

2020-21 FGBG AGM, Saturday 26 September 2021

Committee Report

As for many Victorian clubs and associations, the year 2020-2021 has been a challenging one with many of our regular activities cancelled or constrained and opportunities to engage with Council and Community limited. But in the gaps between lockdowns and with the aid of technologies (old and new) we have managed to maintain a clear role in the ongoing development and operation of our Botanic Gardens.

This past year the Executive have focussed most of their energies on engagement and relationship-building with our network of community and affiliated organisations, including:

- The Gisborne Garden Club, whom we hosted on a guided walk through the gardens in early February 2021
- Our counterparts at the Malmsbury Botanic Gardens, with whom we discussed the preparation and operation of Master Plans for our respective botanic gardens, as well as roles and relationships with various teams in the Macedon Ranges Shire Council (MRSC)
- The Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens, who helped us build our first online presence and are now hosting our webpage. They have also provided helpful guidance on developing a Memorandum of Understanding with the MRSC
- Melbourne Water, who have management responsibility for Jacksons Creek and its interface with the gardens. We have been coordinating with them and the MRSC Environment team on a 5-year plan of weeding and revegetation works along Jacksons Creek, along with wildlife and habitat monitoring
- The Gisborne Men's Shed, who helped us get our noticeboard constructed and erected in the gardens. This noticeboard now allows us to communicate directly with all visitors to the gardens.

Work in the gardens by Council this year has focussed on:

- New tree plantings in the northern section of the garden, following completion of a detailed planting plan in September 2020 – though not aligned to the Master Plan
- Some infill plantings in the native regeneration beds, in the south-west corner of the gardens, and supplemental plantings in the Manna Gums area
- Finalisation of planning for a new garden bed at the western entrance to the gardens, with budget allocation confirmed for 2021-22.

We sincerely hope that 2021-22 will be a year of putting plans into action and progressing the many projects we have in the pipeline. There is so much more we could do to enhance the value of the Gisborne Botanic Gardens to the community. We look forward to your input in all of this, big and small.

Many thanks,

Amanda Gauci, 2020-2021 President FGBG