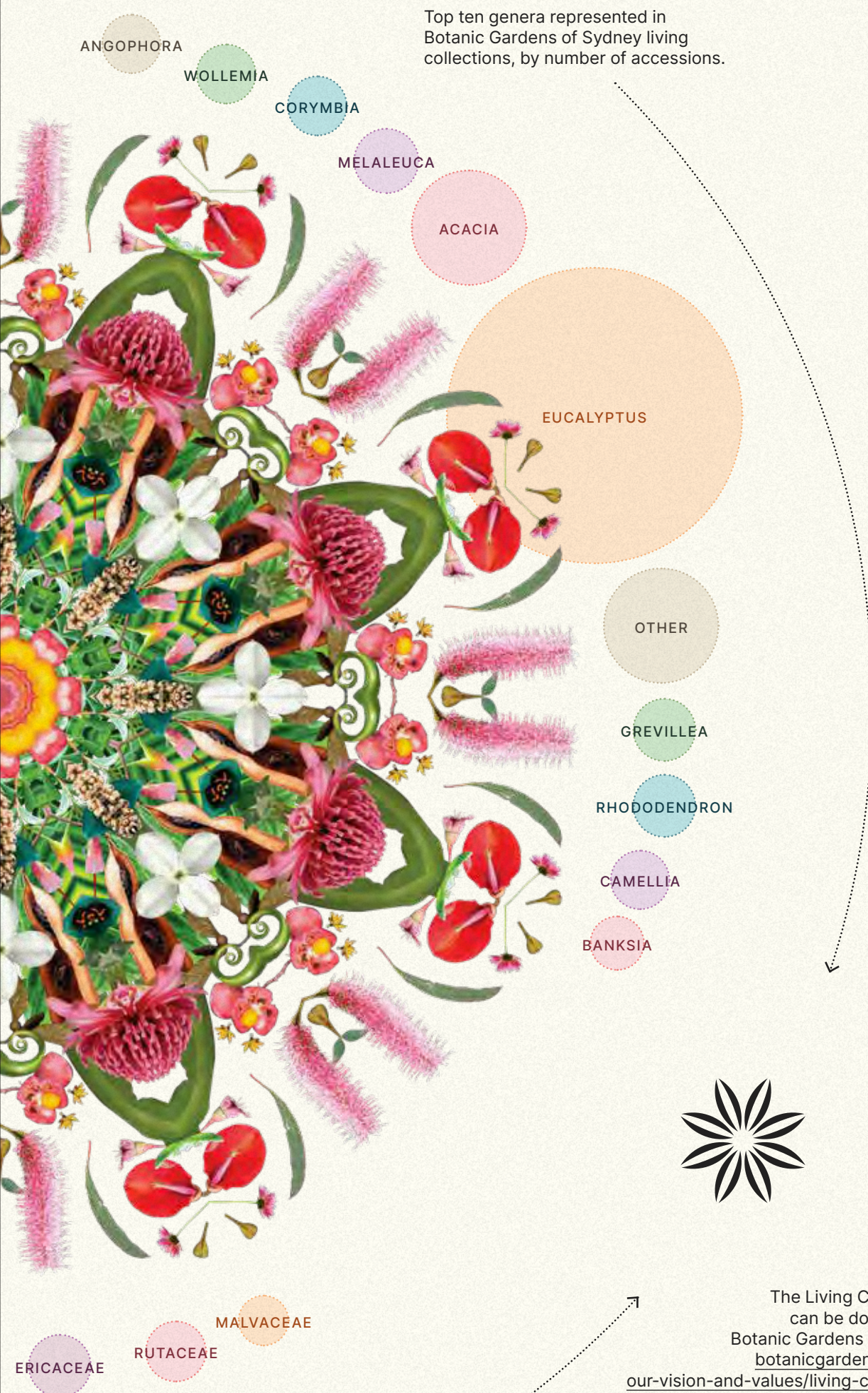
MYRTACEAE

FABACEAE

ORCHIDACEAE

The documented collections across all locations (as at 30 June 2024) contain 12,494 unique species comprising 75,869 accessions, and representing 13,997 taxa. Some 2,658 species are represented in more than one of the sites including The Domain and PlantBank), either due to their suitability across a range of climates or horticultural conditions, for research and conservation, or as a test or display of their environmental resilience and adaptability.





The Living Collections Strategy can be downloaded from the Botanic Gardens of Sydney website: botanicgardens.org.au/about-us/our-vision-and-values/living-collections-strategy

COLLECTIONS

Royal Botanic Garden Sydney

Royal Botanic Garden Sydney has internationally significant collections spanning over 95 countries. With strict national biosecurity measures, the importance and impact of our living collection increases. Significant effort has gone into continuing to develop our collections over the past year.

Key achievements include:

Robert Brown Building landscaping: As part of the Robert Brown Building redevelopment works the entrance was re-landscaped with Australian native species and a new Welcome to Country sculpture titled *Yer'ung – Spirit Tree*, by artist Darren Charlwood.

The Calyx: The Calyx greenwall was changed over in August 2023 utilising Heuchera varieties to create a kaleidoscope effect. This was the last wall of the *Love Your Nature* exhibition before transitioning to *Alchemy of a Rainforest*.

Amphitheatre: The Amphitheatre was officially opened on 29 August 2023. This has become an important space for people to connect with plants, music and the outdoor world. The garden continues to establish with no significant issues.

Theaceae garden (Bed 60): The Theaceae garden continues development to increase the diversity of plants in this family group. 37 species have been added to the collection, many of which are rare, threatened or extinct in the wild such as *Franklinia alatamaha*, a monotypic genus. A strong focus lies in enhancing the internationally significant heritage Camellia collection from Asia.

Rosaceae garden (Bed 80): Much of the landscaping has been completed and the new beds have been installed. Planting is to take place; however, roses continue to be sourced with the target to display heritage species roses, ancient roses, old roses, modern roses and new cultivars.

Southern African Cycad collection (Bed 101): Landscaping to address significant drainage issues in Bed 101 has been completed. Sub-surface irrigation was previously installed. Native B horizon and special cycad mix for the A horizon was introduced to build up the beds, ensuring drainage issues have been rectified. The bed is now suited to planting the many rare, threatened and extinct in the wild Cycads which have been cared for in the Nursery for the past couple of years. While planting is still to be completed, significant efforts went into ensuring the work completed provided a compatible landscape for the collection to thrive for years to come.

Grey headed flying fox management: Bats continue to cause concern in the Garden despite passive dispersal measures implemented in May 2024. Shortly after roosting began, passive dispersal measures were implemented to move on 40 bats before they re-established a colony. A huge effort saw the Horticulture team invest an estimated 500 hours over 3.5 months, with dispersal continuing. This is critically important to ensure the protection of the living collection.

Irrigation: New irrigation has been installed to a number of areas across the Garden, including Lawn 60, 37, 38, and 09.



BOTANIC
GARDENS
OF SYDNEY



Learn

BOTANICGARDENS.ORG.AU





COLLECTIONS

The Domain Sydney

The Domain Sydney is a significant and historically important public space in the heart of Sydney, cared for and curated by specialised Arboriculture, Horticulture, and Turf teams.

Key achievements include:

Woolloomoolloo revegetation project:

Staff at the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney have worked closely with contractors to continue with weed management throughout The Domain, particularly the revegetation locations identified as part of the project. This includes targeted weed removal, bank stabilisation and collaboration with the ReCER team to which species were most suitable, genetically, to tolerate the impacts of climate change into the future. The project is in the early stages, with work continuing for several years.

Native meadow: Horticulture staff renovated the garden beds on the southeast side of the Art Gallery of New South Wales, incorporating matrix planting techniques to establish a native meadow. The meadow promotes a sustainable approach to horticulture and has increased the amount of native plants at the Royal Botanic Garden and The Domain.

Domain steps: The steps entering The Domain, opposite the Art Gallery, were redesigned to improve accessibility within the site. Incorporated into the design were 2 new garden beds displaying tropical plants to continue the planting thematic in this location.

COLLECTIONS

Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan

Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan has botanical conservation at the heart of all its horticultural operations, which is seen through the curation of 'in-garden' living collections, management of the conservation production nursery, and care for critically endangered conservation woodlands. Over the past year, the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan has undertaken multiple projects, including:

Rejuvenation of the NSW Rainforests Creek: There have been landscape redevelopments across the site, the most notable being the rejuvenation of the NSW Rainforests Creek line located between the main car park and the Bowden Centre. This space is focused on connecting the ephemeral creek to the wider landscape and engaging with Education, other stakeholders, and visitors alike.

***Pimellea spicata* conservation:** In collaboration with the NSW Government's *Saving Our Species* team, the Horticulture and Living Collections team has secured \$5,000 in funding to assist with managing and protecting the natural remnant and population of *Pimellea spicata*, a listed endangered species. Along with yearly population surveying, the funds have contributed to weed management throughout the population, as this has been identified as a critical threat to this species.

Cultural burning pilot: In July, to foster cultural connections with the First Nations community, we aspired to culturally burn our landscapes, rekindle the art of Indigenous fire-managed landscapes, and enhance biodiversity outcomes.

After several years of yarns and meaningful discussions, a collaborative project between the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan Horticulture and Living Collections team and Botanic Gardens of Sydney Aboriginal Strategy & Advisory implemented the first cultural burn, which aimed to achieve closer ties with our First Nations community and improve ecological outcomes for the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan. This achievement has been in consultation with local elders and community reference group. In partnership, this initiative is being delivered through Local Land Service with Firesticks Alliance to return cultural burning to Western Sydney.

The nature of this cultural burn was to introduce a cool burn to 2.55Ha within our Conservation Woodlands adjacent to the Australian PlantBank (an area that underwent an ecological burn in 2011) aimed at the ground cover layer.

Horticultural handbook: Over an 18-month period, the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan Horticulture and Living Collections team worked on developing our first benchmarking document to assist in enabling a consistent approach to multiple nontechnical greenspace management practices within a botanic garden setting. The team developed this project to quantify visually what a 'botanic gardens standard' is. This document has been embraced by the team and is now being rolled out across the organisation.

Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah

Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah specialises in cool climate plants from Australia and around the world. With more than 4,000 species spread across 28 hectares of cultivated land, as well as an additional 244 hectares of wilderness, significant effort has gone into developing our collections in the past year, including:

Bushfire Management Plan. Stage 1 completed: BlackAsh Bushfire Consultants were contracted to create a Bushfire Management Plan. The plan will encompass emergency management, preventative maintenance, staff training and recommendations to implement bushfire infrastructure.

Camellia Garden installation: Construction continued despite lengthy delays caused by sustained wet weather conditions. Artwork and final retaining walls are set to be installed in Spring 2024.

De Ferranti landscape project: The project commenced with planning work. Engineering plans for the bluestone retaining walls were drawn up in consultation with designers, setting the framework for the entire project.

New boardwalk: Despite wet weather, the boardwalk project remained on schedule. Components were successfully built and installed, and preparations made for Horticulture teams to plant out the site for completion and opening in late 2024.

Formal garden: This two-year project neared completion, with plants for the final stage of the formal garden set to arrive in Spring 2024. Stages 1–3 were a tremendous success, with plant growth transforming the formal garden into a colourful wonderland which received lots of positive public feedback.

Wollemi metacollection: Planning commenced for the addition of new specimens of *Wollemia nobilis* to our living collection. This will form a comprehensive backup metacollection and provide the most genetically diverse source of seed for future research and conservation efforts. The first stage of this project, planned for Spring 2024, will see 43 trees planted throughout the Garden as part of a special event acknowledging the many contributors to the species' conservation.

***Pherosphaera fitzgeraldii* metacollection:** Genetically diverse wild populations of *Pherosphaera fitzgeraldii* have been collected and propagated at the Garden nursery as part of a collaborative project with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. *Pherosphaera fitzgeraldii* (Dwarf Mountain Pine) is currently threatened with extinction due to the spread of *Phytophthora* throughout its natural environment at Wentworth Falls. This project aims to safeguard it from extinction via conservation throughout the Garden and re-distribution back into the wild.

Global conservation. *Nothofagus moorei* metacollection: Work commenced to conserve the *Nothofagus moorei* as part of a collaboration with Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. A gap analysis conducted by Kew Gardens showed this species is vulnerable due to the isolated pockets it inhabits throughout New South Wales and Victoria. Representatives from Kew and Wakehurst Gardens visited to establish conservation plans, while the Arboriculture team began working with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to secure wild species.

COLLECTIONS

Interpretation and Placemaking

Through signage, exhibits, artwork, and immersive experiences, the Interpretation and Placemaking team invite visitors to engage with the rich story of Botanic Gardens of Sydney; to find meaning, connection, and to join us in celebrating our unique plants, people, and places.

Key achievements include:

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The newly refurbished Robert Brown Building includes a display space that opened with an exhibition highlighting treasures from the Library's collection of rare books, artworks and objects. Large-scale illustrations from the Florilegiums and other historic folios are combined with contemporary scientific illustrations to twine through the building, embracing visitors within oversized plant imagery and referencing its original purpose as the National Herbarium of New South Wales.

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A past Calyx exhibition *Inside the Tide, a marine dream of coral, kelp and coast* won the Interpretation Australia 2023 Award for Temporary Event or Display.

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In consultation with Gadigal Traditional Custodians, Uncle Allan Madden and Uncle Laurie Bimson, a new Connection to Country plaque was unveiled in the Cadi Jam Ora garden in October to acknowledge the long history of cultural practices of land management and agriculture by First Nations Peoples on Gadigal land, specifically Wuganmagulya — the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney site. A temporary suite of signs was installed throughout the adjacent garden to celebrate the inaugural NSW Aboriginal Languages Week.

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The Royal Botanic Garden Sydney Design Guide was developed in consultation with teams across the organisation. It covers the complexity of installations and infrastructure to ensure consistency in colours and styles, signage, pathways and seating options. This is the first in a series of Design Guides that will ensure a holistic and considered aesthetic experience for visitors to all our sites.

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Treasures from the Library's Collection on display in the Brown Building's new showcases. S. Daniel

COLLECTIONS

National Herbarium of New South Wales

With the team fully recruited, the focus of the past year has been on following through with actions arising from the independent audit of Herbarium policies and processes in 2023. New Collections Management Framework and Collection Management Policy documents were developed to guide Herbarium collection development (priorities and guidelines for growing the collection) information management, access to collections for research and collection care (curation and archival practice). This brought together a massive team effort led by Andre Badiou, Yola Metti and Hannah McPherson to generate 28 new policy and procedural documents which now support the workflows of the team in the new Herbarium and has fully satisfied the audit requirements.

There has been substantial progress on labelling for navigation and access of the Herbarium collections in the six vaults and on data remediation projects arising from the Herbarium specimen digitisation project, improving physical and digital access to the collections. Amazon Web Services have been engaged to develop a search portal for accessing images of our Herbarium specimens. This will make available over 1 million digital specimens (data and images) via the Botanic Gardens of Sydney website, constituting the largest digitally accessible image archive of Herbarium specimens in Australia to date. Specimen images are also being made available via the national data aggregator Atlas of Living Australia.

Our collaboration with the University of New South Wales has continued to bring in interns. Interns have contributed to many streams within collections. Kevin Jaeger, an intern from Koblenz University, Germany, contributed to preprocessing of the large weed specimen donation from Tamworth Agricultural Institute. In May we successfully obtained a small grant (\$5,000) from the NSW Weeds Society to continue the project part time into the next financial year.

An application for the Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria (CHAH) curation exchange program was also successful and will enable an exchange of two curators from each of New South Wales and Adelaide Herbaria to each other's institutions in the new financial year to share knowledge on curation of ancillary collections and specimen tracking. Collections staff also contributed to the National Curation Symposium and the Australian Systematic Biology Society Conference. Hannah McPherson took on the role of Assistant Chair of the Managers of Australasian Herbarium Collections (MAHC) group and contributed to a working group developing new templates for specimen transfers for use by the Australasian herbarium community.

Margaret Heslewood's work in the bryophytes has continued to stimulate productivity in curation of non-vascular plants. She has databased 3,600 specimens, approximately 80% of the unprocessed collection of the late Elizabeth Brown, and has also conducted a full taxonomic review of the literature in preparation for updating taxonomic curation of the bryophytes. Her funding has been extended for the next financial year via the Brown bequest.

This year has continued to see a steady stream of research requests. Collection curators prepared 28 consignments for loan to other institutions including 20 destructive sampling requests for DNA analysis of herbarium specimens. They processed nine incoming loans (including six requests for destructive sampling from other institutions). Digital Curators processed 63 consignments of incoming exchange and donations, including 5,390 new specimens for the Herbarium collection. We have hosted 51 research visitors requiring access to specimens and have conducted 37 tours of the Herbarium. A detailed survey of the Spirit collection (c. 20,000 specimens) was undertaken by Carolyn Connelly, Kristina McColl, Yola Metti, and the Collections Curation team to satisfy mandatory annual hazardous material reporting.



Natalie Karbowski and Alex Daydé, Technical Officers Biodiversity Sampling, collecting samples of *Correa alba* in cultivation at Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan. R. Barrett

Acquisitions and achievements during 2023–24 financial year

Herbarium acquisitions – exchange and donation	5,390
Herbarium acquisitions – staff collections	1,350
Herbarium specimens databased	13,706
Specimen records updated	45,129
Specimens imaged	5,658
Specimens sent to collaborating institutions as exchange	38*

* Exchange program has been focused on processing the backlog of incoming exchange acquired during digitisation and transition. Nagoya compliance information has been gathered and added to our duplicate specimens in preparation for outgoing exchange to resume in the next year.

COLLECTIONS

Daniel Solander Library

Access to the Daniel Solander Library was restricted for this financial year as the Robert Brown Building, where the library is housed, was being refurbished. In April 2024, the building was reopened but due to unforeseen circumstances the rare books and archives, that were temporarily housed in the main library, were not able to be rehoused. This resulted in access to the main library being limited for security reasons.

During the closure of the library there has been considerable work undertaken to reorganise the library to make space for the displaced collections, sort through hundreds of new books and journals donated by former staff and associates, and reshelve returns from staff moving to the new Herbarium facilities at the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan. In addition, the opportunity was taken to reorganise parts of the library, removing furniture no longer needed and remaining items from the Herbarium that were temporarily housed in the library.

Library treasures were researched, selected and interpreted for placement in the new display cases adjacent to the new Garden Gallery by Miguel Garcia and Sophie Daniel. Feedback from the public attending exhibitions and talks on the displays has been very positive. Miguel also presented the display and spoke about the history and functions of the library with Deputy Secretary, Melanie Hawes during her visit to

the Gardens.

Miguel Garcia delivered a presentation for members of the Foundation & Friends on the composition and individual items from the Daniel Solander Library's collections in November. Attendees numbered about 170 and feedback was very favourable. A long waiting list will mean another presentation in the coming year.

Miguel also contributed 4 articles to the Foundation & Friends magazine 'The Gardens' highlighting individual items of the collection; their authors, content and historical and scientific background as part of his ongoing seasonal commitment.

Items catalogued	153
Enquiries	237
Donations	191



Librarian Miguel Garcia reviewing collections. M Santos



Ruby Paroiss & Stefanie Carusi sorting seed. G. Dixon

Seedbank and Conservation Collections

This year was highlighted with significant transformations for the Seedbank & Conservation Collections (SBCC) team. Laura Watts was recruited into the new senior role of Collections Development Coordinator in March 2024. The role was updated in recognition of the significant coordination and collaboration SBCC imparts for collecting germplasm throughout New South Wales. The team also set up a meaningful shift in the approach to collecting seeds of threatened flora, designed support existing and forthcoming research using genetic data, enhance the overall quality and representativeness of collections, and improve the utility of these collections in conservation projects such as translocation or population reinforcement. Over the past year, the team collected seeds from more than 450 maternal plants across 10 threatened *Grevillea* species, including the Endangered *Grevillea mollis*, a new addition to our Seedbank collection. More than 8,000 seeds across these species were placed in long-term conservation storage at PlantBank, representing the largest collections for several threatened *Grevillea* species.

This strategy was also implemented for the commencement of a two-year seed collection program for the Cumberland Plain Conservation Program (CPCP). Several tree and shrub species were identified as priority targets to support the availability of genetically diverse seeds for restoration projects as part of the CPCP. So far, the team has collected seeds from 78 maternal plants from five species across western Sydney and the Hunter Valley.

This year also marked a considerable revision of the Australian PlantBank Seedbank Manual, which was last updated in 2019. Of note, new guidelines were developed to support the new maternal seed collecting strategy, as well as procedures for managing collections of 'exceptional species' that are unsuitable for seedbanking and additional seed testing protocols.

Capital funding was successfully awarded to fit out the third vault at PlantBank as a second cold storage room at -20°C. This was in support of an agreement for PlantBank to hold the national backup of the Australian Grains Genebank seed collection, which is expected to arrive next financial year.

Finally, the team also had an active engagement in the media which featured radio interviews by Laura Watts and Graeme Errington on our seed collections efforts of threatened flora, a blog post on the first seed collections made of the rare aquatic plant, *Aponogeton queenslandicus* and a feature article in 'THE BOTANIC GARDENER' interviewing Dr Nathan Emery on how our Seedbanking efforts support the conservation of threatened species.

COLLECTIONS

NSW Seedbank Statistics

Current as at 30 June 2024	
Australian plant taxonomy	Total (change since FY23)
NSW seedbearing species	6,042 (↑50)
NSW BC Act plant species	642 (↑13)
EPBC Act plant species	1,416 (↑26)
Overview of seed bank holdings	
Australia	
Species	5,309 (↑15)
Accessions	12,930 (↑318)
New South Wales	
Species	2,938 (↑18)
Accessions	8,204 (↑341)
Maternal accessions	514 (↑125)
New maternal lines collected	1,165
Percent NSW species	48.63 %
Threatened species	
NSW BC Act species	462 (↑7)
NSW BC Act accessions	2,622 (↑202)
Percent NSW BC Act species	71.96 %
EPBC Act species	365 (↑3)
EPBC Act accessions	1,939 (↑132)
Percent EPBC Act species	25.77 %
Exchanges, outgoing (number accessions)	
Botanic Gardens of Sydney Living Collections	175
Research, Internal (External)	62 (2)
Translocation	8

NSW BC Act species = species listed under *NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

EPBC Act species = species listed under the *Australian Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.



Currant Bush (*Carissa spinarum*) is a diagnostic species for the endangered Semi-evergreen Vine Thicket, and produces sweet smelling insect attracting flowers and edible fruit. N. Emery

SERVICES

PlantClinic

PlantClinic provides plant disease and identification services, mostly based on molecular detection methods, on a fee for service basis to land managers, consultants and industry and the broader community. During this year approximately 245 jobs were completed comprising over 3,500 samples, generating revenue of over \$200,000. Major clients included two delimiting surveys for *Phytophthora* on Lord Howe Island and in Barrington Tops National Park, as well as other *Saving Our Species* translocation sites. All revenue goes towards the development of new diagnostic techniques and research into the plant diseases that threaten our native plant communities, agriculture, parks and gardens.

The principal research project Stop the Rot that aims to tackle *Phytophthora* in commercial and restoration nurseries reached a significant milestone with the publication of the phase 1 results in the Journal of Plant Pathology. This paper reports a high incidence and diversity of *Phytophthora* in nursery stock destined for urban greening projects. In addition, the detection of *P. mediterranea* and *P. heterospora* represent first reports for Australia, with *P. mediterranea* considered a biosecurity concern. This paper sheds light on the issues and provides emphasis for the next phases of the Stop the Rot project.

The next phase of the project is working on a solution for the nursery industry. We have been developing a field deployable batch testing system that uses a COVID-19 like Rapid Antigen Test for end point detection. The goal of this system is to reduce costs and encourage testing, which is the first step in managing the problem. This system is currently being validated, but early results suggest that the method is highly sensitive and capable of detecting *Phytophthora* in a batch of plants to a dilution of 1:4 million.

We also successful in securing a federal Saving Native Species grant (Game Changers for Threatened Species Grant) which will enable us to validate the use of ecological scent dogs to detect *Phytophthora* at the landscape scale.

Botanical Identification Service

Botanical enquiries come from a range of stakeholders: the general public, other government agencies, the police, and NSW veterinarian laboratory (DPI) – with consultants being the most dominant group. Specimens received from consultants from the southern Hay Plain added to the previous single record known of a taxon and to suggest a new phrase-named species – *Calotis* sp. Zara (E. Officer s.n. NSW 14995).

Overview of Botanical Identification Service activities 2023–24

Number of enquiries	1,104
Number of physical specimens received	1,745
Number of specimens lodged	319
Number of threatened species specimens lodged	135

NSW Flora Online (PlantNET)

Significant updates were made to the content in PlantNET, including:

7 genera with new or updated descriptions;

37 new or updated species descriptions;

5 new or updated infrataxa descriptions; and

5 new or updated identification keys.

A working group was established to develop a business case and funding to generate a new platform for an improved PlantNET; members of the working group include both Herbarium and IT support staff.

Overview of statistics for NSW Flora Online 2023–24

Average number of users per month	30,594
Total number of users	312,792
Total number of page views	3,760,806

Blue Puya (*Puya berteroniana*). J. Plaza

SERVICES

External Committees

Atlas of Living Australia Seed Portal Working Group, member (Karen Sommerville)

Australasian Plant Conservation Editorial Committee, member (Nathan Emery)

Australasian Plant Pathology Journal, Senior Editor (Matthew Laurence)

Australasian Seed Science Conference 2025, Organising and Program committees, members (Cathy Offord, Marlene van der Merwe)

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators, Chair (Peta Lilley)

Australian Cultivar Registration Authority (ACRA), Committee Member (Ryan Newett)

Australian Flora Foundation Scientific Committee, member (Jason Bragg)

Australian Network for Plant Conservation, National Committee, member (Iggy Czajkowski)

Australian Plant Census (APC) Working Group, member (Peter Jobson)

Australian Seedbank Partnership, Collections Review Core Working Group, members (Nathan Emery, Cathy Offord)

Australian Seedbank Partnership, National Steering Committee, member (Nathan Emery)

Australian Systematic Botany, Associate Editors (Russell Barrett, Peter Wilson)

Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ), BCARM (Collections and Records Management) Working Group, member (Peta Lilley)

Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ), Botanic Garden Arborist Group (BARB), Convenor (Ian Allan), Committee Member (Matt Coyne)

Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ), NSW Committee, members (Ash Filipovski, Damian Wrigley)

Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium of South Australia (BGSH) Science Advisory Committee, member (Damian Wrigley)

Canberra Nature Map, moderator (Russell Barrett)

Charles Sturt University, Bachelor of Veterinary Technology, Committee and Advisory Group, member (Simon Duffy)

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Plants Committee, Oceania Representative and Vice Chair (Damian Wrigley)

Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria (CHAH), member (Brett Summerell)

Council of Heads of Australian Botanic Gardens (CHABG), Chair (Denise Ora, 2023), member (Simon Duffy, 2024), Treasurer (Brett Summerell)

Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan, Restoration Working Group, member (Nathan Emery)

DivSeek Oceania Hub, Advisory Committee, member (Cathy Offord)

Frontiers in Plant Science, section Plant Systematics and Evolution, Associate Editor (Hervé Sauquet), Review Editor (Russell Barrett)

Frontiers in Plant Science, section Phylogenetics, Phylogenomics, and Systematics, Review Editor (Richard Jobson)

Genomics for Australian Plants Framework Data Initiative, Phylogenomics Working Group, member (Hervé Sauquet)

GEO BON (Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network), working group for Genetic Composition, member (Jason Bragg)

Herbarium Information Systems Committee (HISCOM), a subcommittee of CHAH, member (Wayne Cherry)

International Journal of Plant Sciences, Associate Editor (Hervé Sauquet)

International Advisory Council, Botanic Gardens Conservation International, member (Brett Summerell)

International Association for Plant Taxonomy, Committee for Vascular Plants, member (Peter Wilson)

International Association for Plant Taxonomy, General Committee, Chair (David Mabberley), Secretary (Karen Wilson)

International Seed Testing Authority (ISTA), Storage Committee, member (Karen Sommerville)

IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Species Survival Commission (SSC), Reintroduction Specialist Group, member (Maurizio Rossetto)

IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), Conservation Genetics Specialist Group, member (Jason Bragg)

Journal of Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Editorial Board, member (Richard Jobson)

Managers of Australasian Herbarium Collections (MAHC), a subcommittee of CHAH, Deputy Secretary (Hannah McPherson), member (Yola Metti)

Molecular Ecology, *Molecular Ecology Resources*, Associate Editor (Jason Bragg)

National Myrtle Rust Working Group, members (Brett Summerell, Karen Sommerville)

NSW Arborists, Committee Member (Matt Coyne)

NSW Fisheries Scientific Committee, member (Jason Bragg)

NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee, member (Cathy Offord)

Parks and Leisure, NSW & ACT Region, Treasurer (John Siemon)

Plant and Soil, Section Editor (Francis Nge)

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Review of Seed Science, Conservation and Use, Chair (Cathy Offord)

RSPCA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) NSW, Keeping Cats Safe at Home, Steering Committee, member (Simon Duffy)

Swainsona, Associate Editor (Francis Nge)

Treenet Advisory Board, member (Matthew Laurence)

Taxon, Associate Editor (Hervé Sauquet)

University of New South Wales, Evolution & Ecology Research Centre, Advisory Committee Member (Cathy Offord)

University of New South Wales, Science Advisory Council, Chair (Denise Ora, 2023)

University of Sydney Education Alliance, Governance Committee Member (Simon Duffy)

Winston Churchill Trust Fellowships, NSW Land, Commerce & Logistics Advisory Panel, member (Marco Duretto)

External Appointments

Barrett, Russell: Adjunct Associate Professor, University of New South Wales.

Bragg, Jason: Adjunct Senior Lecturer, University of New South Wales.

Fahey, Monica: Adjunct Fellow, Macquarie University.

Jobson, Richard: Adjunct Associate Professor, University of New South Wales; Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Queensland.

Nge, Francis: Research Affiliate, University of Adelaide.

Offord, Cathy: Adjunct Professor, University of New South Wales.

Rossetto, Maurizio: Honorary Professor, The University of Queensland.

Sauquet, Hervé: Research Affiliate, University of Sydney; Adjunct Associate Professor, University of New South Wales.

Summerell, Brett AM: Adjunct Professor of Plant Pathology, University of Sydney; Adjunct Professor, Department of Plant Pathology, Kansas State University, USA; Visiting Professor, University of Johannesburg, South Africa.

Purple Fountain Grass
(*Cenchrus setaceus* 'Rubrum'). J. Plaza



Scientific Publications

1. Andres SE, **Emery NJ**, Rymer PD, Powell JR (2023) Soil chemistry and fungal communities are associated with dieback in an Endangered Australian shrub. *Plant and Soil* 483(1-2), 47–70.
2. Antonelli A, Fry C, Smith RJ, Eden J (+ 182 co-authors incl. **Barrett RL, Wilson KL**) (2023) *State of the world's plants and fungi 2023*. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. doi.org/10.34885/wnwn-6s63
3. Asar Y, **Sauquet H**, Ho SYW (2023) Evaluating the accuracy of methods for detecting correlated rates of molecular and morphological evolution. *Systematic Biology* 72(6), 1337–1356. doi.org/10.1093/sysbio/syad055
4. **Barrett RL** (2023) *Euchilopsis* [genus and 1 species profile] (Fabaceae). In Kodala PG (ed.), *Flora of Australia*. Australian Biological Resources Study, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment & Water, Canberra. https://profiles.ala.org.au/opus/foa/profile/Euchilopsis
5. **Barrett RL** (2023) Sedges on the edge: new agronomic and research opportunities? Special Issue S108: Belowground storage organs. *Plant and Soil* 495, 195–200. doi.org/10.1007/s11104-023-06145-w
6. **Barrett RL**, Barrett MD (2023) Taxonomic revision of Australian *Erythrophleum* (Fabaceae: Caesalpinioideae) including description of two new species. *Australian Systematic Botany* 36(5), 401–426. doi.org/10.1071/SB23007
7. **Barrett RL**, Barrett MD, Clements MA (2023) *Calochilus barbarossa*, *C. kimberleyensis* (Orchidaceae). In Kodala PG (ed.), *Flora of Australia*. Australian Biological Resources Study, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment & Water, Canberra. https://profiles.ala.org.au/opus/foa/profile/Calochilus
8. **Barrett RL**, Barrett MD, Clements MA (2024) *Dipodium ammolithum*, *D. basalticum* (Orchidaceae). In P.G. Kodala (ed.), *Flora of Australia*. Australian Biological Resources Study, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment & Water, Canberra. https://profiles.ala.org.au/opus/foa/profile/Dipodium%20ammolithum
9. **Barrett RL, Clugston JAR** (2023) A new classification for the bush peas and relatives (Fabaceae) – at last! *Biologist* 33, 12–13.
10. **Barrett RL, Clugston JAR**, Albrecht DE, **Elkan L**, Hosking JR, **McCune SF, Jobson PC, Orme AE**, Palsson RL, **Renner MAM, Wardrop C, Weston PH** (2024) Revision of the *Pultenaea setulosa* species complex (Fabaceae: Mirbelieae) including fourteen new species. *Australian Systematic Botany* 37, 1–105. doi.org/10.1071/SB23014
11. **Barrett RL, Wilson TC** (2023) Bush Blitz collections and iNaturalist observations assist the recognition of a new species from New South Wales, *Lomandra briggsiana* (Asparagaceae). *Telopea* 26, 133–143. doi.org/10.7751/telopea17366
12. **Benson D** (2024) Vegetation patterns across the Sydney Basin during the Last Glacial Maximum based on plant biogeography, ecology, geomorphology and climate. Proceedings of the *Linnean Society of New South Wales* 146, 1–47.
13. Biggs JR, Gray J, West J, **Wrigley D, Offord CA**, Zimmer HC, Mackenzie BD, Duva D, Guerin J, Te T, Parrott ML, Miller KA, McFadden M, Van Sluys M (2023) Ex situ responses to the 2019–20 wildfires. pp. 458–480. In Rumpff L, Legge, SM, van Leeuwen S, Wintle BA, Woinarski JCZ (eds), *Australia's Megafires: Biodiversity Impacts and Lessons from 2019–2020*, CSIRO Publishing, Canberra.
14. Boggs G, Breed MF, Byrne M, Macgregor N, Prober SM, **Rossetto M, Wrigley D**, Young R (2023) *Science Partnerships*. Chapter 2 in Broadhurst L, Prober SM, Boggs G, Bush D, Breed MF, Dickson F, Harrison PA, Jellinek S, Lynch AJJ, Rymer PD, Young RE, Commander LE (eds), *Guidelines for embedded experiments in ecological restoration and management in Australia*. CSIRO Publishing, Canberra.
15. **Botanic Gardens of Sydney** (2024) *Prospectus*. Australian Institute of Botanical Science, 92 pp. https://www.botanicgardens.org.au/our-science/australian-institute-botanical-science-prospectus
16. Braglia L, Thomson LAJ, Cheek M, **Mabberley DJ**, Butaud J-F (2024) Pacific species of *Hibiscus* sect. *Lihibiscus* (Malvaceae). 4. The origin of *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*: a 300-year-old mystery solved. *Pacific Science* 77, 395–415. doi.org/10.2984/77.4.3
17. **Briggs BG** (2023) Lawrie Johnson, 23 October 1962–early December 1963. In George AS (ed.) *The Australian Botanical Liaison Officer Scheme at Kew, 1937–2009*. Four Gables Press, Kardinia.
18. **Briggs BG** (2024) *Veronica* (17 species profiles) (Plantaginaceae). In Kodala PG (ed.), *Flora of Australia*. Australian Biological Resources Study, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment & Water, Canberra. https://profiles.ala.org.au/opus/foa/profile/Veronica
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Community greening participant and Master Gardener volunteer Kim Le-brocq in the Toormina, Coffs Harbour, Mission Australia garden. B. Moore

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Seed and pappus of Common Everlasting
(*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*). S. Cottrell

Education, Engagement & Visitation

The 2023-24 financial year highlighted the importance of our public green spaces and engaging program of educational and cultural activities, and public events.





VISITATION



Seedlings Nature School,
Royal Botanic Garden Sydney. J Manning

In 2023–24 we saw more than 13 million visits made across our three botanic gardens and The Domain.

An increase in visitation across all Gardens was supported by an engaging program of events, educational and cultural activities:

Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan set a new benchmark with over 1 million visits to the Garden, a 12% increase year-on-year.

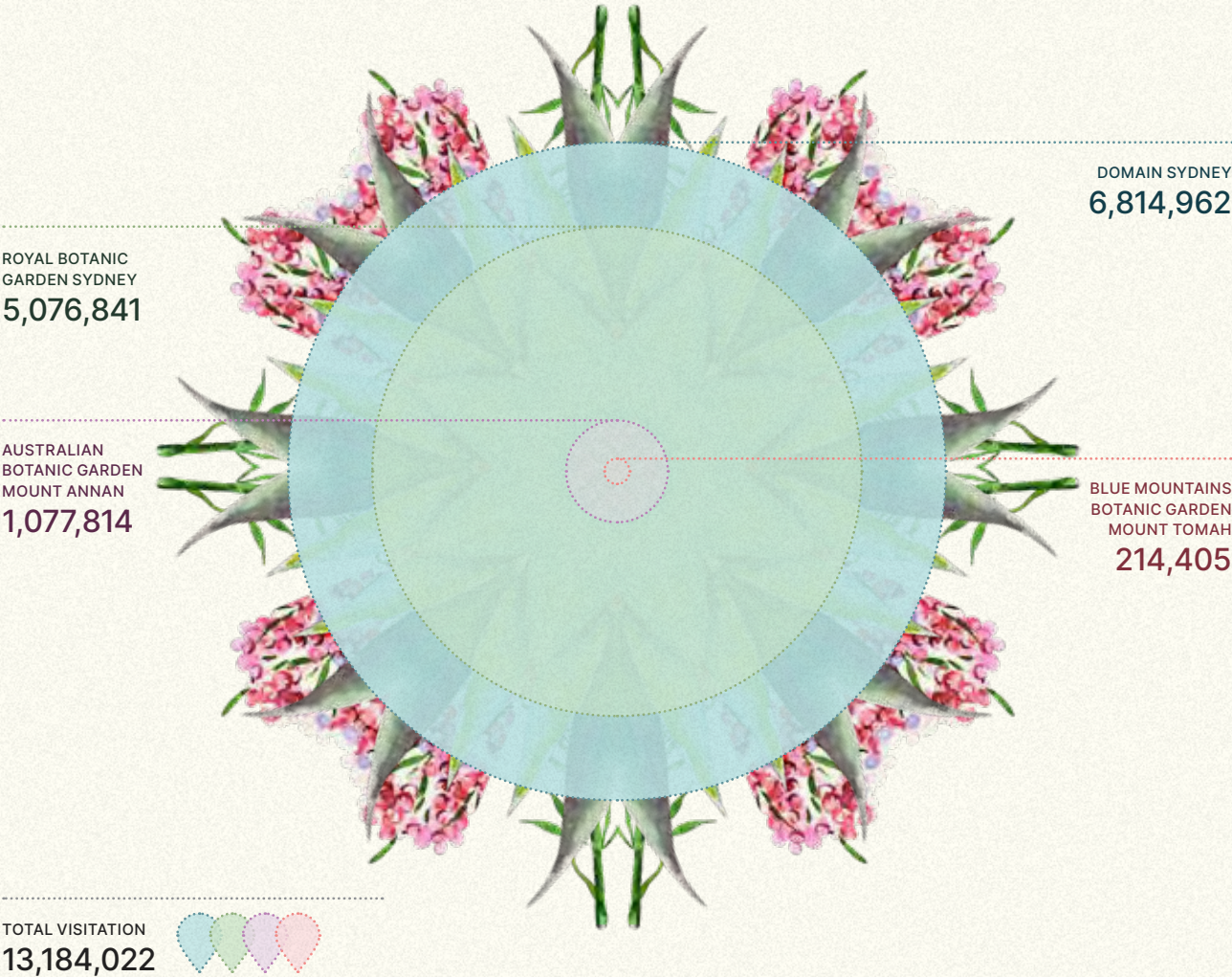
Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah experienced a 9% increase in visitation on the previous year with almost 215,000 visits.

Visitation to Royal Botanic Garden Sydney saw an increase of 14%, attracting more than 5 million visits.

Location	2023–24	2022–23	2021–22	2020–21	2019–20	2018–19	2017–18	2016–17
Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan	1,077,814	964,910	760,497	611,299	556,690	469,270	441,325	409,697
Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah	214,405	196,295	141,533	218,453	195,981	205,139	226,033	195,379
Royal Botanic Garden Sydney	5,076,841	4,441,201	2,660,507	2,560,874	4,340,022	5,425,120	5,437,902	5,222,464
The Domain Sydney*	6,814,962	6,227,398	3,543,835	3,363,388	5,811,860	7,098,891	6,906,136	6,632,529
Total	13,184,022	11,829,804	7,106,372	6,754,014	10,904,553	13,198,420	13,011,396	12,460,069

* Estimated visitation to The Domain Sydney is calculated using a visitation ratio compared to gate-counter data from the neighbouring Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, plus data from sports bookings and organised public events.

Figure 1
Botanic Gardens of Sydney
2023–24 Visitation



Volunteer Guide Ann Webber
leading guided walk. P. Nicholson



EDUCATION

Botanic Gardens of Sydney engage as many people as possible, from a diverse range of backgrounds, in learning about plants, plant science and conservation through connection with our living collections.

In 2023–24, we had a focus on evaluating and improving Education programs across our three sections to make sure that we are providing a range of captivating experiences for our wide audience of visitors of all ages.

The Education team work closely with the Science, Conservation and Horticulture teams to make sure that participants in our programs are receiving accurate, relevant information about plants and conservation, with the aim of inspiring changes in behaviour and motivating people to action.

School and Community Programs

New initiative: Diverse Learner's Day during Sydney Science Trail. This day was designed to cater for children with diverse learning, sensory and behavioural needs and was a huge success with all places booked well in advance of National Science Week.

There were 9,800 people in attendance at our National Science Week community day, held at the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan. This allowed us to reach a huge audience with important plant conservation messages and a depth and breadth of information about the world of plants from the Science team. This is a free community event and was partially funded by Inspiring Australia NSW through a generous grant.

Community offerings at the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah expanded this year with Astronomy Night being held successfully.

Our program for people living with dementia, Full Bloom, continues to receive positive feedback from both participants and carers. We are looking to expand the delivery of this hugely important and successful program out to Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan in the coming 12 months. Volunteers have also begun assisting with the facilitation of this program.

Volunteer Programs

Volunteers helped make the first two exhibitions at the new Garden Gallery a great success – Florilegium's *Rainforest Species at Risk* and Jeannie Baker's *Desert Jungle*. Volunteers staffed the gallery and facilitated connections between our living collections and plants featured in the exhibitions via walks and tours. They also produced content for self-guided walks delivered via various platforms.

Volunteers developed content and co-delivered programs with education staff for the Sydney Science Trail at the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney for National Science Week.

Volunteers celebrated 10 years of leading guided walks of the Australian PlantBank at Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan.

20 volunteers welcomed visitors, delivered tours, and assisted with the children's trail at the wonderfully successful National Science Week community open day at the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan.

Two new volunteer programs were approved: sign cleaning and maintenance with Interpretation and Placemaking, and seed viability trials at PlantBank.

Volunteer Programs staff coordinated National Volunteer Week activities for the Sydney Cultural Institutions Network. This network involves 17 partner organisations, who offered 78 free activities for volunteers from represented organisations. Botanic Gardens of Sydney staff created the program and booking platform and supported volunteers in attending activities. Botanic Gardens of Sydney activities included: behind the scenes glasshouse tours, Jeannie Baker's *Desert Jungle* plant tours, tours of the National Herbarium of New South Wales, discounts on plant purchases, and wildlife and plant photography workshops.

EDUCATION

Outreach: Community Greening and Youth Community Greening

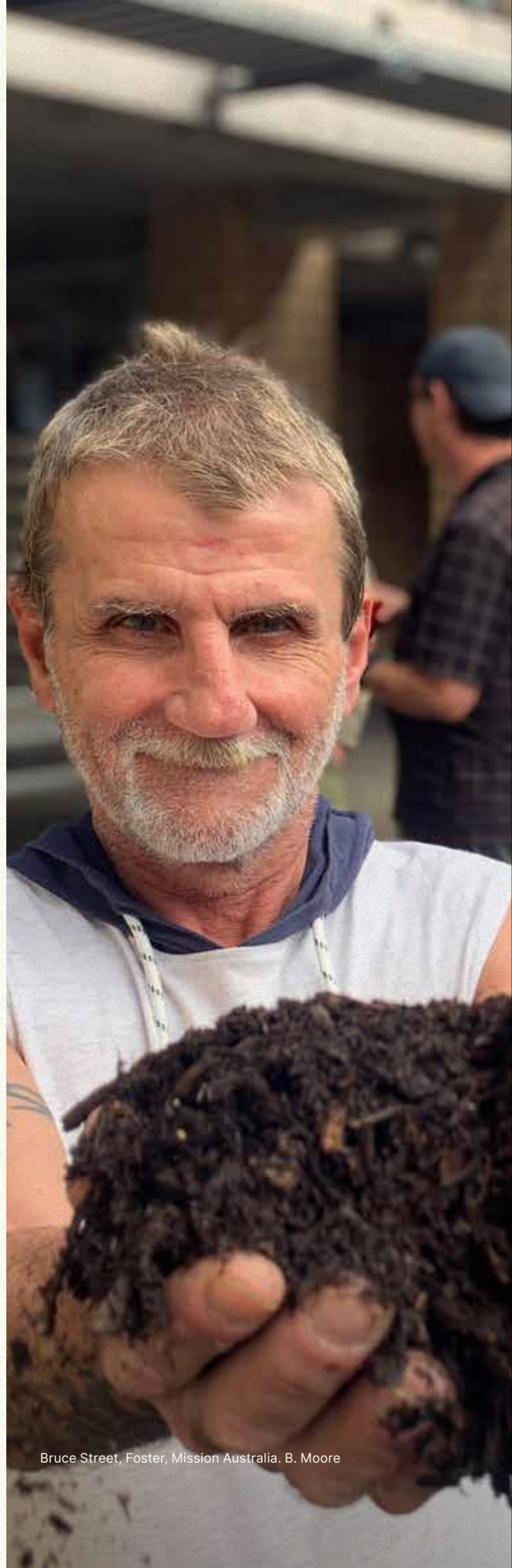
Community Greening continues to be a highly successful way to give access to learning about growing food, sustainable gardening and community building for people who wouldn't otherwise have access to the living collections at one of the Botanic Gardens of Sydney sites.

The Community Greening team travelled all over New South Wales during 2023–24, creating 46 new community gardens in a range of settings and reaching over 16,000 participants in learning and gardening activities in less-advantaged communities and settings.

Throughout the year, the Youth Community Greening team has worked with a range different schools, preschools, and other youth settings on First Nations projects/programs. Of these sites they have assisted in the design and construction of over 50 cultural learning spaces. These learning spaces vary from bush tucker gardens to trails that tell a local story and are diverse in structure and appearance, reflecting the diversity of the communities where they have been created.

The Youth Community Greening program engaged over 11,000 young people in gardening, cultural and other learning experiences.

2023 and 2024 saw the establishment of a Working Group to strengthen the governance and profile to the Community Greening program. One of the focus areas of the group is to support the Education team, and the team at Department of Communities and Justice – Homes NSW – to secure more sustainable funding for Community Greening, currently in its 24th year, all of which have been funded by external sources.



Bruce Street, Foster, Mission Australia. B. Moore

CONTENT

Website

The Marketing and Engagement team work to promote the Botanic Gardens vision, purpose and activities through owned and earned channels, including the website, emails, social media channels, podcasts, videos and traditional media.

Unique website sessions 1,179,564.

2023 saw two significant changes rollout, the first being the launch of the unified botanicgardens.org.au website (moving away from three separate websites). The second was a change in how Google report on website metrics. Sessions now reflected in GA4 are thought to follow a simpler reporting method with more accurate data than previously reported.

The new botanicgardens.org.au website has had some significant results in its first year, with the bounce rate reduced by 49%, page load time down 80%, and the website now meeting WCAG 2.0 AA accessibility levels.



Monica Fahey's research with genomic tools reveals innovative Indigenous agriculture. J Lindsay

CONTENT

Website



Unique sessions to
Gardens websites

1,179,564

Bounce rate
reduced by

↓49%

Page load time
has reduced
significantly

↓80%

**Website now meets WCAG 2.0 AA
accessibility levels.**

Branch Out Podcast



Total listens

16,242

Top three countries for listeners:



1.

Australia



2.

United States
of America



3.

United
Kingdom

Top episode

Curating plant-love at The Calyx
(published 10 December 2022, 1,956 listens)

Note: No new episodes released during this FY, demonstrating
the evergreen appeal of our back catalogue of content.

Traditional News Media

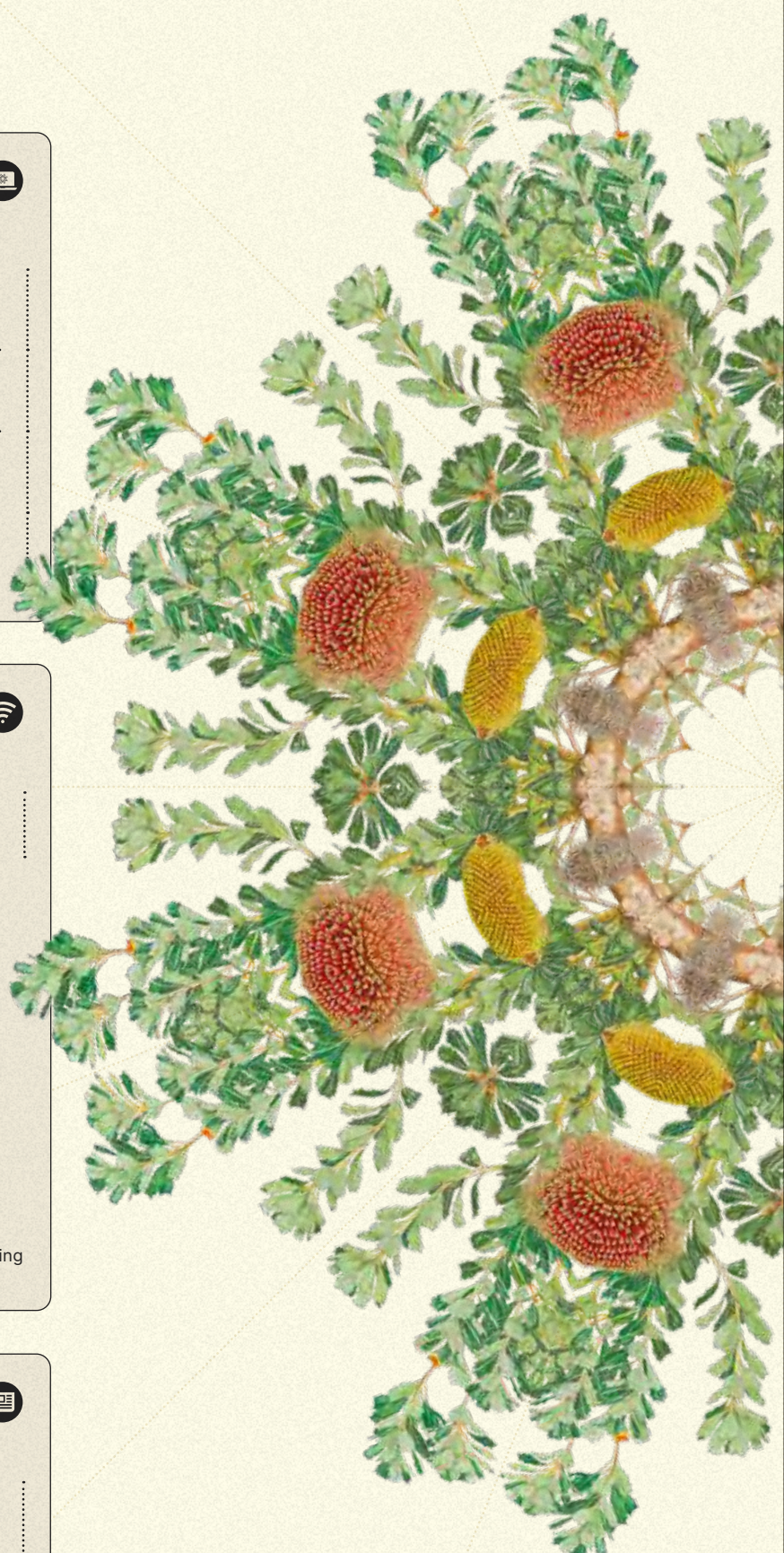


Total reach

8.5B+

Total media
inclusions

2,843





Social Media



Total audience	345,397
Total impressions	16,839,619
Total engagements	546,456

Audience = X (Twitter), Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram.

Impressions = number of times content was displayed to users.

Engagements = number of reactions, comments, shares, post link clicks, saves, other post clicks.

Email Marketing



Email campaigns sent	45
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A new email marketing platform was rolled out, along with new templates aligning to the updated Botanic Gardens of Sydney brand. These changes resulted in significant increases in two areas:

1. Monthly What's On email list

Average open rate (↑11.3%)	35.2%
Average click through rate (↑6.1%)	7.5%

2. Education excursions email list

Average open rate (↑0.95%)	18.55%
Average click through rate (↑12.2%)	13.55%

YouTube



Total views	368,546
Total impressions	1,135,518
Total engagements	4,961



EVENTS & VENUES

Royal Botanic Garden Sydney

Lightscape 2024 was delivered over the 21 days of Vivid attracting more than 72,000 ticketholders.

Over 55,825 visitors enjoyed the *Love Your Nature* exhibition in The Calyx, which opened on 26 September 2022 and ran until July 2024.

The Calyx hosted 115 event bookings.

The Garden Gallery opened in April and has staged two exhibitions, welcoming 5,461 visitors.

Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan

The Garden hosted 498 events in 2023–24, an increase of 6.4% compared to 2022–23.

Events held this year included National Sorry Day, National Science Week community day, and the Tuff Nutterz inflatable obstacle course returned to the Garden.

Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah

The Garden hosted 55 venue hire bookings in 2023–24.

Visitation has returned to near record levels with more than 210,000 visits this financial year.

The Domain Sydney

The 2023–24 major events program attracted 338,070 people to 20 major events. The season highlights were Post Malone, Paramore, Carols in The Domain, Westpac Open Air Cinema, Field Day and Handa Opera.

Handa Opera's West Side Story was enjoyed by 53,390 people over a four-week period.

Westpac Open Air Cinema successfully delivered its 28th season to 55,812 people who enjoyed the world's most beautiful cinema.

Free New Year's Eve events were delivered across The Domain, attracting more than 18,000 spectators.

Our large charity events, Carols in The Domain, Runaway Half Marathon, Step UP! for Down Syndrome, and Run2Cure had a successful season, with a combined fundraising result of \$2,505,556.

Our Supporters

We are indebted to our family of generous supporters and the vital impacts that their contributions have made. Over the past year, they have contributed to many collective achievements in plant conservation, scientific research and sustainability, which we could not have accomplished without their support.

The Growing Friends volunteers propagate plants from the living collections for sale to the public. This is an important fundraising activity of the Foundation & Friends of the Botanic Gardens. J. Plaza



OUR SUPPORTERS

We give huge thanks to the individuals, partners, grant makers, trusts and foundations and government supporters who have generously supported our planet-changing work this year.

Our flagship projects under the Australian Institute of Botanical Science continue to attract significant support from funders and collaborators. We have listed these contributions below and extend our sincere gratitude to all that enable our critical work.

Botanic Gardens received several significant donations from philanthropic individuals and organisations throughout the year, including donations to support key projects at the Gardens. These comprised of the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney Camellia Oasis, Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah Camellia Garden, Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan Summit Boardwalk, and our Community Greening program.

Foundation & Friends of the Botanic Gardens is the independent fundraising body for the Gardens, and we extend our sincere thanks to the wonderful donors and members who gave over the past year. Foundation & Friends donors generously supported our new ReCER laboratory in the renovated Robert Brown Building with more than \$550,000. This lab will enable our scientists to expand their use of innovative science and technology to investigate impacts on plant distribution and assembly – research which informs ecosystem restoration and conservation. Foundation & Friends also ran a very successful end of financial year appeal, targeting rainforest revival and survival, with their donors and members raising over \$175,000. A generous donor contributed an additional \$100,000 to advance a *Restore & Renew* project to preserve mangroves and marine wetlands. Backed by Botanic Gardens' research, this project aims to protect these vital ecosystems for marine biodiversity and climate resilience, and secure their long-term survival with innovative, genetically diverse planting strategies.

We are reliant on our family of wonderful volunteers to support our work. An incredible 46,547 hours were volunteered this year to Botanic Gardens of Sydney and Foundation & Friends of the Botanic Gardens.

Our long-standing supporters, the Fairfax family, through the John B Foundation, have pledged their support of the Mount Annan Summit Boardwalk at the Australian Botanic Garden, a major project to design and construct a walkway up to the summit of Mount Annan, making it more accessible for visitors and implementing meeting circles at the summit to honour the traditional landowners.

Our Community Greening outreach program continued to receive significant support from the NSW Department of Communities and Justice to maintain its long-lasting impacts. With this funding, our horticultural experts continued to go into the community and educate less privileged youth across regional New South Wales.

We continued to roll out our Youth Community Greening program, thanks to the supporters including the NSW Government and the Neilson Foundation. We successfully completed a three year Greener on the Outside outreach program thanks to a grant from the Department of Home Affairs, Safer Communities Fund. This program enabled us to continue working in high schools with disadvantaged youth, First Nations students, and at-risk youth by empowering less advantaged individuals and building community connectedness, targeting social housing residents facing hardship throughout New South Wales.

Sally White has continued to facilitate the role of Learning Leader at the Gardens, supporting our mission for lifelong learning. This program engages environmental champions of all ages to care for and protect the environment including inspiring a new generation of STEM professionals.



We are so grateful to all our individual donors for facilitating so many projects across the Gardens, which without their help, would not be possible.

We would also like to thank our outstanding partners, who continue to support our scientific research, horticulture, education, and reconciliation during 2023–24.

MetLife continued to support our critical science conservation work, particularly our sustainability endeavours. MetLife also completed Cultural Awareness Training with us, demonstrating our shared commitment to not only botanical science but to reconciliation and our shared respect for the traditional landowners.

Taylors Wines (Taylors) continued to supply their world-class wine for our community engagement events in addition to financially supporting the Gardens' vital conservation work, demonstrating our shared sustainability vision. Taylors also hosted the popular Garden of Chill on the Mare and Foal lawn, where they created a red wine oasis serving Taylors award-winning Estate range at their optimum temperatures.

Bloomberg and Liberty Specialty Markets, both Major Partners, once again dedicated a huge amount of volunteer hours to horticulture activities at Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, natural area restoration work at Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan, and contributing to our replanting project in The Domain Sydney. We thank them for not only financially supporting the science and conservation work of the Gardens but also engaging their teams in our programs.

Epson Australia (Epson) continues to be incredibly engaged with supporting our conservation work and funding our work to prevent the spread of myrtle rust, the silent killer of our endemic plant life. We thank Epson for hosting a Lunch and Learn at their offices to educate their staff on the work we do at the Australian PlantBank and through the Rainforest Seed Conservation Project.

In addition to program funding, Archie Rose Distilling Co. provided their delicious cocktails to be served at events and hosted bespoke Garden walks, including the Ghostly Gardens Tour, a Halloween adventure accompanied with Archie Rose cocktails.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest Supporter, Lynch Group, who join us with a shared passion to protect Australia's flora and a keen interest to enhance biological diversity. We are so excited to see this partnership flourish.

Botanic Gardens always welcomes opportunities to discuss our critical work with interested individuals and organisations to further our impact.

Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog perched on a reed in the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney. J.Plaza



GRANTS & SCIENCE FUNDING

Education Grants awarded to Botanic Gardens of Sydney

Inspiring Australia NSW

Botanic Gardens of Sydney: Australian Museum. Sydney Science Trail – \$10,000 (one-year grant)

Science Grants awarded to Botanic Gardens of Sydney

Australian Coal Industry's Research Program (ACARP)

Cathy Offord and Nathan Emery. Inclusion of high interest native plants in mine site restoration programs – \$77,320.95 (year five of a five-year \$444,055 grant).

Australian Flora Foundation

Nathan Emery. Horticultural potential of the endangered *Persoonia hirsuta* – \$895.45 (final payment of a \$9,845 grant).

Ganesha Liyanage. Deciphering dormancy, germination, and storage requirement for conservation of *Zieria* – \$17,480.91 (year three of a four-year \$59,897 grant).

Ganesha Liyanage. Understanding seed and reproductive biology of *Geijera parviflora* and its implication in conservation and restoration – \$1,818.18 (final payment of a four-year \$59,897 grant).

Samantha Yap. Securing representative genetic diversity within seed collections of Australian Rainforest species severely impacted by Myrtle Rust – \$576 (second payment of three-year \$57,281 grant)

Australian Government; Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS) – National Taxonomy Research Grant Program

Richard Jobson; Luke Dunning (University of Sheffield, United Kingdom). Generic and species-level resolution in subtribe Anthistiriinae (Andropogoneae, Poaceae) using whole genome sequencing – \$32,600 (year two of a two-year \$43,082 grant).

Australian Government; Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Pat Lu-Irving. Assembling the *Lantana* Genome – \$6,620 (final payment of a two-year \$69,660 grant).

Walter Fisher Research Grant

Allison Martin. Investigating the plant growth promotion potential of native seed fungi to improve native Australian grassland restoration – \$5,000 (one-year grant).

Collaborative Science Grants awarded to other agencies

Australian Government; Australian Research Council (ARC) – Discovery Project

Simon Ho, Nathan Lo (University of Sydney); **Hervé Sauquet.** Testing links between genomic and morphological evolutionary rates: Using phylogenetics to understand the tempo and mode of macroevolution – \$153,837 (year two of a three-year \$461,510 grant).

GRANTS & SCIENCE FUNDING

Australian Government; Australian Research Council (ARC) – Linkage Projects

Belinda Ferrari, Marc Wilkins (University of NSW); **Brett Summerell** and **Edward Liew**. What fungal features are key to developing environmental resilience? – \$169,077 (year two of a three-year \$466,656 grant).

Rachael Gallagher (Western Sydney University); Sasha Tetu, Ian Wright (Macquarie University); Vanessa Adams (University of Tasmania); Andrew Walker (AirSeed); **Maurizio Rossetto**, **Cathy Offord** and **Peter Cuneo**. Restoring diverse native vegetation using drone-based precision seeding – \$169,217 (year four of five-year \$648,000 grant).

Ricardo Mancera (Curtin University); Neena Mitter (University of Queensland); **Cathy Offord**, **Karen Sommerville**, **Brett Summerell** and **Jason Bragg**. Cryobiotechnology to help fight the Myrtle Rust Pandemic – \$178,637 (year one of a four-year \$719,423 grant).

Neena Mitter, Robert Henry, Bruce Topp (University of Queensland); **Cathy Offord** and **Karen Sommerville**. Novel Propagation and Conservation Technologies for Australian *Macadamia* (LP200200822) – \$178,637 (year three of a three-year \$308,032 grant).

Adriana Verges, Alistair Poore, Kate Dunn (University of NSW); Emilie Ens (Macquarie University); **Maurizio Rossetto**; Ann Hughes (Northeastern University, USA); Shannon Bruce, Ryan Bennet (Port Authority NSW); R Cooley and Proctor. Restoring & future-proofing the biocultural values of endangered seagrasses – \$100,000 (year two of a three-year \$288,000 grant).

Australian Research Data Commons

Elizabeth Wenk, Daniel Falster (University of NSW); Rachael Gallagher (Western Sydney University); **Hervé Sauquet**. AusTraits: a national database on the traits of Australia's complete flora – \$50,000 (half-year grant).

French Foundation for Biodiversity Research (FRB) SYNERGY project

Sylvain Glémin, Jos Käfer (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique – CNRS, France); and 13 collaborators (including **Hervé Sauquet**). Plant reproductive strategies as new diversity indicators – proof of concept in agricultural landscapes – \$138,438 (second half-year of a one-year EUR170,000 grant).

French National Research Agency (ANR)

Sylvain Glémin, Jos Käfer, Eric Tannier (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique – CNRS, France); **Hervé Sauquet**. Reproductive determinants of evolutionary and ecological success in flowering plants – \$122,146 (first half-year of a four-year EUR601,908 grant).

New South Wales Government; Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water; Environment and Heritage; NSW Environmental Trust

Justin Borevitz, Bothwell Helen (Australian National University); Rose Andrew (University of New England); Margaret Mackinnon (Upper Snowy Landcare); **Jason Bragg**, **Maurizio Rossetto**. Climate and dieback resilience of tableland and mountain eucalypt species of southeast Australia – \$50,000 (final payment of two-year \$199,205 grant).

Royal Society Te Apārangi, Catalyst: Seeding General Grant (New Zealand)

Karin van der Walt K (Otari Botanic Garden, New Zealand); Aisyah Faruk (Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, United Kingdom); **Karen Sommerville**; Dani Ballesteros (University of Valencia, Spain); Jayanthi Nadarajan (Plant and Food Research, New Zealand); Monica Gerth (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand); Felippo Guzzon (Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees, Fiji). Seed conservation and restoration of Araucariaceae, a family of coniferous trees, in the Pacific Region – \$27,013 (first year of a two-year NZ\$79,907 grant).



Iceberg White Rose in the Rose Garden at Royal Botanic Garden Sydney. J.Plaza

GRANTS & SCIENCE FUNDING

Service provisions and contracts

Australian Seed Bank Partnership

Peter Cuneo. WWF/Botanica Rare Blooms – \$15,000 (final year of a two-and-a-half-year \$66,000 service provision funding).

Cathy Offord and Nathan Emery. ASBP Collections Review Project, Data Analyst – \$32,050 (second payment of \$52,500 one-year service provision funding)

BioBank Seed

Marlien van der Merwe. Conservation genomics study on *Pomaderris queenslandica* and *Bertya opposens* to guide genetically diverse restoration by BioBankSeed – \$43,850 (first year of two-year \$115,850 grant)

New South Wales Government; Department of Climate Change Energy the Environment and Water

Maurizio Rossetto and Jason Bragg. Restore & Renew v.2.0 – Phase II, webtool build – \$570,000 (one-year service provision funding).

New South Wales Government; Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water; Environment and Heritage; Saving our Species (SoS) program

Jason Bragg. Conservation genetic project on *Wollemia nobilis* – \$45,200 (one-year service provision funding).

Nathan Emery. Saving our Species statewide seed collection program – \$21,380 (one-year service provision funding).

Nathan Emery. Saving our Species seedbanking *Rytidosperma vickeryae* and *Glycine latrobeana* – \$18,000 (one-year service provision funding).

Ganesha Liyanage. *Astrotriche* sp. Wallagaraugh germination research – \$9,802 (year two of \$19,604 service provision funding).

Cathy Offord. Wollemi Pine ex situ conservation and translocation – \$83,553.99 (one-year service provision funding).

Cathy Offord and Zoe-Joy Newby. *Diuris diposita* propagation – \$10,912 (one-year service provision funding).

Cathy Offord and Zoe-Joy Newby. Hold of *Thelymitra adorata* plants for translocation – \$12,400 (one-year service provision funding).

Cathy Offord and Zoe-Joy Newby. Propagation research for *Rhizanthella* species (underground orchids) – \$37,875 (one-year service provision funding).

Cathy Offord and Karen Sommerville. Ex situ management of *Rhodamnia rubescens*, *Rhodamnia maideniana* and *Rhodomyrtus psidioides* – \$25,500 (year three of a three-year \$83,000 service provision funding).

Maurizio Rossetto and Samantha Yap. Multispecies SoS conservation genomics program 2024-25 – \$150,000 (one-year service provision funding).

Brett Summerell. Improving resistance to myrtle rust in *Rhodamnia rubescens* for long-term species conservation – \$250,000 (second year of a two-year \$500,000 service provision funding).

Samantha Yap. Follow up study on *Prostanthera marifolia* – \$15,700 (one-year service provision funding)

Samantha Yap. Conservation genomics study on *Eucalyptus caleyi* subsp. *ovendenii* – \$30,000 (one-year service provision funding)

Samantha Yap. *Pterostylis* sp. Botany Bay genetic research project (2024-26) – \$7,000 (one-year service provision funding)

Samantha Yap. Conservation genomics studies for *Geniostoma huttonii* and *Xylosma parvifolia* – \$45,000 (one-year service provision funding)

Samantha Yap. Conservation genetic project on *Pomaderris cocoparrana* – \$15,000 (one-year service provision funding)

Samantha Yap. Multispecies SoS orchid conservation genomics – \$45,000 (final year of a three-year \$466,361 service level agreement)

OTHER GRANTS & FUNDING

**New South Wales Government;
Department of Planning, Housing and infrastructure**

Nathan Emery. Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan ex situ seed program – \$144,000 (one-year service provision funding).

**New South Wales Government;
Department of Primary Industries**

Plant Discovery and Evolution Research team. National Herbarium of NSW – Taxonomic and other research support for rapid detection and identification of State Priority Weeds and other invasive plants of interest – \$12,000 (year one of a three-year \$241,000 grant).

Taronga Conservation Society Australia

Maurizio Rossetto. Resilient trees, resilient woodlands: Box Gum Woodland Tree Knowledge Infrastructure - \$288,000 (year one of a two-year \$320,000 grant).

**NSW Department of Communities and Justice –
Homes NSW**

Community Greening Program – \$634,682 (year one of two-year \$1,466,398 grant).

**Australian Government, Department of Home
Affairs, Safer Communities Fund – Early Intervention**

Greener on the Outside (GOTO) – Youth Community Greening – \$52,705 (year three of three-year \$511,698 grant).

**Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund –
Sowing Seeds of Hope**

\$90,000 (year two of two-year \$300,000 grant). This is a Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund project through the joint Commonwealth/State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.



Blue Puya (*Puya berteroniana*). D.Hill

MAJOR DONORS

John B Foundation^

Sally White OAM & Geoffrey White AM^

DONORS

Geoffrey Long and Ann Long*

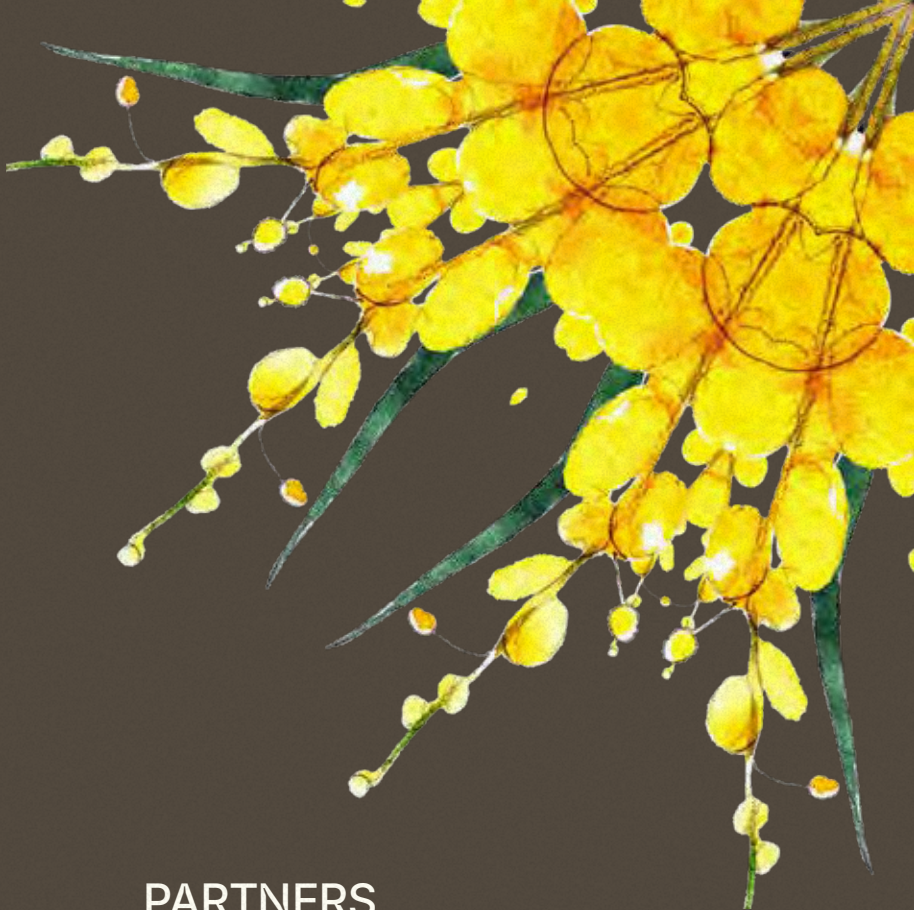
The Maxwell Family Foundation^

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^Donated to Botanic Gardens of Sydney

*Donated to Foundation & Friends of the Botanic Gardens

LEGACY SUPPORTERS

Scott Family Bequest^
Elizabeth Brown Bequest*

ANONYMOUS SUPPORTERS

Thank you to our bountiful supporters
who have collectively donated
\$289,865 over the past year and
who wish to remain anonymous.



BENCH DEDICATIONS

Thank you to the individuals who dedicated a garden bench and have collectively donated \$192,500 over the past year to support the Botanic Gardens.

CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING

Our Corporate Volunteering program invites organisations to become a temporary member of the Botanic Gardens' Horticulture team as they help care for our extensive Living Collection of plants, against the backdrop of Australia's most iconic green space. This unique opportunity supports maintenance of the curated Botanic Gardens, helps protect the plants, and provides a chance to connect with team members. Funds raised through this program support our critical scientific research and conservation work.

Our program welcomed 447 participants who donated 1,318 hours to weeding, mulching and maintaining the Gardens. Our volunteers also helped plant approximately 1,960 trees across our three botanic gardens. This restoration work supports many native plant species to thrive.

The program is incredibly popular and quickly sells out year-on-year, we extend our deepest gratitude to all corporates who have supported and continue to support this wonderful initiative. We acknowledge our partners MetLife, Bloomberg, Liberty Specialty Markets, Epson Australia, and InterContinental Sydney who elected to prioritise volunteering with Botanic Gardens of Sydney within our partnerships.



Financial Statements





INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust

To Members of the New South Wales Parliament

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust (the Trust), which comprise the Statement by the Accountable Authority, the Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2023, the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2023, the Statement of Changes in Equity and the Statement of Cash Flows, for the year then ended, notes comprising a Statement of Significant Accounting Policies, and other explanatory information.

In my opinion, the financial statements:

- have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the applicable financial reporting requirements of the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018* (GSF Act), the *Government Sector Finance Regulation 2018* (GSF Regulation) and the Treasurer's Directions
- presents fairly the Trust's financial position, financial performance and cash flows.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of my report.

I am independent of the Trust in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of public sector agencies
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

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

Other Information

The Trust's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 includes other information in addition to the financial statements and my Independent Auditor's Report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information. At the date of this Independent Auditor's Report, the other information I have received comprise the annual report.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the other information.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the other information, I must report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

Trustees' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the GSF Act, GSF Regulation and Treasurer's Directions. The Trustees' responsibility also includes such internal control as the Trustees determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

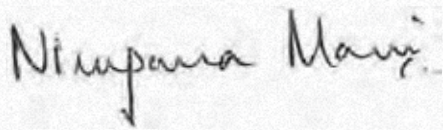
Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the financial statements.

A description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. The description forms part of my auditor's report.

The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Trust carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- about the assumptions used in formulating the budget figures disclosed in the financial statements
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited financial statements on any website where they may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the financial statements.



Nirupama Mani
Director, Financial Audit

Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

25 October 2024
SYDNEY



ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS AND DOMAIN TRUST

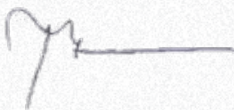
Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust
Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

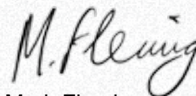
Statement by the Accountable Authority

Pursuant to Part 7.6(4) of the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018 (the Act)* we state that:

- (a) the accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and any other requirements specified by the Act, the Government Sector Finance Regulation 2024 and the Treasurer's directions issued under the Act.
- (b) the financial statements exhibit a true and fair view of the Trust's financial position, and the financial performance and cash flows of the year then ended; and
- (c) we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be materially misleading or inaccurate.



Richard Nunn
Trust Chairman
23 October 2024



Mark Fleming
Trustee
23 October 2024

Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	Actual 2024 \$'000	Budget 2024 \$'000	Actual 2023 \$'000
Continuing operations				
Expenses excluding losses				
Personnel services expenses	2(a)	35,083	35,513	29,941
Other operating expenses	2(b)	27,832	30,302	32,757
Finance costs		4	4	4
Depreciation and amortisation	2(c)	10,290	10,267	9,465
Total expenses excluding losses		73,209	76,086	72,167
Revenue				
Sale of goods and services from contracts with customers	3(a)	15,215	18,204	20,299
Investment revenue	3(b)	8,712	8,651	8,478
Retained taxes, fees and fines	3(c)	1,671	814	937
Grants and other contributions	3(e)	73,726	69,150	45,957
Acceptance by the Crown of employee benefits and other liabilities	3(f)	1,091	1,775	656
Other income	3(g)	73	51	2,520
Total revenue		100,488	98,645	78,847
Operating result		27,279	22,559	6,680
Net Gain/(Loss) on disposal	4(a)	(1,913)	-	545
Impairment gain/(loss) on financial assets	4(b)	(477)	-	312
Net result from continuing operations	23	24,889	22,559	7,537
Net result		24,889	22,559	7,537
Other comprehensive income				
<i>Items that will not be reclassified to net result in subsequent periods</i>				
Changes in revaluation surplus of property, plant and equipment	10	41,786	-	52,680
Total other comprehensive income		41,786	-	52,680
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		66,675	22,559	60,217

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust

Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2024

	Notes	Actual 2024 \$'000	Budget 2024 \$'000	Actual 2023 \$'000
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	6	30,594	16,951	26,850
Receivables	7	3,183	3,113	3,116
Inventories - Retail Stores		71	61	61
Total Current Assets		33,848	20,125	30,027
Non Current Assets				
Receivables	9	10,645	9,959	10,765
Property, plant and equipment	10	1,115,290	1,099,084	1,058,546
Right of use assets	11(a)	200	192	254
Intangible assets	12	6,635	6,446	6,794
Total Non-Current Assets		1,132,770	1,115,681	1,076,359
Total Assets		1,166,618	1,135,806	1,106,386
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Payables	15	6,395	4,487	9,355
Provisions	16	3,479	3,145	3,069
Contract liabilities	8	8,696	8,222	7,993
Lease liabilities	11(a)	98	113	116
Other current liabilities	17(a)	1,905	1,592	5,068
Total Current Liabilities		20,573	17,559	25,601
Non-Current Liabilities				
Provisions	16	84	78	77
Contract liabilities	8	225	1,456	1,456
Lease liabilities	11(a)	105	82	141
Other non-current liabilities	17(b)	0	155	155
Total Non-Current Liabilities		414	1,771	1,829
Total Liabilities		20,987	19,330	27,430
Net Assets		1,145,631	1,116,476	1,078,956
EQUITY				
Accumulated funds	18	609,302	605,998	584,413
Reserves	18	536,329	510,477	494,543
Total Equity		1,145,631	1,116,476	1,078,956

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	Accumulated Funds \$'000	Asset Revaluation Surplus \$'000	Total \$'000
Balance at 1 July 2023		584,413	494,543	1,078,956
Net result for the year		24,889	-	24,889
Other Comprehensive Income				
Net change in revaluation surplus of property, plant and equipment	10(a)	-	41,786	41,786
Total other comprehensive income		-	41,786	41,786
Total comprehensive income for the year		24,889	41,786	66,675
Balance at 30 June 2024		609,302	536,329	1,145,631
Balance at 1 July 2022		576,876	441,863	1,018,739
Net result for the Year		7,537	-	7,537
Other Comprehensive income				
Net change in revaluation surplus of property, plant and equipment	10(a)	-	52,680	52,680
Total other comprehensive income		-	52,680	52,680
Total comprehensive income for the year		7,537	52,680	60,217
Balance at 30 June 2023		584,413	494,543	1,078,956

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	Actual 2024 \$'000	Budget 2024 \$'000	Actual 2023 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Payments				
Personnel services		34,095	35,513	30,038
Suppliers for goods and services		30,127	39,251	32,240
Finance costs		4	4	4
Other		14	-	47
Total Payments		64,240	74,768	62,329
Receipts				
Grants and contributions		59,636	52,040	40,594
Sale of goods and services		15,780	26,234	23,432
Rent received		7,628	7,980	9,312
Retained taxes, fees and fines		1,671	-	937
Reimbursements from the Crown Entity		524	1,775	917
Interest received		871	671	540
Insurance recoveries		12	-	2,465
Other		3,246	7,071	1,224
Total Receipts		89,368	95,771	79,421
NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	23	25,128	21,003	17,092
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Purchases of property, plant and equipment and intangibles		(21,296)	(30,770)	(11,482)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		48	-	87
NET CASH FLOWS USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES		(21,248)	(30,770)	(11,395)
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Payment of principal portion of lease liabilities		(136)	(132)	(139)
NET CASH FLOWS USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES		(136)	(132)	(139)
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		3,744	(9,899)	5,558
Opening cash and cash equivalents		26,850	26,850	21,292
CLOSING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	6	30,594	16,951	26,850

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

1. Statement of Material Accounting Policy Information

(a) Reporting entity

Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust (the Trust) is a corporation constituted under the *Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Act 1980*. It is a NSW government entity and is controlled by the State of New South Wales, which is the ultimate parent. The Trust is a not-for-profit entity (as profit is not its principal objective).

The Trust's principle objectives are:

- To maintain and improve the Trust lands (at the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, the Domain, the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan and the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah); the National Herbarium; and the collections of living and preserved life owned by the Trust.
- To increase and disseminate knowledge with respect to the plant life of Australia, and of New South Wales in particular, and
- To encourage the use and enjoyment of the Trust lands by the public by promoting the educational, historical, cultural and recreational value of those lands.

These financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 have been authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 23 October 2024.

(b) Basis of preparation

The Trust's financial statements are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared on an accrual basis and in accordance with:

- * applicable Australian Accounting Standards (which include Australian Accounting Interpretations) (AAS);
- * the requirements of the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018 (GSF Act)*; and
- * Treasurer's Directions issued under the *GSF Act*.

Property, plant and equipment are measured using the fair value basis. Other financial statement items are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

Judgements, key assumptions and estimations management has made, are disclosed in the relevant notes to the financial statements. These notes include Note 2(c) Depreciation and amortisation expenses, Note 3 Revenues, Note 7 Current Assets- Receivables, Note 10 Property, Plant, and Equipment, Note 12 Intangible Assets and Note 16 Current/Non-Current Liabilities- Provisions.

Unless otherwise stated, amounts are rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars and are expressed in Australian currency, which is the Trust's presentation and functional currency.

(c) Machinery of Government changes

On 1 July 2023, the Trust's functions and appropriation transferred from the Department of Transport (DoT) to the Department of Planning & Environment (DPE), which became the Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure (DPHI) from 1 January 2024.

(d) Going concern

The Trust's Financial Statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Trust is expected to be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due and continue in operation without any intention or necessity to liquidate or otherwise wind up its operations. This is supported by the Trust continuing to receive funding from DPHI. DPHI receives appropriations from the Consolidated Fund through the Annual *Appropriations Act*.

(e) Statement of compliance

The financial statements and notes comply with Australian Accounting Standards, which include Australian Accounting Interpretations.

(f) Comparative Information

Except when an AAS permits or requires otherwise, comparative information is presented in respect of the previous period for all amounts reported in the financial statements.

Where necessary, comparative information has been reclassified to ensure consistent presentation with the current year.

(g) Changes in accounting policy, including new or revised AAS

(i) Effective for the first time in FY2023-24

The accounting policies applied in 2023-24 are consistent with those of the previous financial year except as a result of the following new or revised AAS that have been applied for the first time in 2023-24:

- AASB 2021-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of Accounting Policies and Definition of Accounting Estimates
- AASB 2021-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of Accounting Policies: Tier 2 and other Accounting Standards
- AASB 2022-7 Editorial Corrections to Australian Accounting Standards and Repeal of Superseded and Redundant Standards

The above accounting standard do not have any material impact on the financial statements.

1. Statement of Material Accounting Policy Information (continued)

(ii) Issued but not yet effective

NSW public sector entities are not permitted to early adopt new AAS, unless Treasury determines otherwise.

The following new Accounting Standards relevant to the Trust have not been applied and are not yet effective:

- AASB 17 Insurance Contracts
- AASB 2020-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current
- AASB 2021-7c Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Effective Date of Amendments to AASB 10 and AASB 128 and Editorial Corrections
- AASB 2022-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback
- AASB 2022-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Non-current Liabilities with Covenants
- AASB 2022-9 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Insurance Contracts in the Public Sector
- AASB 2022-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities
- AASB 2023-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Lack of Exchangeability

While the of these standards in the year of initial application has not been specifically quantified, they are not expected to materially impact the Trust's financial statements.

(h) Impact of climate-related matters on Financial Reporting for 2023-24

Trust has considered the potential impact of climate related matters for the year ending June 2024 and has concluded that the impact is not material enough to be disclosed.

(i) Superannuation Annual Leave Loading Disclosure

The Trust has determined that it is not probable a liability arises to pay superannuation on annual leave loading. This position has been formed based on current inquiries, other information currently available to management, and after considering the facts from a decision in the Federal Court of Australia: Finance Sector Union of Australia v Commonwealth Bank of Australia [2022] FedCFamC2G 409. That decision confirmed that, in relation to the industrial agreement considered in that case, annual leave loading did not form part of ordinary time earnings and therefore, did not require superannuation contributions to be made under superannuation guarantee legislation because the obligation to pay annual leave loading was not referable to ordinary hours of work or to ordinary rates of pay. Rather, it was paid by reference to the period of annual leave, and for the purpose of compensating employees for their loss of opportunity to work additional hours at higher rates during this period.

This position will be re-assessed in future reporting periods as new information comes to light on this matter.

2. EXPENSES EXCLUDING LOSSES

(a) Personnel services expenses

Personnel services are acquired from Department of Planning and Environment and Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure comprise of:

Salaries and wages (including recreational leave)
Superannuation - defined benefit plans
Superannuation - defined contribution plans
Long service leave
Workers' compensation insurance
Payroll and fringe benefits tax
Redundancy payments
Total

Notes

2024	2023
\$'000	\$'000
28,380	24,249
146	174
2,809	2,288
1,007	438
706	623
1,777	1,436
258	733
35,083	29,941

Employee related costs that have been capitalised, in particular property, plant and equipment and intangible assets accounts, and therefore excluded from the above; totalling \$298,000 (2023: \$176,000).

On the 1st of July 2023, Trust underwent a Machinery of Government change, resulting in a change of Cluster from the Department of Transport to Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). On the 1st of Jan 2024, DPE became the Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure (DPHI). The above table represents the combined total of the personnel services.

(b) Other operating expenses

Fee for services
Fees for performer
Shared services cost
Maintenance
Waste removal and cleaning
Volunteer and in-kind contributions
Stores and provisions
Security
Utilities
Contractors
Insurance
Consultants
Other
Total

2024	2023
\$'000	\$'000
5,554	8,542
53	364
2,769	3,367
3,302	3,271
1,982	1,839
1,997	1,753
1,798	1,807
1,968	1,890
1,692	1,381
937	854
869	772
9	30
4,902	6,887
27,832	32,757

Volunteer and in-kind contributions include: volunteer services received of \$1,987,000 (2023: \$1,659,000) and in-kind contributions received from vendors and sponsors of Nil (2023: \$94,000). Also refer to Note 3(e).

Auditor Remuneration (included in "Other") is disclosed separately in Note 20.

Maintenance Reconciliation:

Maintenance expense, as above
Maintenance expense contracted labour
Personnel services maintenance expense included in Note 2(a)
Total maintenance expenses included in Note 2(a) and 2(b)

2024	2023
\$'000	\$'000
3,302	3,271
249	307
12,240	11,013
15,791	14,591

Recognition and Measurement

Maintenance expense

Day-to-day servicing costs or maintenance are charged as expenses as incurred, except where they relate to the replacement or an enhancement of a part or component of an asset, in which case the costs are capitalised and depreciated.

Insurance

The Trust's insurance activities are conducted through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund Scheme of self-insurance for Government entities. The expense (premium) is determined by the Fund Manager based on past claims experience.

2. EXPENSES EXCLUDING LOSSES (continued)

(c) Depreciation and amortisation expenses

Depreciation

Buildings
Infrastructure systems
Plant and equipment

Right of use assets

Total

Amortisation

Amortisation of intangible assets

Total

Total depreciation and amortisation

Recognition and Measurement

Refer Note 10 for depreciation policy related to Property, Plant and Equipment, Note 11 for right of use assets and Note 12 for amortisation policy related to Intangible assets.

Notes	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
10(a)	5,527	4,669
10(a)	3,364	3,003
10(a)	1,152	1,351
	10,043	9,023
11(a)	131	136
	10,174	9,159
12	116	306
	116	306
23	10,290	9,465

3. REVENUES

Recognition and Measurement

Income is recognised in accordance with the requirements of AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* or AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities*, dependent on whether there is a contract with a customer defined by AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*. Comments regarding the accounting policies for the recognition of income are discussed below.

(a) Sale of goods and services from contracts with customers

Sale of goods

Rendering of Services

- Use of recreational facilities

- Parking meter revenue

- Fees received

Total

Recognition and Measurement

Sale of goods

Revenue from sale of goods is recognised as and when the Trust satisfies a performance obligation by transferring the promised goods. The Trust typically satisfies its performance obligations at a point in time when control of the goods is transferred to the customers.

Revenue from these sales is recognised based on the price agreed at the point of sale, and revenue is only recognised to the extent that it is highly probable that a significant reversal will not occur. No volume discount or additional warranty is provided on sale of goods.

Rendering of services

The Trust has a range of heritage buildings and outdoor areas (such as the Domain) made available for community, charitable and ticketed events. In addition, the Trust also facilitates a range of activities including weddings, team-building activities, picnics, sports, film and photography shoots. Some events will require an upfront payment and revenue from rendering of services is recognised when the Trust satisfies the performance obligation by transferring the promised services. Any unsatisfied obligations for the above revenue contracts with customers have been recognised as liabilities as at 30 June 2024. Refer to Note 8.

The revenue is measured at the transaction price agreed under the contract. No element of financing is deemed present as payments are due when service is provided.

The Trust also collects parking revenue from the general public from the provision of parking spaces within Trust owned lands. The revenue is recognised when the services are provided to the customers.

2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
510	600
3,684	4,668
4,069	4,186
6,952	10,845
15,215	20,299

3. REVENUES (continued)

(b) Investment Revenue

Rental income
Finance lease income
Interest income from financial assets at amortised cost
Other interest
Total

2024	2023
\$'000	\$'000
7,801	7,766
40	171
46	31
825	510
8,712	8,478

Recognition and Measurement

Rental income

Rental income arising from operating leases is accounted for on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

All leases are classified as operating leases as the lease payments do not represent substantially all the fair value of the leased asset and as a result the lessee does not substantially hold all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the leased asset.

Interest income

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts the estimated future cash receipts over the expected life of the financial instrument or a shorter period, where appropriate, to the net carrying amount of the financial asset.

Finance lease income

Finance lease income is recognised in accordance with AASB 16 "Leases".

Lease income from finance leases is recognised as income in the Statement of Comprehensive Income over the lease period so as to allocate finance income over the lease term on a systematic and rational basis. This income allocation is based on a pattern reflecting a constant period return on Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust's net investment in the lease.

(c) Retained taxes, fees and fines

Parking fine and penalty income
Total

2024	2023
\$'000	\$'000
1,671	937
1,671	937

Recognition and Measurement

Retained taxes, fees and fines primarily relate to fines received from issuance of infringement notices for breaches of Trust regulations and Parking fines and penalty income arising from parking meters. Revenue is recognised on receipt of funds.

3. REVENUES (continued)

(d) Appropriations

Department of Transport (DoT) was administratively responsible for the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust up to 30 June 2023. From 01 July 2023, as a result of a Machinery of Government (MoG) change the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) was administratively responsible for the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust up to 31 December 2023. From 01 January 2024, the Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure (DPHI) is administratively responsible for the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust due to a further (MoG) change.

The Appropriation Act 2023 (Appropriations Act) and the subsequent variations appropriates the sum of \$6,805,162,909 to the Minister for Climate Change for the services of DPE (now DPHI) for the year 2023-24. The spending authority of the Minister from the Appropriations Act has been delegated or subdelegated to officers of DPHI and entities they are administratively responsible for, including Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust.

A summary of compliance is disclosed in the financial statements of the Annual Report of DoT and DPHI. It has been prepared by calculating the separate spending authorities of the Minister for Infrastructure and the Minister for Climate Change for the services of each respective lead department. It reflects the status at the point in time this disclosure statement is being made. Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust's spending authority and expenditure prior to the MOG change is included in the summary of compliance of DoT and after the MoG change in the summary of compliance of DPHI.

The delegation/sub-delegations for FY2023-24 and FY2022-23, authorising officers of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust to spend Consolidated Fund money, impose limits on the amounts of individual transactions, but not the overall expenditure of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust. However, as they relate to expenditure in reliance on a sum appropriated by legislation, the delegation/sub-delegations are subject to the overall authority of the DPHI to spend monies under relevant legislation. The individual transaction limits have been properly observed. The information in relation to the limit from the *Appropriations Act* and other sources is disclosed in the summary of compliance tables included in the financial statements of the Annual Report of DoT and DPHI.

(e) Grants and other contributions

Recurrent grant - DPHI
Recurrent grant - DoT
Grants with sufficiently specific performance obligations
Capital grants without sufficiently specific performance obligations - DPHI
Capital grants without sufficiently specific performance obligations - DoT

Grants to acquire/construct a recognisable non-financial asset to be controlled by the Trust

- Other capital grants
- National Herbarium of NSW (The Herbarium)
- Seed Bank collection
- Digitised herbarium collection
Refinement in collection Assets valuation
Donations
Volunteer and in-kind contributions

Total grants and contributions

2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
26,440	-
-	21,774
4,237	4,422
16,270	-
-	9,663
15,397	2,442
1,017	4,736
516	459
-	38
6,932	-
930	764
1,987	1,659
73,728	45,957

Recognition and Measurement

Income from grants to acquire/construct a recognisable non-financial asset to be controlled by the Trust is recognised when the Trust satisfies its obligations under the transfer. The Trust satisfies the performance obligations under the transfer to construct assets over time as the non-financial assets are being constructed.

Revenue from grants with sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised as and when the Trust satisfies a performance obligation by transferring the promised goods such as research programs. The Trust typically satisfies its performance obligations when milestones are completed. Revenue from these grants is recognised based on the grant amount specified in the funding agreement/funding approval, and revenue is only recognised to the extent that it is highly probable that a significant reversal will not occur. No element of financing is deemed present as funding payments are usually received in advance or shortly after the relevant obligation is satisfied.

Revenue from grants without sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised when the Trust obtains control over the granted assets (e.g. cash).

Receipt of volunteer services is recognised when and only when the fair value of those services can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if not donated. Volunteer services are measured at fair value. Volunteer services received amounted to \$1,987,000 (2023: 1,659,000) as well as in kind contributions received from vendors and sponsors Nil (2023: \$94,000) also refer to Note 2 (b).

The Herbarium contributions of \$1,017,000 (2023: \$4,736,000) and seed bank contributions of \$516,000 (2023: \$459,000), reflect the in-kind contributions of Herbarium specimens and seed collections specimens from other institutions and field collections.

3. REVENUES (continued)

(f) Acceptance by the Crown of employee benefits and other liabilities

The following liabilities and / or expenses have been assumed by the Crown or other government entities:

Notes	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
	139	165
	945	482
	7	9
25	1,091	656

Superannuation – defined benefit
Long service leave provision
Payroll tax
Total

(g) Other income

Notes	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
	12	2,465
	61	55
	73	2,520

Insurance recoveries
Other
Total

Recognition and Measurement

Other Income is brought to account as it is earned included in this note is revenue related to insurance claims for COVID-19 and Bushfire related events in FY2022-23, and sales of minor assets.

4. GAIN / (LOSSES)

(a) Gain/ (Losses) on disposal

Notes	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
	48	87
	(1,961)	(127)
	-	585
23	(1,913)	545

Proceeds from the sale of assets
Written down value of assets disposed - Plant and Equipment and Collections
Finance lease
Total

(b) Other Gain/ (Losses)

	(474)	1,345
23	(3)	(1,033)
	(477)	312

Impairment write-back/(losses) on receivable from contracts with customers
Bad debt write off
Total

Recognition and Measurement

Impairment losses

Impairment losses may arise on assets held by the Trust from time to time. Accounting for impairment losses is dependent upon the individual asset (or group of assets) subject to impairment. Accounting Policies and events giving rise to impairment losses are disclosed in the following notes:

Note 7 – Current Assets - Receivables
Note 10 – Property, plant and equipment
Note 11 – Leases
Note 12 – Intangible assets

5. PROGRAM GROUP OF THE TRUST

Botanic Gardens of Sydney is the registered business name of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust. The Trust operates as one program group encompassing:

- Royal Botanic Garden Sydney: One of Australia's most-visited international tourist attractions and Australia's oldest scientific institution.
- Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan: 416 hectares of Australian flora in South West Sydney and the flagship campus of the Australian Institute of Botanical Science.
- Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah: Australia's highest cool-climate botanic garden within the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.
- The Domain Sydney: Sydney's leading outdoor live entertainment and activation precinct.
- Australian Institute of Botanical Science: Australia's premier botanical research institute encompassing the education, science, conservation and collections of the Botanic Gardens

6. CURRENT ASSETS - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Notes	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
	29,470	25,772
	1,124	1,078
	30,594	26,850

Cash at bank
At call deposits
Total

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents include cash at bank, cash on hand and at call deposits subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

Restricted assets of \$27,879,000 (2023: \$17,943,000) listed in Note 14 are included in the cash and cash equivalents amounts.

Refer Note 24 for details regarding credit risk and market risk arising from financial instruments.

7. CURRENT ASSETS - RECEIVABLES

	Notes	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Trade receivables from contracts with customers		3,911	2,796
Rent receivable		438	104
Less Allowance for expected credit losses		(1,413)	(940)
		2,936	1,960
Retained taxes - GST receivable		131	1,044
Prepayments		116	112
Total		3,183	3,116

** Movement in the allowance for expected credit losses*

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Balance at the beginning of the year	(940)	(2,284)
Amounts written off during the year	3	1,033
Amounts recovered during the year	61	777
Increase in allowance recognised in net results	(537)	(466)
Balance at the end of the year	(1,413)	(940)

Recognition and Measurement

Receivables are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Trade receivables that do not contain a significant financing component are measured at the transaction price.

Subsequent measurement

The Trust holds receivables with the objective to collect the contractual cash flows and therefore measures them at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment. Changes are recognised in the net result for the year when impaired, derecognised or through the amortisation process.

Impairment

The Trust recognises an allowance for expected credit losses (ECLs) for all debt financial assets. ECLs are based on the difference between the contractual cash flows and the cash flows that the Trust expects to receive, discounted at the original effective interest rate.

For trade receivables and rent receivables, the Trust applies a simplified approach in calculating ECLs. The Trust recognises a loss allowance based on lifetime ECLs at each reporting date. The Trust has established a provision matrix based on its historical credit loss experience, adjusted for forward-looking factors specific to the receivable.

8. CONTRACT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	Notes	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Contract liabilities - current		8,696	7,993
Contract liabilities - non-current		225	1,456
Total Contract Liabilities		8,921	9,449
Contract receivables (included in Note 7)		1,225	675

Recognition and Measurement

Contract liabilities relate to consideration received in advance from customers in respect of grants with sufficiently specific performance obligations. The balance of contract liabilities at 30 June 2024 was impacted by the recognition of grant and unearned revenue from the satisfaction of the performance obligations.

9. NON CURRENT ASSETS - RECEIVABLES

	Notes	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Straight lining of operating leases		9,485	9,554
Finance lease receivable		796	756
Rent receivable		364	455
Total		10,645	10,765

Non current receivables relating to the straight lining of the income for the leased assets and investment income from Finance Lease are accounted for in accordance with the requirements of AASB 16 Leases (refer to Note 3(b)).

10. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

(a) Total property, plant and equipment

		Land and buildings	Plant and equipment	Infrastructure systems	Collection assets	Work in Progress	Total
	Note	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
As at 1 July 2022 fair value							
Gross carrying amount		518,172	16,328	145,344	395,210	20,936	1,095,990
Accumulated depreciation and impairment		(43,905)	(9,047)	(45,694)	-	-	(98,646)
Net carrying amount		474,267	7,281	99,650	395,210	20,936	997,344
Year ended 30 June 2023							
Net carrying amount at start of year		474,267	7,281	99,650	395,210	20,936	997,344
Additions		-	-	-	-	12,328	12,328
Disposals	4(a)	-	(23)	-	(98)	(6)	(127)
Capital donation/contribution	3(e),23	-	-	-	5,195	-	5,195
Net revaluation increment		20,740	-	9,429	22,511	-	52,680
Transfer		565	2,045	1,141	-	(3,602)	149
Depreciation expense	2(c)	(4,669)	(1,351)	(3,003)	-	-	(9,023)
Net carrying amount at end of year		490,903	7,952	107,217	422,818	29,656	1,058,546
As at 1 July 2023 fair value							
Gross carrying amount		542,577	18,230	159,854	422,818	29,656	1,173,135
Accumulated depreciation and impairment		(51,674)	(10,278)	(52,637)	-	-	(114,589)
Net carrying amount at end of year		490,903	7,952	107,217	422,818	29,656	1,058,546
Year ended 30 June 2024							
Net carrying amount at start of year		490,903	7,952	107,217	422,818	29,656	1,058,546
Additions		-	-	-	-	18,474	18,474
Disposals	4(a)	(193)	(15)	-	(1,753)	-	(1,961)
Capital donation/contribution	3(e),23	-	-	-	7,889	576	8,465
Net revaluation increment		18,592	-	5,843	17,351	-	41,786
Transfer		20,925	2,425	2,765	324	(26,416)	23
Depreciation expense	2(c)	(5,527)	(1,152)	(3,364)	-	-	(10,043)
Net carrying amount at end of period		524,700	9,210	112,461	446,629	22,290	1,115,290
As at 30 June 2024 fair value							
Gross carrying amount		585,494	20,426	173,320	446,629	22,290	1,248,159
Accumulated depreciation and impairment		(60,794)	(11,216)	(60,859)	-	-	(132,869)
Net carrying amount		524,700	9,210	112,461	446,629	22,290	1,115,290

10. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (continued)

(b) Property, plant and equipment held and used by the Trust

	Land and buildings	Plant and equipment	Infrastructure systems	Collection assets	Work in Progress	Total
Note	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
As at 1 July 2022 fair value						
Gross carrying amount	455,647	16,328	143,556	395,210	20,936	1,031,677
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(39,547)	(9,047)	(45,386)	-	-	(93,980)
Net carrying amount	416,100	7,281	98,170	395,210	20,936	937,697
Year ended 30 June 2023						
Net carrying amount at start of year	416,100	7,281	98,170	395,210	20,936	937,697
Adjustment - Property no longer leased/ being leased	(559)	-	(34)	-	-	(593)
Additions	-	-	-	-	12,328	12,328
Disposals	-	(23)	-	(98)	(6)	(127)
Capital donation/contribution	-	-	-	5,195	-	5,195
Net revaluation increment	12,559	-	9,310	22,511	-	44,380
Transfer	565	2,045	1,115	-	(3,602)	123
Depreciation expense	(3,713)	(1,351)	(2,905)	-	-	(7,969)
Net carrying amount	424,952	7,952	105,656	422,818	29,656	991,034
Year ended 30 June 2024						
Net carrying amount at start of year	424,952	7,952	105,656	422,818	29,656	991,034
Additions	-	-	-	-	18,474	18,474
Disposals	(193)	(15)	-	(1,753)	-	(1,961)
Capital donation/contribution	-	-	-	7,889	576	8,465
Net revaluation increment	14,905	-	5,728	17,351	-	37,984
Transfer	20,925	2,425	2,765	324	(26,416)	23
Depreciation expense	(4,467)	(1,152)	(3,262)	-	-	(8,881)
Net carrying amount	456,122	9,210	110,887	446,629	22,290	1,045,138
As at 30 June 2024 fair value						
Gross carrying amount	510,695	20,426	171,158	446,629	22,290	1,171,198
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(54,573)	(11,216)	(60,271)	-	-	(126,060)
Net carrying amount	456,122	9,210	110,887	446,629	22,290	1,045,138

10. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (continued)

(c) Property, plant and equipment where the Trust is lessor under an operating lease

	Land and Buildings	Infrastructure systems	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At 1 July 2022 - fair value			
Gross carrying amount	62,525	1,788	64,313
Accumulated depreciation	(4,358)	(308)	(4,666)
Net carrying amount	58,167	1,480	59,647
Year ended 30 June 2023			
Net carrying amount at beginning of year	58,167	1,480	59,647
Adjustment - Property no longer leased	559	34	593
Revaluation increment/ (decrement)	8,181	119	8,300
Transfer	-	26	26
Depreciation expense	(956)	(98)	(1,054)
Net carrying amount	65,951	1,561	67,512
	Land and Buildings	Infrastructure systems	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At 1 July 2023 - fair value			
Gross carrying amount	71,385	2,015	73,400
Accumulated depreciation	(5,434)	(454)	(5,888)
Net carrying amount	65,951	1,561	67,512
Year ended 30 June 2024			
Net carrying amount at beginning of year	65,951	1,561	67,512
Revaluation increment/ (decrement)	3,687	115	3,802
Depreciation expense	(1,060)	(102)	(1,162)
Net carrying amount	68,578	1,574	70,152
As at 30 June 2024 fair value			
Gross carrying amount	74,799	2,162	76,961
Accumulated depreciation	(6,221)	(588)	(6,809)
Net carrying amount	68,578	1,574	70,152

Recognition and Measurement

(i) Acquisition of property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are initially measured at cost and subsequently revalued at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Cost is the amount of cash or cash equivalents paid, or the fair value of the other consideration given to acquire the asset at the time of its acquisition or construction or, where applicable, the amount attributed to that asset when initially recognised in accordance with the specific requirements of other Australian Accounting Standards.

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at measurement date.

Where payment of an asset is deferred beyond normal credit terms, its cost is the cash price equivalent; i.e. deferred payment amount is effectively discounted over the period of credit.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised at their fair value at the date of acquisition.

(ii) Capitalisation thresholds

Property, plant and equipment and intangible assets costing \$5,000 and above individually (or forming part of a network costing more than \$5,000) are capitalised.

(iii) Major inspection costs

When a major inspection is performed, its cost is recognised in the carrying amount of the plant and equipment as a replacement if the recognition criteria are satisfied.

(iv) Restoration costs

The present value of the expected cost for the restoration or cost of dismantling of an asset after its use is included in the cost of the respective asset if the recognition criteria for a provision are met.

10. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (continued)

(v) Depreciation of property, plant and equipment

Except for certain non depreciable assets, depreciation is provided for on a straight line basis for all depreciable assets so as to write off the depreciable amount of each asset as it is consumed over its useful life to the Trust. Land is not a depreciable asset. Certain heritage assets including original artworks and collections such as herbarium and seed collections, may not have a limited useful life because appropriate curatorial and preservation policies are adopted. Such assets are not subject to depreciation. The decision not to recognise depreciation for these assets is reviewed annually.

All material separately identifiable components of assets are depreciated over their useful lives.

Depreciable assets are depreciated from the date of acquisition.

	Useful life years 2024	Useful life years 2023
Buildings	3-105 years	3-105 years
Buildings Heritage	N/A	N/A
Infrastructure	5-100 years	5-100 years
Infrastructure Heritage	N/A	N/A
Plant and equipment	1 to 33 years	1 to 33 years

(vi) Revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment

Physical non-current assets are valued in accordance with the *Valuation of Physical Non-Current Assets at Fair Value* Policy and Guidelines Paper (TPP 21-09) and Treasurer's Direction Valuation of Physical Non-Current Assets at Fair Value' (TD21-05). TD21-05 and TPP21-09 adopt fair value in accordance with AASB 13, AASB 116 and AASB 140 Investment Property.

Property, plant and equipment is measured at the highest and best use by market participants that is physically possible, legally permissible and financially feasible. The highest and best use must be available at a period that is not remote and take into account the characteristics of the asset being measured, including any socio-political restrictions imposed by government. In most cases, after taking into account these considerations, the highest and best use is the existing use. In limited circumstances, the highest and best use may be a feasible alternative use, where there are no restrictions on use or where there is a feasible higher restricted alternative use.

Fair value of property, plant and equipment is based on a market participant's perspective, using valuation techniques (market approach, cost approach, income approach) that maximise relevant observable inputs and minimise unobservable inputs. Also refer Note 13 for further information regarding fair value.

Revaluation is made with sufficient regularity to ensure the carrying amount of each asset in the class does not differ materially from its fair value at reporting date. The Trust conducts a comprehensive revaluation at least every three years for its land and buildings (except infrastructure and land under infrastructure) where the market or income approach is the most appropriate valuation technique and at least every five years for other classes of property, plant and equipment.

Interim revaluations are conducted between comprehensive revaluations where cumulative changes to indicators suggest fair value may differ materially from carrying value. The Trust Board uses an external professionally qualified valuer to conduct interim revaluations. For the period ended 30 June 2024, the Trust's Buildings (other than the Domain Car Park) and Infrastructure were revalued using an indexation based on movement in relevant prices for the last 12 months.

Non-specialised assets with short useful lives are measured at depreciated historical cost as an approximation of fair value. The Trust has assessed that any difference between fair value and depreciated historical cost is unlikely to be material.

For other assets valued using other valuation techniques, any balances of accumulated depreciation at the revaluation date in respect of those assets are credited to the asset accounts to which they relate. The net asset accounts are then increased or decreased by the revaluation increments or decrements.

Revaluation increments are recognised in other comprehensive income and credited to revaluation surplus in equity. However, to the extent that an increment reverses a previously recognised decrement for the same class of assets, i.e. a loss in the net result, the increment is recognised immediately as a gain in the net result.

Revaluation decrements are recognised immediately as a loss in the net result, except to the extent that it offsets an existing revaluation surplus of the same class of assets, in which case, the decrement is debited directly to the revaluation surplus.

As a not-for-profit entity, revaluation increments and decrements are offset against one another within a class of non-current asset, but not otherwise.

When revaluing non-current assets using the cost approach, the gross amount and the related accumulated depreciation are separately restated. Where the income approach or market approach is used, accumulated depreciation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount restated to the revalued amount of the asset.

Where an asset that has previously been revalued is being disposed of, any balance remaining in the revaluation surplus in respect of that asset is transferred to accumulated funds.

The residual values, useful lives and methods of depreciation of property, plant and equipment are reviewed at each financial year end.

10. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (continued)

(vii) Impairment of Property, Plant and Equipment

As a not-for-profit entity, impairment under AASB 136 Impairment of Assets is unlikely to arise. As property, plant and equipment is carried at fair value, impairment can only arise in the rare circumstances where the costs of disposal are material. Specifically, impairment is unlikely for not-for-profit entities given that AASB 136 modifies the recoverable amount test for non-cash generating assets of not-for-profit entities to the higher of fair value less costs of disposal and depreciated replacement cost, where depreciated replacement cost is also fair value.

The Trust assesses, at each reporting date, whether there is an indication that an asset may be impaired. If any indication exists, or when annual impairment testing for an asset is required, the Trust estimates the asset recoverable amount. When the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to its recoverable amount.

As a not-for-profit entity, an impairment loss is recognised in the net result to the extent the impairment loss exceeds the amount in the revaluation surplus for the class of asset.

Description of asset classes

- Land

Land comprising Royal Botanic Garden Sydney & Domain, the Australian Botanic Garden Mt Annan and Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mt Tomah totalling 733.7 Hectares was independently valued by E Ferdinands AAPI (Val). The valuation was formulated on the basis of market buying price or the best available market evidence where market prices cannot be observed. The comprehensive valuation was carried out in FY2022-23. An interim valuation based on indexation provided by the valuer has been undertaken as at 31 March 2024. There is no material change in valuation between 01 April 2024 to 30 June 2024.

- Buildings and Infrastructure system - Other

A comprehensive valuation of building and infrastructure systems (including Farm Cove Sea Wall, roads, landscaping and fences) was independently undertaken by Gregory C. Rowe B.Bus. FAPI Certified Practising Valuer on 31 March 2021. The basis of valuation was depreciated replacement cost other than heritage assets which are valued at replacement cost. An interim valuation was undertaken by Gregory C. Rowe B.Bus. FAPI Certified Practising Valuer on 31 March 2024. Carrying amount has been adjusted to reflect material change in valuation between 01 April 2024 to 30 June 2024.

- Domain Car Park

A comprehensive valuation of the Domain Multi Storey Car Park was independently undertaken by Gregory C. Rowe B.Bus. FAPI Certified Practising Valuer under a methodology using an income approach with secondary support for the value provided by a market approach. The valuation is dated 31 March 2024. Carrying amount has been adjusted to reflect material change in valuation between 01 April 2024 to 30 June 2024.

- Collection Assets

The Herbarium consists of 1.320 million specimens. There are 1.254 million specimens where the population size is confirmed (specimens are databased and/or digitised, or a majority of specimen type counted), with the remaining 53,400 where the population size is unconfirmed. A comprehensive valuation of the Herbarium was independently carried out as at FY2022-23 by Cameron Dunsford BBus FAPI (P&M) MRICS SPINZ Chartered Valuer using a recollection cost approach. In March 2024 an interim valuation has been carried out based on recollection cost i.e. the cost to recollect in the field. Carrying amount has been adjusted to reflect the material change for the period April 2024 to June 2024.

The Seed Collections consists of 13,087 accessions (each accession is a packet of seeds) and which comprise more than a 100 million seeds. An independent valuation of the seed collection was carried out as at 30 June 2019 by, Cameron Dunsford BBus FAPI (P&M) MRICS SPINZ Chartered Valuer using a recollection cost approach. The valuer was provided with a stratification of the Seed Collection by broad geographic areas sourced from the database. Recollection costs were then applied based on the cost to recollect in the field plus processing costs on the assumption that the Seed Collection would be fully recollected.

The valuer took into account the viability of the seeds in the collection i.e. the possibility that over time a seed may decline in viability to the point where it was not capable of germination. The valuer made no adjustment for this factor on the basis that:

- A significant part of the collection consists of species that are known to have a long storage lifespan.
- Whilst the pre 2000 collection was processed/dried under less stringent conditions and stored at 5°C, testing indicates high viability rates.
- If seeds are found not to be viable they are usually retained in the collection on the basis that future advances such as DNA extraction could be available.

In March 2024 a comprehensive management valuation was undertaken applying the 2019 valuer methodology, this has been updated to reflect changes in the period April 2024 to June 2024.

A comprehensive valuation of the Trust's Library, Artwork and Heritage Furniture Collection was conducted by Peter Tinslay NCJV (Fine Arts Division) and Helen Miller BA SYD AVAA CPV NCJV (Fine Arts Division) Certified Practising Valuer as at 31 March 2024. The valuation basis for the collection is a combination of market and replacement cost approach. A letter of assurance has been provided by the valuer for the April 2024 - June 2024 stating 0% change in the value.

A comprehensive valuation of the Trust's Statues and Monuments was conducted by Cameron Dunsford BBus FAPI (P&M) MRICS Certified Practising Valuer and Helen Miller BA SYD AVAA CPV NCJV (Fine Arts Division) Certified Practising Valuer as at 31 March 2023. An interim valuation with valuer supplied indexation has been carried out for 31 March 2024. This has been updated to reflect change for April 2024 to June 2024. The valuation basis used was a comparable sales approach and in the absence of market data the replacement cost approach (nil depreciation) was used.

- Work in progress

Included in property, plant and equipment are the following amounts of work in progress which will not commence to be depreciated until construction is completed or the items are installed ready for use:

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Buildings	1,265	4,665
Plant and equipment	2,708	2,528
Infrastructure systems - roads, fences, gates and underground services	18,317	22,463
Total	22,290	29,656

11. LEASES

(a) Trust as a lessee

The Trust leases motor vehicles and some office equipment. The lease contracts are typically for fixed periods between one to ten years. Lease terms are negotiated on an individual basis and contain a wide range of different terms and conditions. The lease agreements do not impose any covenants, but leased assets may not be used as security for borrowing purposes. The Trust does not provide residual value guarantees in relation to leases.

The Trust has elected to recognise payments for short term leases and low value leases as expenses on a straight-line basis over lease term, instead of recognising a right of use asset and lease liability.

Short term leases are leases with a lease term of 12 months or less, and comprise mainly of motor vehicles.

Low value assets are assets with a fair value of \$10,000 or less when new, and comprise mainly of office equipment such as printers.

The following amounts are recognised in the Statement of Financial position:

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Gross carrying amount	626	591
Accumulated amortisation	(426)	(337)
Net carrying amount	200	254

Lease liabilities

The following table presents liabilities under leases:

The liabilities can be broken into:

Current Lease Liabilities	98	116
Non Current Lease Liabilities	105	141
Balance at end of period	203	257

The following amounts were recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2024 and 30 June 2023 in respect of leases where the Trust is the lessee:

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Depreciation expense of right-of-use assets	131	136
Interest expense on lease liabilities	4	4
Total amount recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income	135	140

Recognition and measurement

The Trust assesses at contract inception whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. That is, if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

The Trust recognises lease liabilities to make lease payments and right-of-use assets representing the right to use the underlying assets.

i. Right-of-use assets

The Trust recognises right-of-use assets at the commencement date of the lease (i.e. the date the underlying asset is available for use). Right-of-use assets are initially measured at the amount of initial measurement of the lease liability (refer ii below), adjusted by any lease payments made at or before the commencement date and lease incentives, any initial direct costs incurred, and estimated costs of dismantling and removing the asset or restoring the site.

Right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the lease term and the estimated useful lives of the assets, as follows:

- Plant and equipment which has an useful life between 1 to 4 years

If ownership of the leased asset transfers to the Trust at the end of the lease term or the cost reflects the exercise of a purchase option, depreciation is calculated using the estimated useful life of the asset.

ii. Lease liabilities

At the commencement date of the lease, the Trust recognises lease liabilities measured at the present value of lease payments to be made over the lease term. Lease payments include:

- fixed payments (including in substance fixed payments) less any lease incentives receivable;
- variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate;
- amounts expected to be paid under residual value guarantees;
- exercise price of a purchase options reasonably certain to be exercised by the Trust; and
- payments of penalties for terminating the lease, if the lease term reflects the Trust exercising the option to terminate.

Variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or a rate are recognised as expenses (unless they are incurred to produce inventories) in the period in which the event or condition that triggers the payment occurs.

The lease payments are discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease. If that rate cannot be readily determined, which is generally the case for the Trust's leases, the lessee's incremental borrowing rate is used, being the rate that the Trust would have to pay to borrow the funds necessary to obtain an asset of similar value to the right-of-use asset in a similar economic environment with similar terms, security and conditions.

After the commencement date, the amount of lease liabilities is increased to reflect the accretion of interest and reduced for the lease payments made. In addition, the carrying amount of lease liabilities is remeasured if there is a modification, a change in the lease term, a change in the lease payments (e.g., changes to future payments resulting from a change in an index or rate used to determine such lease payments) or a change in the assessment of an option to purchase the underlying asset. Interest on lease liabilities is included in Finance costs.

11. LEASES (continued)

(b) Trust as a lessor

Lessor of a Finance Lease

Peppercorn leases, as defined by paragraph Aus25.1 of AASB 16, are leases that have significantly below market terms and conditions. Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust has one Peppercorn lease arrangement with Art Gallery of NSW for a 50yr term which commenced in 2019 and was reclassified from operating lease to finance lease upon review of key lease terms. This arrangement is considered to be quantitatively immaterial and it transfers substantially all of the risks and rewards incidental to the ownership of asset. Due to the duration of lease term it has been classified as a finance lease.

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
(i) Gain/Loss Finance Lease	0	585
(ii) Interest Earned	40	171

Finance lease income is recognised in accordance with AASB 16 "Leases". Lease income from finance leases where Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust is the lessor is recognised as income in the Statement of Comprehensive Income over the lease period so as to allocate finance income over the lease term on a systematic and rational basis. This income allocation is based on a pattern reflecting a constant period return on Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust's net investment in the lease.

The estimated unguaranteed residual value used in computing Royal Botanic Garden and Domain Trust's gross investment in each lease is reviewed regularly. If there has been a reduction in the estimated unguaranteed residual value, the income allocation over the lease term is revised and any reduction in respect of amounts accrued is recognised immediately.

Interest revenue is calculated by applying the effective interest rate to the gross carrying amount of a financial asset except for financial assets that subsequently become credit-impaired. For financial assets that become credit impaired, the effective interest rate is applied to the amortised cost of the financial asset (i.e., after deducting the loss allowance for expected credit losses).

Lessor for operating leases

The Trust leases properties to tenants under operating leases with rentals payable monthly. Lease payments for some contracts include CPI increases, but there are no other variable lease payments that depend on an index or rate.

Although the Trust is exposed to changes in the residual value at the end of current leases, the Trust typically enters into new operating leases and therefore will not immediately realise any reduction in residual value at the end of these leases. Expectations about the future residual values are reflected in the fair value of the properties.

Future minimum rentals receivable (undiscounted) under non-cancellable operating lease as at 30 June 2024 and 30 June 2023 are, as follows:

The Trust has entered into a number of agreements whereby land and buildings owned by the Trust are leased to third parties for the purpose of operating various commercial enterprises. The term of these agreements run from one to fourteen years. The following table represents current contracted terms.

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Future minimum lease payments receivable		
Within one year	7,953	7,044
One to two years	7,862	7,360
Two to three years	8,131	7,435
Three to four years	8,410	7,691
Four to five years	8,699	7,957
Later than five years	38,805	46,303
Total (excluding GST)	79,860	83,790

Recognition and measurement - lessor for operating leases

An operating lease is a lease other than a finance lease. Rental income arising is accounted for on a straight-line basis over the lease terms and is included in revenue in the Statement of Comprehensive Income due to its operating nature. Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating and arranging an operating lease are added to the carrying amount of the underlying asset and recognised over the lease term on the same basis as rental income. Contingent rents are recognised as revenue in the period in which they are earned.

12. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	Software	Collections	Work in Progress	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At 1 July 2022 - fair value				
Cost (gross carrying amount)	1,237	3,301	1,186	5,724
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(606)	-	-	(606)
Net carrying amount	631	3,301	1,186	5,118
Year ended 30 June 2023				
Net carrying amount at beginning of year	631	3,301	1,186	5,118
Additions	-	-	2,093	2,093
Capital donation/contribution	-	38	-	38
Transfer	211	-	(360)	(149)
Amortisation expense	(306)	-	-	(306)
Net carrying amount	536	3,339	2,919	6,794
	Software	Collections	Work in Progress	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At 1 July 2023 - fair value				
Cost (gross carrying amount)	1,448	3,339	2,919	7,706
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(912)	-	-	(912)
Net carrying amount	536	3,339	2,919	6,794
Year ended 30 June 2024				
Net carrying amount at beginning of year	536	3,339	2,919	6,794
Additions	-	-	16	16
Other	-	-	(34)	(34)
Transfer	71	-	(96)	(25)
Amortisation expense	(116)	-	-	(116)
Net carrying amount	491	3,339	2,805	6,635
As at 30 June 2024				
Cost (gross carrying amount)	1,520	3,339	2,805	7,664
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(1,029)	-	-	(1,029)
Net carrying amount	491	3,339	2,805	6,635

Recognition and Measurement

The Trust recognises intangible assets only if it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the Trust and the cost of the asset can be measured reliably. Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. Where an asset is acquired at no or nominal cost, the cost is its fair value as at the date of acquisition.

All research costs are expensed. Development costs are only capitalised when certain criteria are met.

The useful lives of the Digitised Herbarium Collection are assessed as being infinite, and therefore the Digitised Herbarium Collections are not amortised. The indefinite useful life assessment is reviewed at least at the end of each reporting period.

The useful lives of intangible assets other than the Digitised Herbarium Collection are assessed to be finite. The amortisation period and the amortisation method for an intangible asset with a finite useful life are reviewed at least at the end of each reporting period.

Intangible assets are subsequently measured at fair value only if there is an active market. As there is no active market for the Trust's intangible assets, the assets are carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and impairment losses.

Intangible assets are tested for impairment where an indicator of impairment exists. If the recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount is reduced to recoverable amount and the reduction is recognised as an impairment loss. However, as a not-for-profit entity the Trust is unlikely to experience an impairment loss (refer note 10 (vii)).

Useful lives of the Trusts intangible assets have been determined as follows:

	Useful Life Years	Useful Life Years
	2024	2023
Computer Software	4	4
Other Intangible	2 to 10	3 to 10
Digitised herbarium collection	Indefinite	Indefinite

13. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT OF NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement is based on the presumption that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either in the principal market for the asset or liability or in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market for the asset or liability.

When measuring fair value, the valuation technique used maximises the use of relevant observable inputs and minimises the use of unobservable inputs. Under AASB 13, the Trust categorises, for disclosure purposes, the valuation techniques based on the inputs used in the valuation techniques as follows:

- (i) Level 1 - quoted (unadjusted) prices in active markets for identical assets / liabilities that the Trust can access at the measurement date.
- (ii) Level 2 - inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable, either directly or indirectly.
- (iii) Level 3 - inputs that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

The Trust recognises transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy at the end of the reporting period during which the change has occurred.

(a) Fair value hierarchy

PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (Note 10)

2024	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total fair value \$'000
Land and Building	-	368,656	156,045	524,701
Infrastructure Systems	-	-	112,461	112,461
Collection Assets	-	28,952	417,678	446,630
Total	-	397,608	686,184	1,083,792

2023	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total fair value \$'000
Land and Building	-	358,531	132,372	490,903
Infrastructure Systems	-	-	107,217	107,217
Collection Assets	-	23,005	399,813	422,818
Total	-	381,536	639,402	1,020,938

There were no transfers between Level 1 or 2 during the periods.

Level 2 Measurements

Land

Land has been valued using the market approach. The rates per square metre of land sold for open space purposes have been directly compared to the subject property having regard to matters such as heritage restrictions, zoning, location, topography, aspect, frontage, size, shape, date of contract execution and current market condition.

Collections

Refer to the table in part b below for the description of the collections valuation approach.

(b) Valuation techniques, inputs and processes

Asset class	Valuation Technique	Comments
Land	Market	Based on market evidence for Open Space land
Building		
- Domain Car Park - Level 2	Income	Derived from the direct comparison method and capitalisation of rental income.
- Level 3	Cost	These assets include heritage buildings, scientific buildings and other assets of a specialised nature which do not trade in the market place. They are valued under the cost approach based on actual cost information on more recent assets and by utilising available costing guides to determine value based on the size and condition of the relevant asset. It is difficult to comment definitively on quantitative information given the diversity of the asset base.
Infrastructure - Level 3	Cost	Based on depreciated replacement costs based on their condition and structure.
Collections		
- Level 2	Market	A number of statues and monuments, artwork, heritage furniture, rare books and journals valued by comparing to known sales of similar assets.
- Level 3	Cost	A number of statues and monuments were based on depreciated replacement costs and their condition and structure. The Herbarium Specimen Collection is based on recollection cost and the inputs, if varied, with the greatest sensitivity on the valuation are: *Stratification from a high collection cost to a low collection cost broad geographic area (+50.0% change may result in a 2.3% decrement) *Number of specimens collected per day (+25.0% change may result in a 12.3% decrement) *Specimen population size (+/- 10.0% change may result in a +/- 7.4% movement) The Seed Collection was independently valued based on recollection cost and the inputs, if varied, with the greatest sensitivity on the valuation are: *Number of accessions collected per day (+25.0% change may result in a 9.7% decrement) *Number of accessions collected per day (-25.0% change may result in a 41.3% increment)

13. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT OF NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS (continued)

(c) Reconciliation of recurring level 3 fair value measurements

	Building	Infrastructure Systems	Collection Assets	Total Recurring Level 3 Fair Value
As at 30 June 2024	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Fair value as at 1 July 2023	132,372	107,217	399,813	639,402
Disposals	(193)	-	(26)	(219)
In kind contribution of assets	-	-	1,532	1,532
Revaluation (decrements)/increments recognised in other comprehensive income - included in line item Net increase in property, plant and equipment revaluation surplus	7,849	5,843	16,359	30,051
Transfer from Work in Progress	20,925	2,765	-	23,690
Depreciation expense	(4,908)	(3,364)	-	(8,272)
Fair value as at 30 June 2024	156,045	112,461	417,678	686,184

	Building	Infrastructure Systems	Collection Assets	Total Recurring Level 3 Fair Value
Year ended 30 June 2023	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Fair value as at 1 July 2022	124,322	99,650	371,417	595,389
Disposals	-	-	(98)	(98)
In kind contribution of assets	-	-	5,195	5,195
Revaluation increments recognised in other comprehensive income - included in line item Net increase in property, plant and equipment revaluation surplus	11,697	9,428	22,190	43,315
Transfer from Work in Progress	474	1,141	-	1,615
Transfer from level 2	-	-	1,320	1,320
Transfer to level 2	-	-	(211)	(211)
Depreciation expense	(4,121)	(3,002)	-	(7,123)
Fair value as at 30 June 2023	132,372	107,217	399,813	639,402

14. RESTRICTED ASSETS

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Bequests	2,923	2,812
Grants & donations		
- Department of Communities and Justice Grant	692	96
- Capital grants & donations	13,605	4,351
- Other grants & donations	10,659	10,684
Total Restricted Assets	27,879	17,943

These contributions are held in cash and TCorp cash facilities, and are applied in accordance with the conditions stipulated on each of the contributions. Bequests are applied to specific areas in accordance with the terms of the bequest.

Research grants are applied to areas of scientific endeavour sponsored by the grantors while other grants and donations are applied to various activities of the Trust as stipulated by the contributors.

NSW Department of Communities and Justice provided a five year grant for the Community Greening Program to develop community gardens in public housing estates and on unused public land.

15. CURRENT / NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES - PAYABLES

Current Payables

Creditors
Personnel services
Accrued salaries
Total

2024	2023
\$'000	\$'000
5,692	8,654
3	2
700	699
6,395	9,355

Details regarding credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk are disclosed in Note 24 Financial Instruments.

Recognition and Measurement

Payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Trust and other amounts. Short-term payables with no stated interest rate are measured at the original invoice amount where the effect of discounting is immaterial.

Payables are financial liabilities at amortised cost, initially measured at fair value, net of directly attributable transaction costs. These are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Gains and losses are recognised in the net result when the liabilities are derecognised as well as through the amortisation process.

16. CURRENT / NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES - PROVISIONS

Employee benefits and related on costs

Annual Leave
Long Service Leave on-costs
Total

2024	2023
\$'000	\$'000
2,627	2,294
936	852
3,563	3,146

Current annual leave obligations expected to be settled after 12 months
Current long service leave obligations expected to be settled after 12 months
Total

276	258
84	77
360	335

Reconciliation of aggregate employee benefits and related on-costs (refer to Notes 15 and 16)

Personnel services
Accrued salaries, wages and on-costs
Provisions – current
Provisions - non-current
Total

3	2
700	699
3,479	3,069
84	77
4,266	3,847

Recognition and Measurement

(i) Salaries and Wages, Annual Leave and Sick Leave

Salaries and wages (including non-monetary benefits) and paid sick leave that are expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the service are recognised and measured at undiscounted amounts of the benefits. These amounts were payable to DPHI in FY2023-24 and the DoT in FY2022-23 (refer to Note 2(a)).

Annual leave is not expected to be settled wholly before twelve months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service. As such, it is required to be measured at present value in accordance with *AASB 119 Employee Benefits*. Actuarial advice obtained by Treasury has confirmed that the nominal (undiscounted) annual leave balance plus the annual leave entitlements accrued while taking annual leave (calculated using 8.4% of the nominal value of annual leave) can be used to approximate the present value of the annual leave liability. The Trust has assessed the actuarial advice based on the Trust's circumstances and has determined that the effect of discounting is immaterial to annual leave. All annual leave is classified as a current liability even where the Trust does not expect to settle the liability within 12 months as the Trust does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement.

(ii) Long Service Leave and Superannuation

The Trust's liabilities for long service leave and defined benefit superannuation are assumed by the Crown. The Trust accounts for the liability as having been extinguished, resulting in the amount assumed being shown as part of the non-monetary revenue item described as personnel services assumed by the Crown. However, oncosts associated with long service leave remain with the Trust.

Long service leave is measured at present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided up to the reporting date. Consideration is given to certain factors based on actuarial review, including expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures, and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using Commonwealth government bond rate at the reporting date.

The superannuation expense for the financial year is determined by using the formulae specified in the Treasurer's Directions. The expense for certain superannuation schemes (i.e. Basic Benefit and First State Super) is calculated as a percentage of the employees' salary. For other superannuation schemes (i.e. State Superannuation Scheme and State Authorities Superannuation Scheme), the expense is calculated as a multiple of the employees' superannuation contributions.

(iii) Parental leave entitlements

AASB 119 Employee Benefits (AASB 119), requires a provision to be recognised for accumulating paid absences, when the employees render service. This will include accumulated paid parental leave entitlement.

(iv) Consequential on-costs

Consequential costs to employment are recognised as liabilities and expenses where the employee benefits to which they relate have been recognised. This includes outstanding amounts of payroll tax, workers' compensation insurance premiums and fringe benefits tax.

17. CURRENT / NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES - OTHER LIABILITIES

(a) Current Other Liabilities

Liabilities under transfers to acquire or construct non-financial assets to be controlled by Trust

Total

2024	2023
\$'000	\$'000
1,905	5,068
1,905	5,068

(b) Non-Current Other Liabilities

Liabilities under transfers to acquire or construct non-financial assets to be controlled by Trust

Total

-	155
-	155

Reconciliation of financial assets and corresponding liabilities arising from transfers to acquire or construct non-financial assets to be controlled by the Trust

Liabilities arising from transfers to acquire/construct non-financial assets to be controlled by the Trust

Add: receipt of cash during the financial year

Deduct: income recognised during the financial year

Closing balance of liabilities arising from transfers to acquire/construct non-financial assets to be controlled by the Trust

2024	2023
\$'000	\$'000
5,223	6,363
129	1,942
(3,447)	(3,082)
1,905	5,223

Refer to Note 3(e) for a description of the Trust's obligations under transfers received to acquire or construct non-financial assets to be controlled by the Trust. The Trust expects to recognise as income any liability for unsatisfied obligations as at the end of the reporting period in the next financial year, as the related asset(s) are constructed/acquired.

18. EQUITY

Recognition and Measurement

(i) Revaluation surplus

The revaluation surplus is used to record increments and decrements on the revaluation of non-current assets. This accords with the Trust's policy on the revaluation of

(ii) Reserves

Separate reserve accounts are recognised in the financial statements only if such accounts are required by specific legislation or Australia Accounting Standards (e.g. asset revaluation reserve).

(iii) Accumulated funds

The category 'Accumulated funds' includes all current and prior period retained funds.

19. COMMITMENTS

Capital commitments

Aggregate capital expenditure for the acquisition of goods contracted for at balance date and not provided for:

- Later than one year and not Later than five years

Total (including GST)

2024	2023
\$'000	\$'000
729	2,707
729	2,707

The total commitments above includes input tax credits of \$66,000 (2023: \$328,000) expected to be recoverable from the ATO.

20. REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS

Audit Office of NSW - audit of financial statements*

Total

2024	2023
\$'000	\$'000
137	118
137	118

* No other amounts were paid to the Audit Office of NSW

21. CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Contingent Assets

The bushfire damage to the Living Collection has been the most significant loss, with the valuation report completed by external valuer Professor Peter Martin in 2024. Based on the valuation, the estimated insurance claim is \$1,332,000 comprised of; \$387,000 for Replacement Plant Costs, \$921,000 for Salaries and \$24,000 for Wollemi Translocation Costs.

COVID-19

To date claims totalling \$1,520,000 have been submitted for assessment and are awaiting determination. They comprise of; \$1,368,000 for major event revenue losses, \$123,000 for expenses and \$29,000 for labour costs.

Currently any further insurance progress claim payments are on hold. Further calculations are required to be provided to the insurance assessor, determining if overall Trust losses are greater than the Covid relief grants and insurance progress payments received.

Contingent Liabilities

During the fiscal year 2024, the Trust identified a potential claim for damages related to injuries and/or damage to personal property. This claim may lead to legal proceedings. According to initial advice from the Crown Solicitor's Office, the possible obligation is estimated to be \$221,000. It is important to note that this amount represents a potential liability, which will only become certain if and when a legal claim is formally established.

22. BUDGET REVIEW

The budgeted amounts are drawn from the original budgeted financial statements presented to Parliament in respect of the reporting period. Subsequent amendments to the original budget (e.g. adjustment for transfer of functions between entities as a result of Administrative Arrangements Orders) are not reflected in the budgeted amounts. Major variances between the original budgeted amounts and the actual amounts disclosed in the primary financial statements are explained below.

Net result

Net result for the year ended 30 June 2024 of \$24.9 million, with a surplus of \$2.3m above the full year Budget of \$22.6 million.

Total expenses of \$73.2 million were \$2.9 million below budget of \$76.1 million. This is primarily attributable to underspends in Operating expenses (Event expenditure, fees for service, corporate support fees, utilities). Labour was also lower than Budget as a result of delayed recruitment.

Total revenue of \$100.5 million was \$1.9 million above the full year budget of \$98.6 million, primarily attributable to carried forward Capital Grant Funding to FY 2025 and asset revaluations.

Assets and liabilities

Total assets of \$1,166.6 million were \$30.8 million higher than budget of \$1,135.8 million. Primarily attributable to an increase in cash of \$13.6 million, due to an increase in capital grants carried forward. Also attributable to a \$16.2 million increase in asset revaluations and capital expenditure.

Total liabilities of \$21.0 million were \$1.7 million higher than budget of \$19.3 million primarily due to outstanding payables at year end and increase in contract liabilities as result of several large grants received in late 2022-23.

Cash flows

Net cash from operating activities of \$25.1 million was \$4.1 million higher than budget of \$21 million. Primarily driven by a decrease in payments to suppliers and offset by a decrease in grants received. Net cash used in investing activities of \$21.2 million was \$9.6 million lower than budget of \$30.8 million due to lower capital expenditure from carried forward capital funding.

23. RECONCILIATION OF CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES TO NET RESULT

	Notes	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Net cash used on operating activities		25,128	17,092
Depreciation and amortisation expense	2(c)	(10,290)	(9,465)
Net gain/ (loss) on disposal of property, plant and equipment and finance lease	4(a)	(1,913)	545
Bad debts write off	4(b)	(3)	(1,033)
Allowance for impairment	4(b)	(474)	1,345
Increase/ (Decrease) in receivables		2,830	(1,059)
Increase/ (Decrease) in inventories		10	(11)
Increase in prepayment		4	55
(Increase) in payables		(795)	(3,379)
(Increase) in personnel services provisions		(420)	(163)
Decrease/ (Increase) in contract liabilities		2,347	(1,623)
Asset free of cost and liability - In kind assets	3(e)	8,465	5,233
Net result		24,889	7,537

24. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Trust's principal financial instruments comprise financial assets (including cash and cash equivalents, current and non-current receivables), and financial liabilities (including payables, current and non-current lease liabilities). All financial assets are held at 'Amortised cost' and all financial liabilities are held as 'Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost'. These financial instruments arise directly from the Trust's operations or are required to finance the Trust's operations. The Trust does not enter into or trade financial instruments, including derivative financial instruments, for speculative purposes.

The Trust's main risks arising from financial instruments are outlined below, together with the Trust's objectives, policies and processes for measuring and managing risk. Further quantitative and qualitative disclosures are included throughout these financial statements.

The Trust has overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of risk management and reviews and agrees policies for managing each of these risks. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the Trust, to set risk limits and controls and to monitor risks. Compliance with policies is reviewed by both management and Audit and Risk Committee on a continuous basis.

It should be noted that prepayments and unearned revenue are not included as they are not considered to be financial instruments within the scope of AASB 7. While contract assets are also not financial assets, they are explicitly included in the scope of AASB 7 for the purpose of the credit risk disclosures.

Financial Instrument categories

Class	Notes	Category	Carrying Amount	
			2024	2023
			\$'000	\$'000
Financial Assets				
Cash and cash equivalent	6	Amortised cost	30,594	26,850
Receivables ¹	7	Amortised cost	2,936	1,960
Non-current receivables	9	Amortised cost	10,645	10,765
Financial Liabilities				
Payables ²	15	Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	6,395	9,355
Current leases	11(a)	Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	98	116
Non-current leases	11(a)	Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	105	141

Notes

1. Excludes statutory receivables and prepayments (i.e. not within scope of AASB 7). Includes lease receivables.
2. Excludes statutory payables and unearned revenue (i.e. not within scope of AASB 7). Includes lease liabilities

(a) De-recognition of financial assets and financial liabilities

A financial asset (or, where applicable, a part of a financial asset or part of a group of similar financial assets) is derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial assets expire; or if the Trust transfers its rights to receive cash flows from the asset or has assumed an obligation to pay the received cash flows in full without material delay to a third party under a 'pass-through' arrangement; and either:

- the Trust has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset; or
- the Trust has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, but has transferred control.

When the Trust has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from an asset or has entered into a passthrough arrangement, it evaluates if, and to what extent, it has retained the risks and rewards of ownership. Where the Trust has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards or transferred control, the asset continues to be recognised to the extent of the Trust's continuing involvement in the asset. In that case, the Trust also recognises an associated liability. The transferred asset and the associated liability are measured on a basis that reflects the rights and obligations that the Trust has retained.

Continuing involvement that takes the form of a guarantee over the transferred asset is measured at the lower of the original carrying amount of the asset and the maximum amount of consideration that the Trust could be required to repay.

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged or cancelled or expires. When an existing financial liability is replaced by another from the same lender on substantially different terms, or the terms of an existing liability are substantially modified, such an exchange or modification is treated as the derecognition of the original liability and the recognition of a new liability. The difference in the respective carrying amounts is recognised in the net result.

(b) Financial Risks

(i) Credit risks

Credit risk arises when there is the possibility of the Trust's debtors defaulting on their contractual obligations, resulting in a financial loss to the Trust. The maximum exposure to credit risk is generally represented by the carrying amount of the financial assets (net of any allowance for impairment).

Credit risk arises from the financial assets of the Trust, including cash, receivables, authority deposits and bank term deposits. No collateral is held by the Trust. The Trust has not granted any financial guarantees.

Credit risk associated with the Trust's financial assets, other than receivables is managed through the selection of counterparties and establishment of minimum credit rating standards. Authority deposits held with NSW TCorp are guaranteed by the State.

Cash on hand and cash equivalents

Cash comprises cash on hand and bank balances within the NSW Treasury Banking System. Interest is earned on restricted daily bank balances at the Reserve Bank cash rate. Interest is not paid on unrestricted cash balances with the NSW Treasury Banking System. The TCorp cash facility is discussed in market risk below.

24. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

Receivables - Trade Receivables and Rent Receivables

Collectability of trade and rent receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Procedures as established in the Treasurer's Directions are followed to recover outstanding amounts, including letters of demand.

The entity applies the AASB 9 simplified approach to measuring expected credit losses which uses a lifetime expected loss allowance for all trade and rent receivables. To measure the expected credit losses, trade receivables and rent receivables are grouped based on shared credit characteristics and the days past due. Expected loss rates are based on historical observed loss rates adjusted to reflect current and forward-looking information affecting the ability of customers to settle the receivables.

Trade receivables and rent receivables are written off when there is no reasonable expectation of recovery. Indicators that there is no reasonable expectation of recovery include, amongst others a failure to make contractual payments for a period of greater than 90 days past due.

The loss allowance for trade debtors as at 30 June 2024 and 30 June 2023 was determined as follows:

30 June 2024						
\$'000						
Receivable	Current	<30 days	30-60 days	61 to 90 days	>91 days	Total
Expected credit loss rate	0%	0%	0%	0%	92%	30%
Estimated total gross carrying amount at default	2,964	93	61	17	1,533	4,668
Expected credit loss	-	-	-	0	(1,413)	(1,413)

30 June 2023						
\$'000						
Receivable	Current	<30 days	30-60 days	61 to 90 days	>91 days	Total
Expected credit loss rate	0%	0%	0%	48%	91%	8%
Estimated total gross carrying amount at default	2,166	50	9	4	1,033	3,262
Expected credit loss	-	-	-	(2)	(938)	(940)

The analysis excludes statutory receivables, prepayments, as these are not within the scope of AASB 7.

(ii) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Trust will be unable to meet its payment obligations when they fall due. The Trust manages risk through monitoring future cash flows. With the exception of lease liabilities, the Trust had no loans or borrowings during the current or prior year. In this context, the Trust's exposure to liquidity risk is considered to be low.

Liabilities are recognised for amounts due to be paid in the future for goods or services received, whether or not invoiced. Amounts owing to suppliers (which are unsecured) are settled in accordance with the policy set out in NSW TC11/12. For small business suppliers, where terms are not specified, payment is made not later than 30 days from date of receipt of a correctly rendered invoice. For other suppliers, if trade terms are not specified, payment is made no later than the end of the month following the month in which an invoice or a statement is received. For small business suppliers, where payment is not made within the specified time period, simple interest must be paid automatically unless an existing contract specifies otherwise. For payments to other suppliers, the Head of an authority (or a person appointed by the Head of an authority) may automatically pay the supplier simple interest. No payment of this nature has been made during the reporting period.

Financial liabilities as at 30 June 2024 and 30 June 2023 comprised accruals, creditors and lease liabilities. All financial liabilities are non-interest bearing and with the exception of lease liabilities mature within less than one year.

(iii) Market risk - Interest rate risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Trust's exposures to market risk is solely through interest rate risk on Cash and cash equivalents. Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.

The following table details the effect of a reasonably possible change in interest rates on profit and equity based on risk exposures in existence at the Statement of Financial Position reporting date and assumes that all other variables remain constant. A reasonably possible change in interest rates of +/- 1% has been used, determined after taking into account current trends in interest rates.

	2024		2023	
	\$'000		\$'000	
	-1.0%	+1.0%	-1.0%	+1.0%
Net result	(306)	306	(269)	269
Equity	(306)	306	(269)	269

(c)

Fair value measurement

Fair value compared to carrying amount

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement is based on the presumption that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either in the principal market for the asset or liability or in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market for the asset or liability.

Fair value recognised in the Statement of Financial Position

Management assessed that cash and short-term deposits, trade receivables, trade payables, other current liabilities and other non current receivables approximate their fair values, largely due to the short-term maturities of these instruments.

25. RELATED PARTIES

The key management personnel (KMP) compensation is as follows:

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Short-term employee benefits:		
Salaries	449	359
Trustee fees*	71	73
Total Remuneration	520	432

* Superannuation on trustee fees was also classified in Note 2(a).

Based on reviews undertaken, the Trust did not enter into any transactions with key management personnel, their close family members and any entities controlled or jointly controlled thereof during the year.

During the year, the Trust entered into transactions with other agencies that are controlled/jointly controlled/significantly influenced by the NSW Government. These transactions are primarily in the form of fees for services, grants paid and received, provision of personnel services and corporate services, and are disclosed in notes 1(a), 2(a), 3(a), 3(e) and 3(f).

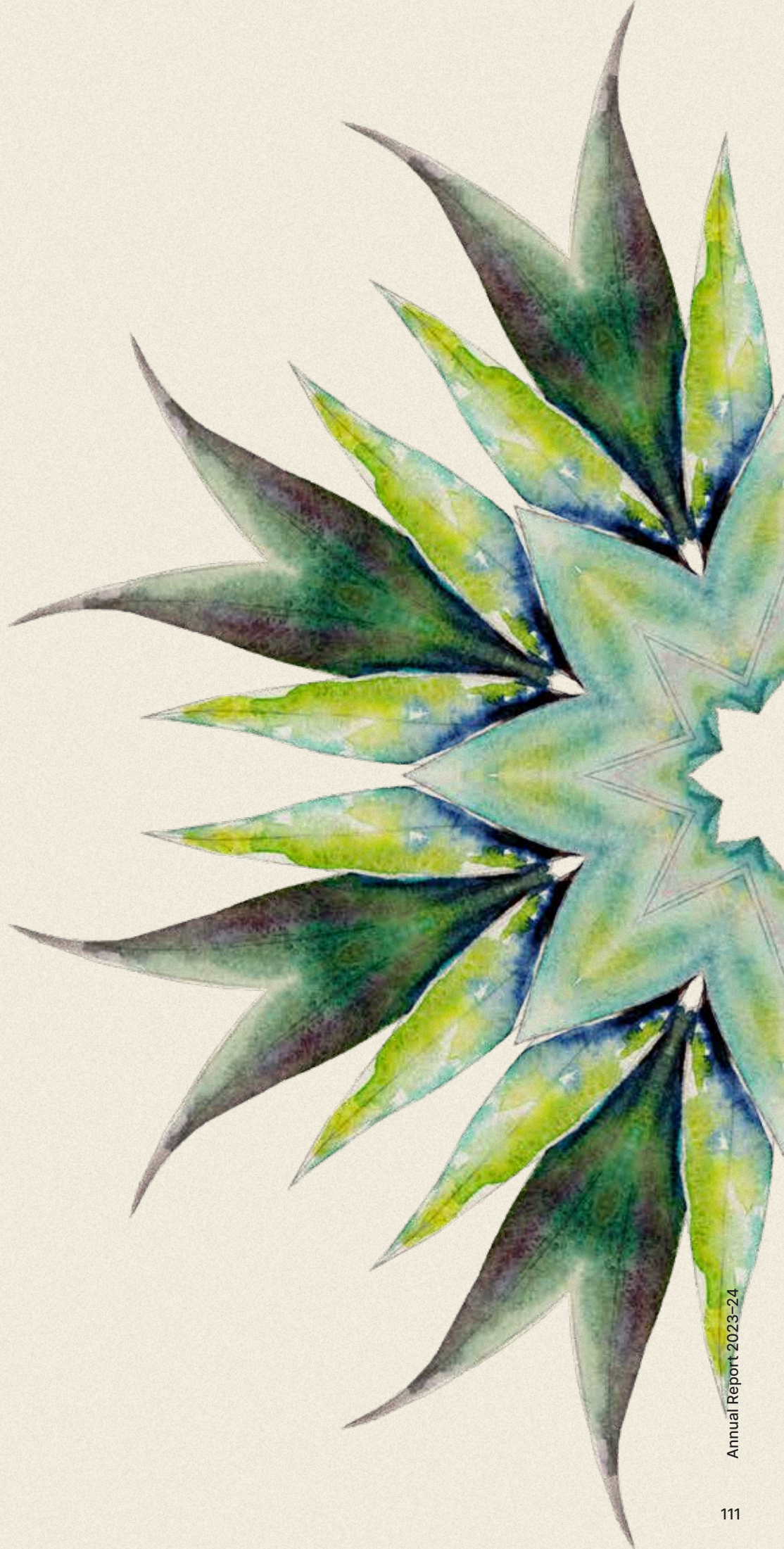
The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure provides corporate and specialist support to the Trust. Expenses and provisions relating to these transactions are also disclosed below and in notes 2(a) and 15.

	Notes	Nature	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Expenses				
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure	2(a)	Provide Personnel Services	35,083	-
Department of Transport	2(a)	Provide Personnel Services	-	29,941
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure	2(b)	Provide Shared Services	2,769	3,367
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure		Operating Expenses	2,045	2,005
NSW Treasury Managed Fund		Operating Expenses	1,575	1,393
Department of Regional NSW		Operating Expenses	24	
Income				
Department of Transport	3(e)	Recurrent Grant		21,774
Department of Transport	3(e)	Capital Grant		9,663
Department of Transport	3(e)	Grants		180
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure	3(e)	Recurrent Grant	26,440	
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure	3(e)	Recurrent Capital Grant	16,270	
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure	3(e)	Capital grants	309	-
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure	3(e)	Grants	123	1,060
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure	3(e)	Capital Grant	-	1,350
Department of Customer Service	3(e)	Capital Grant	2,080	1,400
Property NSW		Capital Grant		
Crown	3(f)	LSL and Super assumed by Crown	1,091	656
Crown	3(e)	Capital	11,199	
Treasury	3(e)	Grants	76	
Department of Communities and Justice	3(e)	Grants	921	767
Investment NSW	3(e)	Grants	-	764
Art Gallery		Recoveries	-	468
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	3(e)	Grants	6	
Receivable				
Art Gallery of NSW		Sale of goods and services from contracts	1,043	
Art Gallery of NSW		Grants	-	924
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure		Services	6	110
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure		Grants	92	566
Department of Regional NSW		Grants	50	
NSW Police Learning Development		Sale of goods and services from contracts	4	
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water		Grants	515	
Payable				
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure	15	Personnel services	810	2
Sydney Water		Operating Expenses	54	
Revenue NSW		Operating Expenses	19	
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure		Operating Expenses	3	

26. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

Other than disclosed elsewhere in this report, there has not arisen in the period between the end of the current financial year and the date of this report any item, transaction or event of a material or unusual nature, likely, in the opinion of the Trustees, to affect significantly the operations, the results of operations, or the state of affairs in future years of the Trust.

(END OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS)



SECTION 06

Appendices



GOVERNANCE

Principal legislation & legal matters

The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust (the Trust) is a statutory body established by the *Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Act 1980* (the Act). The legislation defines the objectives, powers and functions of the Trust and its Board of Trustees and vests certain land and property in the Trust.

The Act governs the regulations relating to all three Botanic Gardens and the Domain under the *Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Regulation 2020*. There were no significant judicial decisions in 2023–24 affecting the Trust.

There are no controlled entities or subsidiaries.

Corporate Governance

The Trust is formally accountable to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces for fulfilling its statutory obligations. The Minister is responsible for overseeing the management and policy direction of the Trust. In meeting the Trust objectives and setting a clear strategic direction, Trustees are committed to best practice in corporate governance.

In accordance with the Act, there are seven Trustees appointed by the Governor on recommendation by the Minister. All Trustees are independent non-executives, appointed in accordance with Appointment Standards – Boards and Committees in the NSW Public Sector.

The Trust has an Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) which assists the Trust in fulfilling its responsibilities in relation to financial reporting, the application of accounting policies, regulatory compliance and risk control and management systems. The Trust established the Australian Institute of Botanical Science Advisory Council (AIBSAC) in 2021 to advise the Trust on matters relating to the strategic Botanic Gardens of Sydney direction, objectives and activities of the Australian Institute of Botanical Science.





Blue Puya (*Puya berteroniana*). J. Plaza

TRUSTEES

Richard Nunn (Chair)

Richard Nunn joined MetLife in Australia as Chief Executive Officer and was also appointed as a board member of MetLife Australia in May 2019.

He has over 30 years of experience in financial services, having held senior leadership roles across the wealth management and banking sectors in Australia and Asia. Before joining MetLife, Richard was CEO at Statewide Super and has held senior executive roles at National Australia Bank, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, IOOF, and AXA.

Richard holds a Bachelor of Business, and a Graduate Diploma in Economics, is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and is a graduate of Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program. Richard is a director of MetLife Australia and the Council of Australian Life Insurers (CALI) and is Chair of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust.

Appointed: 2 November 2023

Position Expiry: 1 November 2026

Mark Fleming

Mark is an experienced senior executive, with over 30 years of experience in investment banking and C-suite roles for major ASX listed companies. Mark is currently Chief Financial Officer of Ventia, an ASX-listed infrastructure services business.

Previously, Mark has held Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operating Officer and other senior executive roles at Region Group, Treasury Wine Estates and Woolworths. Mark has Law and Economics (honours) degrees from the University of Sydney.

Mark is also Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) as nominated by the Trust.

Appointed: 31 October 2018

Position Expiry: 31 October 2025



Anna Guillan AM

Anna Guillan is a highly experienced Non-Executive Director and respected visitor economy business leader.

Appointed as a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, her extensive service includes current positions as Chair of Regional Development Australia (Sydney); and Non-Executive Director of Destination NSW; Hammons Holdings; South Eastern Sydney Local Health District; and Trustee of the Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust.

Past roles have included Chair of Western Sydney Parklands Trust; Deputy Chair of Tourism Australia; Board Member of Regional Growth NSW Development Corporation; Non-Executive Director CareFlight; Non-Executive Director Tourism & Events Queensland; and Deputy Chair of the Australian Tourism Export Council.

Anna has a strong strategic and commercial background with demonstrated success across diverse sectors. Anna is also Co-Founder of cancer charity, the NELUNE Foundation, and is a recipient of the Order of Australia, acknowledging her service to the Australian tourism industry and to the community through support for social welfare and health organisations.

Appointed: 2 January 2024

Position Expiry: 1 January 2027

Distinguished Professor Michelle Leishman

Michelle is an internationally recognised scientist with research interests in plant ecology, plant conservation biology, climate change adaptation and urban greening. She is a highly cited scientist with over 190 published papers and book chapters. Michelle has previously served as the Chair of the NSW Scientific Committee, Deputy Director of the Biodiversity Node of the NSW Adaptation Hub and member of the Australian Research Council College of Experts.

Michelle is the Director of Macquarie University's Smart Green Cities Research Centre where she undertakes innovative research in partnership with government and the GreenLife industry, including the Which Plant Where project to facilitate climate-smart species selection for urban greening, the Gardening Responsibly initiative to reduce risk of invasive plant species in the nursery industry, and a range of urban forest resilience projects. Michelle is a Director of Bush Heritage Australia, and an elected Fellow of the NSW Royal Society. She is nominated by the Trust as the Chair of the Australian Institute of Botanical Science Advisory Council (AIBSAC).

Appointed: 11 January 2017

Position Expiry: 31 December 2024



Pink Mulla Mulla (*Ptilotus exaltatus*). S.Cottrell

TRUSTEES

Professor Andy Marks

Andy is a senior executive in the higher education sector, leading strategic initiatives with government, industry, and the community.

He has a PhD, and first-class honours, in political science and literature, and writes regular columns for the Sydney Morning Herald, The Australian and The Daily Telegraph. He is also a panelist on ABC Sydney's 'political forum' and a commentator on ABC TV.

Andy is the Executive Director of the Centre for Western Sydney, Chair of the Western Sydney Community Forum and a Non-Executive Director with Wentworth Healthcare Ltd. He is a Trustee on the Royal Botanical Gardens and Domain Trust, and a member of the Australian Institute of Botanical Science Advisory Council.

In 2022, Andy was appointed to the Prime Minister's Western Sydney Transport Infrastructure Advisory Board. He is the founder of the CatalystWest interactive policy forum, and co-founder of the Launch Pad start-up incubator – the region's first and largest entrepreneurial network.

Prior to his current role, Andy was CEO of the NUW Alliance, and a senior researcher with the St Vincent de Paul Society. He was also a Council member at the University of New England, and an ARIA nominated professional musician and composer.

Appointed: 2 January 2024

Position Expiry: 1 January 2027

Tony Pearson

Tony is an experienced international executive and non-executive director, with a career of almost 30 years across banking, corporate, infrastructure funds management, regulatory and board roles. He is currently Chair of Possability Group Limited, a non-executive Director of ASX Xanadu Mines and QEM Limited, as well as a non-executive Director of Communicare and the Foundation & Friends of the Botanic Gardens.

Tony was recently a Commissioner at the Independent Planning Commission, Chair of ASX listed Peak Rare Earths and Cellnet Group Limited, and held non-executive positions with Regnan, International Grammar School and Aspire Mining. He was previously a Managing Director at HSBC, and prior to this held various senior executive roles with SouthGobi Resources and the Australian Securities & Investments Commission. Tony has been admitted as a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and holds a B Comm (with Merit) from the University of NSW.

Tony is also a member of the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) as nominated by the Trust.

Appointed: 5 September 2018

Position Expiry: 31 December 2024

Debra Townsend

Debra has over 30 years’ experience in both litigation and commercial property work, and significant experience acting for State government entities and private land owners on matters including land acquisition for road and rail projects, heritage, biodiversity conservation, water and wastewater, major infrastructure projects, planning and environmental approvals, contaminated land, enforcement and compliance issues, waste and liability issues.

Debra also advises on governance, conflicts, pecuniary interest and code of conduct issues. Debra holds both Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Science degrees from the University of NSW.

Appointed: 28 November 2018

Position Expiry: 31 October 2025



Grey Rush (*Lepironia articulata*). J.Plaza

COMMITTEES & MEETINGS

Audit and Risk Committee

In compliance with NSW Treasury Guidelines, an Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) was established for the Trust to replace an integrated committee that had been in operation since 2015. The present members of the ARC are also Trustees.

Management of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust and the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust under the Botanic Gardens and Centennial Parklands organisation was separated in July 2020.

Australian Institute of Botanical Science Advisory Council

The Trust established the Australian Institute of Botanical Science Advisory Council (AIBSAC) in 2021.

The AIBSAC was established to advise the Trust on matters relating to the strategic direction, objectives and activities of the Institute with a view to creating collaborative opportunities and ensuring that the scientific, education and other relevant programs of the Trust are at the forefront of national and international initiatives in plant science and conservation, living collections management relating to the conservation of plants, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and learning.

Meetings of Trustees and committees

The number of meetings of the Trustees, the ARC and the AIBSAC held in the year ended 30 June 2024, and the number of meetings attended by each Trustee, ARC and AIBSAC member are as follows:

Trustees	Number of meetings attended	Number of meetings held*
Philip Marcus Clark (Chair)	2	2
Giselle Collins	2	3
Penelope Diamantakiou	2	2
Mark Fleming	3	5
Anna Guillan AM	2	2
Michelle Leishman	4	5
Richard Nunn	3	3
Andy Marks	2	2
Tony Pearson	5	5
Debra Townsend	5	5
ARC Members	Number of meetings attended	Number of meetings held*
Mark Fleming (Chair)	5	5
Anna Guillan AM	2	2
Penelope Diamantakiou	3	5
Tony Pearson	5	5
AIBSAC Members	Number of meetings attended	Number of meetings held*
Michelle Leishman (Chair)	2	2
Giselle Collins	1	1
Ian Cresswell	2	2
Kris French	2	2
Robert Henry	2	2
Denise Ora	1	1
Clarence Slockee	2	2
Brett Summerell AM	2	2

*Number of meetings held during the time the Trustee held office or was a member of the committee during the year.

INTERNAL AUDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT

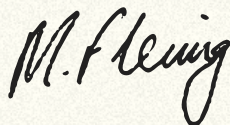
Internal Audit and Risk Management
Attestation Statement for 2023-24

We, the Trustees, are of the opinion that the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust has internal audit and risk management processes in operation that are, excluding the exceptions or transitional arrangements described below, compliant with the seven (7) Core Requirements set out in the Internal Audit and Risk Management Policy for the General Government Sector, specifically:

Core Requirements		Status*
Risk Management Framework		
1.	The Accountable Authority shall accept ultimate responsibility and accountability for risk management in the agency.	Compliant
2.	The Accountable Authority shall establish and maintain a risk management framework that is appropriate for the agency. The Accountable Authority shall ensure the framework is consistent with AS ISO 31000:2018.	Compliant
Internal Audit Function		
3.	The Accountable Authority shall establish and maintain an internal audit function that is appropriate for the agency and fit for purpose.	Compliant
4.	The Accountable Authority shall ensure the internal audit function operates consistent with the International Standards for Professional Practice for Internal Auditing.	Compliant
5.	The Accountable Authority shall ensure the agency has an Internal Audit Charter that is consistent with the content of the 'model charter'.	Compliant
Audit and Risk Committee		
6.	The Accountable Authority shall establish and maintain efficient and effective arrangements for independent Audit and Risk Committee oversight to provide advice and guidance to the Accountable Authority on the agency's governance processes, risk management and control frameworks, and its external accountability obligations.	Compliant
7.	The Accountable Authority shall ensure the Audit and Risk Committee has a Charter that is consistent with the content of the 'model charter'.	Compliant

Membership			
The independent chair and members of the Audit and Risk Committee for the 2023–24 Financial Year were:			
Position	Name	Start term date	Finish term date
Independent Chair	Mark Fleming [†]	31 October 2018	31 October 2025
Independent Member	Penelope Diamantakiou [#]	25 February 2021	1 November 2023
Independent Member	Tony Pearson [#]	25 February 2021	31 December 2024
Independent Member	Anna Guillan AM [#]	1 January 2024	1 January 2027

[†] Appointed as Independent Chair effective from 1 March 2021
[#] Trustee of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust



In accordance with a resolution of the Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust

Mark Fleming
 23 October 2024

Agency Contact Officer:

Elizabeth Pensini
 Chief Audit Executive

CYBER SECURITY

Cyber Security

Cyber Security Annual Attestation for 2023–24

I, Simon Duffy, am of the opinion that the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust (the Trust) has managed cyber security risks in a manner consistent with the Mandatory Requirements set out in the NSW Government Cyber Security Policy.

1. In relation to the information systems provided by Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) Cluster Corporate Services to the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust (Trust) we note that DPHI has made an attestation for the department and certain agencies as follows:

- The Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure has a Cyber Security Strategy in place to ensure a constant focus on improving and managing cyber security governance, risk, and resilience. Continuous assessment and management of risks to the Department's information and critical systems is accomplished through our cyber security program and routine operational activities.
- Throughout the previous financial year, the Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure has undertaken independent audits of its Information Security Management System, cyber security controls, and compliance with the NSW Cyber Security Policy. These audits uncovered areas of positive progress as well as potential areas for improvement, all in alignment with the dynamic cyber security threat landscape.
- The Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure regularly updates its cyber security incident response plan and conducts annual testing to ensure its effectiveness.
- The Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure's Digital Information Office successfully maintained compliance with the international security standard ISO 27001, "Information Technology – Security techniques – Information security management systems," as certified by an Accredited Third Party (BSI Certificate Number: IS 645082).
- The Department remains committed to bolstering its technology environments and raising awareness among all employees regarding cyber security and privacy risks.

2. In relation to the information systems managed by the Trust:

- The Trust manages cyber security risks using an enterprise risk management framework and continues to improve the management of its cyber risks.
- The Trust does not have any Crown Jewels that are agency-managed for the reporting period 2023–24. The Trust has identified its Business Critical Assets and conducted a risk assessment of cyber security-related risks for those assets.
- There is a governance committee at the executive level accountable for cyber security including risks, plans and meeting the requirements of the Cyber Security Policy.
- The Trust's Business Critical Assets are hosted by third party Software as a Service (SaaS) vendors or on premise within the Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI). The Trust's cyber incident response plan for information systems relies on our Incident Response Procedure and vendor response plan.
- The Trust's Information Security Management System (ISMS) relies on vendors' systems. The Trust's assessment criteria for preferred vendors of information systems includes a requirement for an ISMS when onboarding any new vendor/system.
- Cyber security is an evolving landscape that requires an ongoing program of work. The Trust is committed to maturing cyber security controls through risk assessment, appropriate resourcing and maturity targets.



Simon Duffy AM
Chief Executive, Botanic Gardens of Sydney

24 October 2024

Workplace safety

The Trust is committed to ensuring the safety of everyone, including employees, contractors, visitors and tourists. The Trust operates under the requirements of SafeWork NSW.

There were 27 near misses reported in 2023–24 involving staff, volunteers and contractors.

There were 66 incidents resulting in injury. Vehicle and other related incidents account for 38% of the incidents, with slips/trips and falls accounting for 29% and hitting objects with a part of the body 25%.

During the period there was one incident notifiable by the Trust to SafeWork NSW. No infringement penalties or improvements notices were imposed.

Insurance

The Trust insurance coverage is held with the NSW Treasury Managed Fund and includes policies for workers compensation, public liability, directors and officers liability, and motor vehicle, property and miscellaneous insurance.

Code of Ethics and Conduct

Employees of the Trust are employed by the Department to enable the Trust to perform its functions. Employees are obliged to comply with all integrity obligations of the Department's Code of Ethics and Conduct (the Code). For further information on the ethical framework, please see the Department's Annual Report.

Modern Slavery Act

The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust operates under the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (the Department) procurement framework and the Department provides services to the Agency. All *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (NSW) requirements are managed through this framework. For further information, please see the Department's Annual Report.

Public access to information

Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998

Division 7.3 of the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018* and relevant annual reporting policies issued by Treasury require an agency to provide a statement of its actions to comply with the requirements of the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* (PPIP Act). It must also provide statistical details of any reviews conducted by or on behalf of the agency, under Part 5 of the PPIP Act.

The Trust complies with the Privacy Management Plan for the Department. The Plan outlines how the Department and its associated agencies comply with the principles of the PPIP Act. Officers in the Department's Information Access & Privacy unit also provide specialist privacy advice and training to staff.

In 2023–24, the Trust received no applications for review under Part 5 of the PPIP Act.

Access and external complaints

Feedback, questions and external complaints can be submitted to:

Botanic Gardens of Sydney
Mrs Macquaries Road
Sydney NSW 2000, Australia

Phone: (02) 9231 8111

Email: feedback@botanicgardens.nsw.gov.au

The Living Collections and Records team maintains records for over 280,000 plants and undertakes a rolling stocktake of the collections across the three Botanic Gardens and The Domain Sydney. S. Daniel

WORKFORCE

Officers and employees

Number of officers and employees as of 24 June	2024	2023
Ongoing	243	222
Temporary	32	45
Casual	46	36
Executive	6	6
TOTAL	327	309

Senior Executives

Number of senior executives as of 24 June	2024			2023		
Band	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Band 2 Executive Director	0	1	1	1	0	1
Band 1 Director	2	3	5	2	3	5
TOTAL	2	4	6	3	3	6

Average remuneration of senior executives as of 24 June	2024		2023	
Band	Range	Average Remuneration	Range	Average Remuneration
Band 2 Executive Director	\$338,863	\$338,863	\$359,877	\$359,877
Band 1 Director	\$211,166 – \$281,550	\$248,732	\$230,271 – \$263,646	\$250,497



WORKFORCE

Multicultural Plan

Refer to the Multicultural NSW Annual Report.

Workforce diversity

Workforce Diversity strategies and achievements for the Trust for the reporting period fall under the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure and will be reported in the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure Annual Report 2023–24.

Trends in the Distribution Index for Workforce Diversity Groups

Workforce Diversity Group	Benchmark	2024	2023	2022
Women	50%	49.5%	49.5%	47.9%
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander People	3.3%	5.1%	6.8%	6.0%
People whose First Language Spoken as a Child was not English	23.2%	15.5%	15.2%	13.6%
People with Disability	5.6%	5%	5.1%	3.9%
People with Disability Requiring Work-Related Adjustment	N/A	0.4%	0.9%	0.5%

Note 1: The benchmark of 50% for representation of women across the sector is intended to reflect the gender composition of the NSW community.

Note 2: The NSW Public Sector Aboriginal Employment Strategy 2014 – 17 introduced an aspirational target of 1.8% by 2021 for each of the sector's salary bands. If the aspirational target of 1.8% is achieved in salary bands not currently at or above 1.8%, the cumulative representation of Aboriginal employees in the sector is expected to reach 3.3%.

Note 3: A benchmark from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census of Population and Housing has been included for People whose First Language Spoken as a Child was not English. The ABS Census does not provide information about first language, but does provide information about country of birth. The benchmark of 23.2% is the percentage of the NSW general population born in a country where English is not the predominant language.

Note 4: In December 2017 the NSW Government announced the target of doubling the representation of people with disability in the NSW public sector from an estimated 2.7% to 5.6% by 2027. More information can be found at: Jobs for People with Disability: A plan for the NSW public sector. The benchmark for 'People with Disability Requiring Work-Related Adjustment' was not updated.

Trends in the Distribution Index for Workforce Diversity Groups

Workforce Diversity Group	Benchmark Distribution Index	2024	2023	2022
Women	100	105	104	106
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander People	100	N/A	N/A	N/A
People whose First Language Spoken as a Child was not English	100	112	101	101
People with a Disability	100	N/A	N/A	N/A
People with a Disability Requiring Work-Related Adjustment	100	N/A	N/A	N/A

Note 1: A Distribution Index score of 100 indicates that the distribution of members of the Workforce Diversity group across salary bands is equivalent to that of the rest of the workforce. A score less than 100 means that members of the Workforce Diversity group tend to be more concentrated at lower salary bands than is the case for other staff. The more pronounced this tendency is, the lower the score will be. In some cases, the index may be more than 100, indicating that members of the Workforce Diversity group tend to be more concentrated at higher salary bands than is the case for other staff.

Note 2: The Distribution Index is not calculated when the number of employees in the Workforce Diversity group is less than 20 or when the number of other employees is less than 20.

INVESTMENT

Investment performance

	2023–24
Annualised interest on ‘NSW Treasury Call Deposits’	4.22%
Benchmark (annualised RBA cash rate)	4.26%



Botanic Gardens of Sydney

View of Lake Sedgwick at the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan. S. Cottrell


Major works

In 2023–24 we continued to deliver a diverse range of projects funded by NSW Government, the Trust and other external funding sources.

Major works	2023–24 \$'000
Royal Botanic Garden Sydney — Brown Building Redevelopment	12,295
Capitalised asset maintenance program	3,194
The Domain Soundshell	849
ICT upgrade	708
Royal Botanic Garden and Domain Trust Greening Our City	365
The Domain Depot Redevelopment	310
Royal Botanic Garden Sydney irrigation	234
Royal Botanic Garden Sydney Amphitheater	102
Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah Camelia Garden	98
Australian Botanic Garden Summit Walk	82

Consultants

Total cost of all consultant engagements was less than \$9,000. There were no consultant engagements equal to or greater than \$9,000.



OVERSEAS TRAVEL UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS & EMPLOYEES

The Australian Institute of Botanical Science (the Institute) is where world-leading experts from the fields of science and horticulture, public space activation and tourism, manage and protect the multi-million dollar living collections, the National Herbarium of New South Wales, the Australian PlantBank, and the virtual scientific collections to advance fundamental knowledge of plants to ensure their survival and build more resilient ecosystems for future generations.

The participation of our staff in national and international conferences, studies, training, etc enhances the conservation deliveries of the Trust and the Institute, through the sharing of their expertise, increased plant biosecurity, advanced fundamental knowledge of flora, and improved conservation solutions to ensure the survival of plants and all life that depends on them.

The following overseas visits were undertaken by employees and officers in the year ended 30 June 2024.

Officer Name and Position	Destination	Purpose and Cost
Dr Cathy Offord Head of Australian PlantBank Research	London, United Kingdom	Invited to be part of international panel to review seed science program at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, and to support the launch of a globally distributed ex situ collection of the endangered Wollemi Pine. All costs covered either by Royal Botanic Gardens Kew or Foundation & Friends of the Botanic Gardens.
John Siemon Director Horticulture and Living Collections	London, United Kingdom	Invited to attend and speak at the Global Launch of the Wollemi Pine metacollection. All costs covered by Foundation & Friends of the Botanic Gardens.
Dr Francis Nge Systematic Botanist	Singapore	Invited member of the Biogeography of Tropical Asia Symposium-Workshop and to present his research at the 3rd AsiaEvo International Conference. Partial costs covered by the National University of Singapore. Remaining costs covered by Botanic Gardens of Sydney, totaling \$1,175.
Damian Wrigley Manager Living Collections and Conservation	Nairobi, Kenya	Attended the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Non-Detriment Findings workshop as Co-Chair. Also Vice-Chair of the CITES Plants Committee. All costs covered by CITES.
Professor Maurizio Rossetto Head Research Centre for Ecosystem Resilience	Paraná State, Brazil	Invited member of a panel of academics and government researchers to further collaboration between Australian and Brazilian researchers to identify common research interests and discuss collaborative potential. All costs covered by the University of Queensland and Araucaria Foundation.

Annual report production costs

External costs incurred in the production of this annual report totalled \$11,759 (excluding GST).

This annual report may be accessed at:
botanicgardens.org.au

The Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) specimens are part of an extensive collection of conifers at the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, J. Plaza



Gadigal Country

Royal Botanic Garden Sydney
& The Domain Sydney
Mrs Macquaries Road
Sydney NSW 2000, Australia

Darug Country

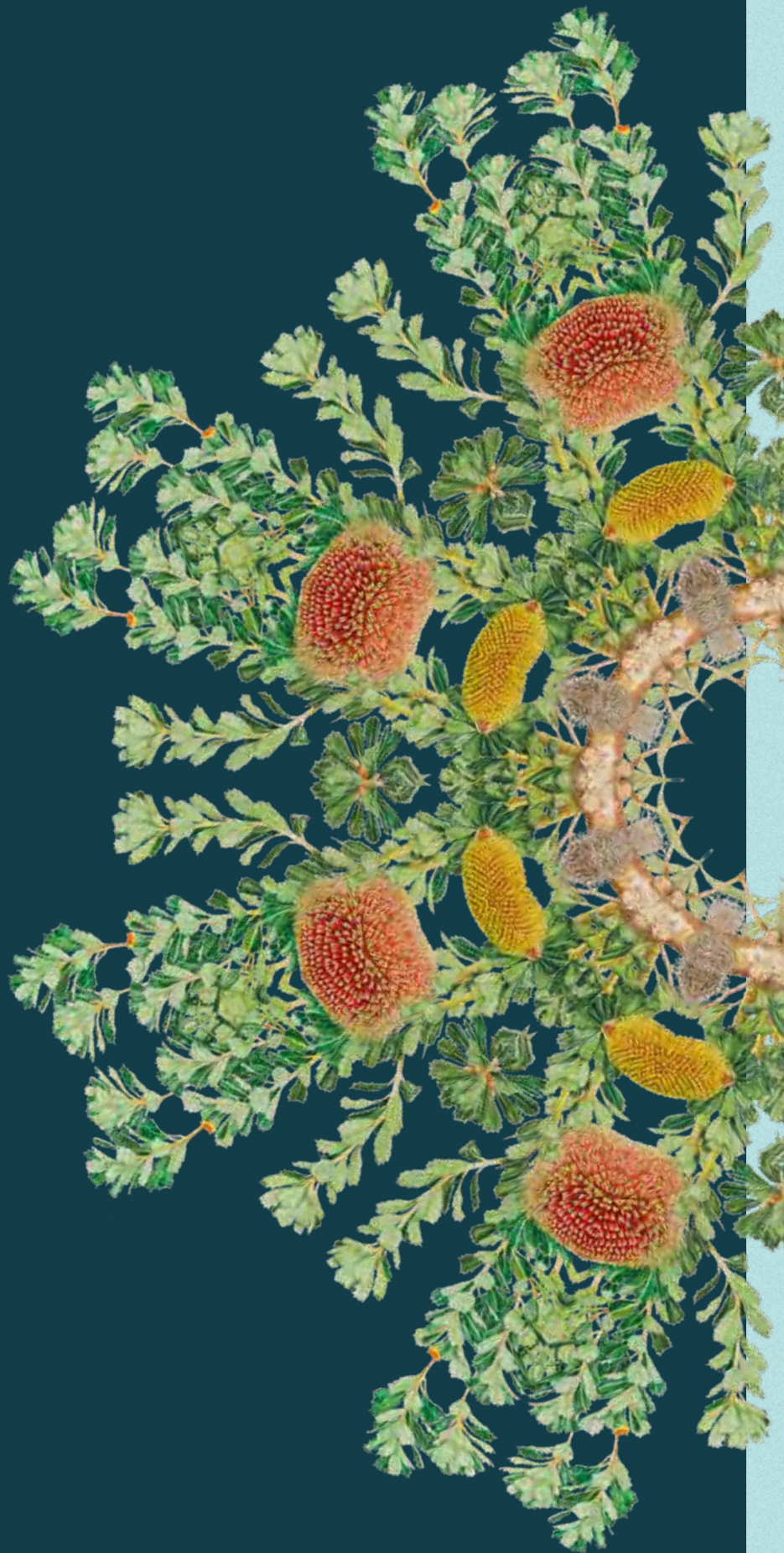
Blue Mountains Botanic Garden
Mount Tomah
Bells Line of Road
Mount Tomah NSW 2758, Australia

Dharawal Country

Australian Botanic Garden
Mount Annan
362 Narellan Road
Mount Annan NSW 2567, Australia

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