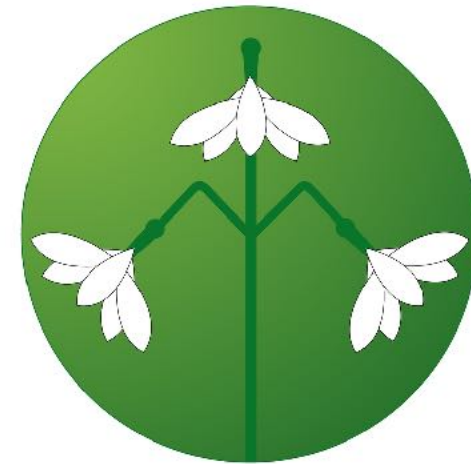


Friends of Brisbane Gardens & Sherwood Arboretum

Annual General Meeting December 2nd 2020

Board Report

Launched October 2015 Current Members 175



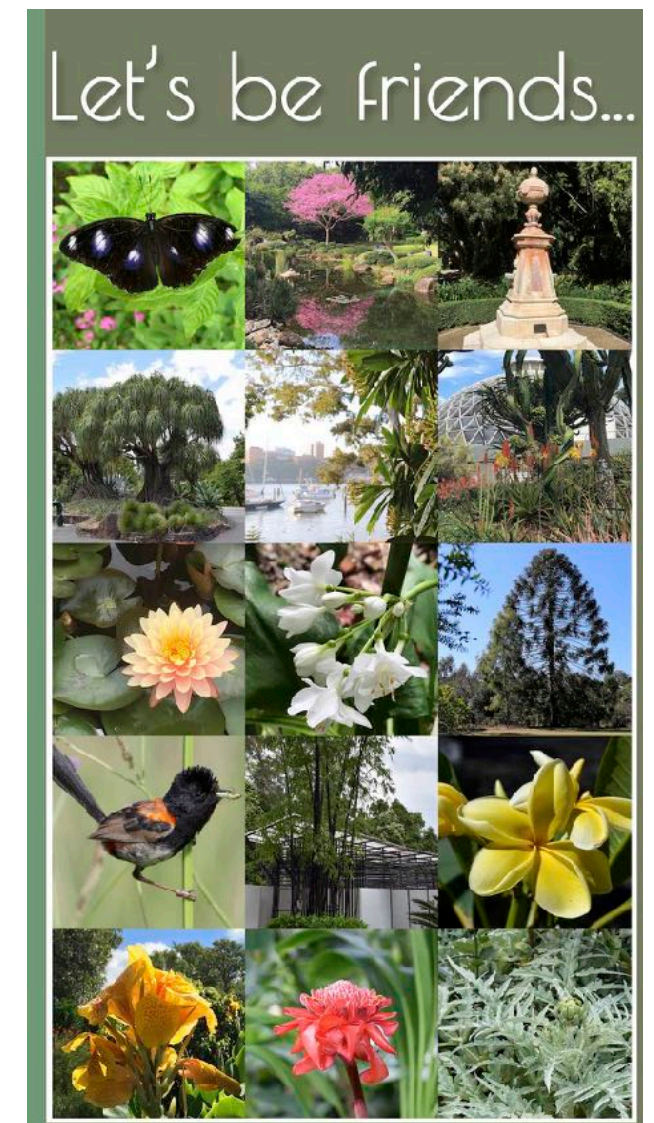
Friends of
Brisbane Botanic Gardens
& Sherwood Arboretum

Benefits of being a fBBGSA Member

Reviewing 2019 - 2020

Using the aspects of who we are.

1. Promoting and Communicating
2. Protecting the Gardens
3. Enjoying the Gardens
4. Listening and Learning
5. Being Part of a Team
6. Gardening with Friends
7. Making new Friends at Events
8. Rambling through Garden Treasures
9. Sense of Satisfaction for helping a Good Cause

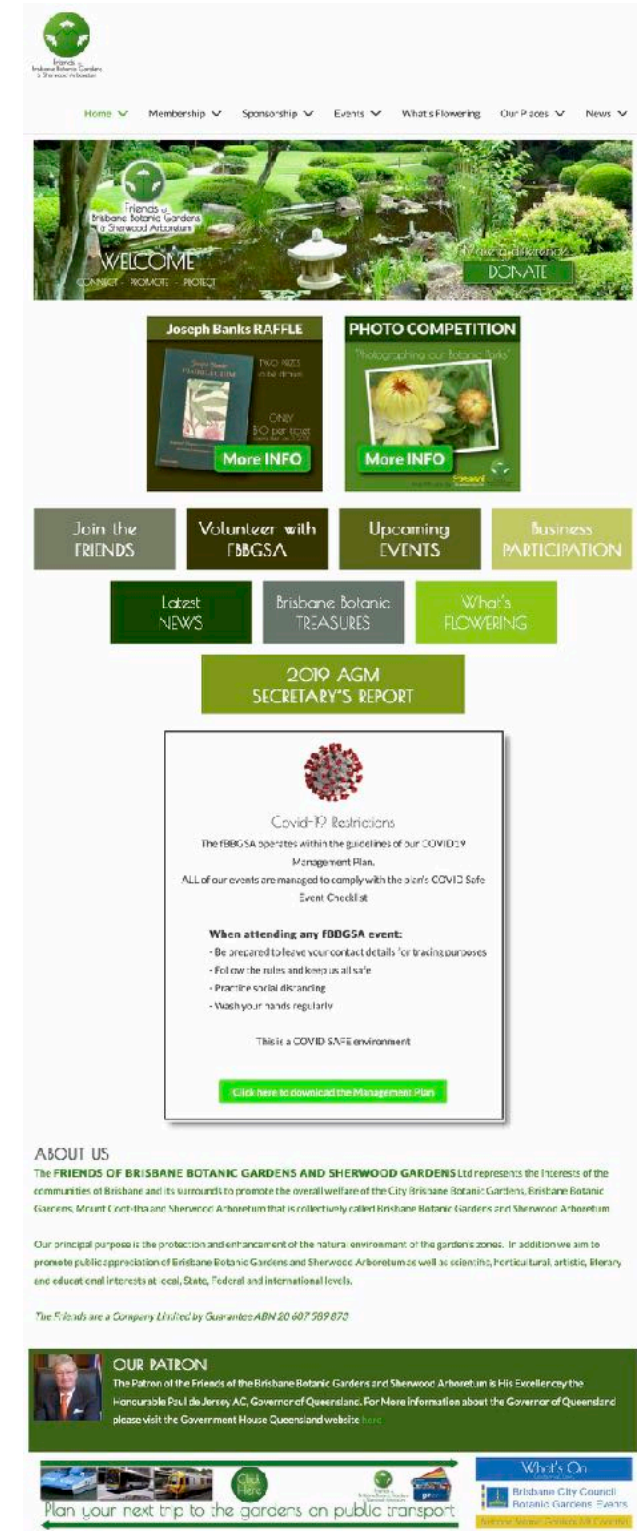


1. Promoting and Communicating

Website

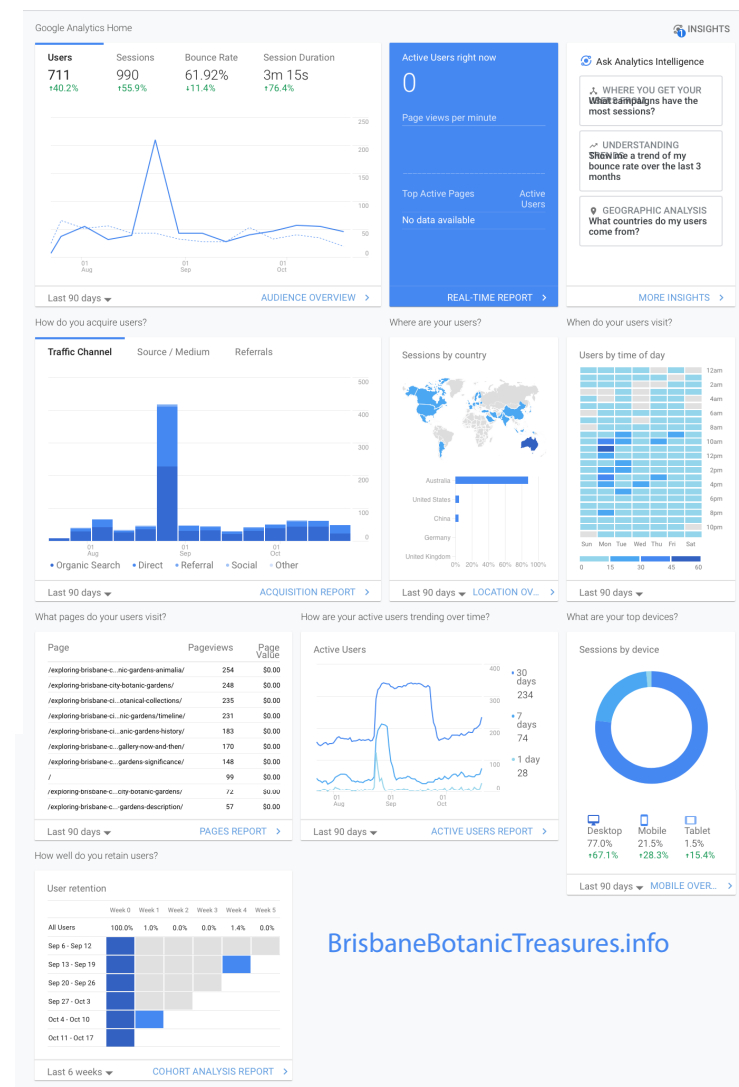
The website is our heart & in 2019/2020 we achieved:

- fBBGSA & Brisbane Treasures platforms had full upgrades with updated functionality.
- New pages such as 'Search our Recipes' - sharing event tasties
- Dedicated Conference management and booking system developed
- New links and newsletters including AAFBG Eucalypt
- Donation and Sponsorship opportunities page
- On-line bookings for all fBBGSA events - calendar and listed
- Upcoming Drone and video project - Jim Dobbin & Dale Arvidsson
- Updated 'What's in Flower' - thanks go to Mary Jo Katter
- On-line shopping cart for all our sales - including the plant sales
- 2020 conference pages - a huge undertaking

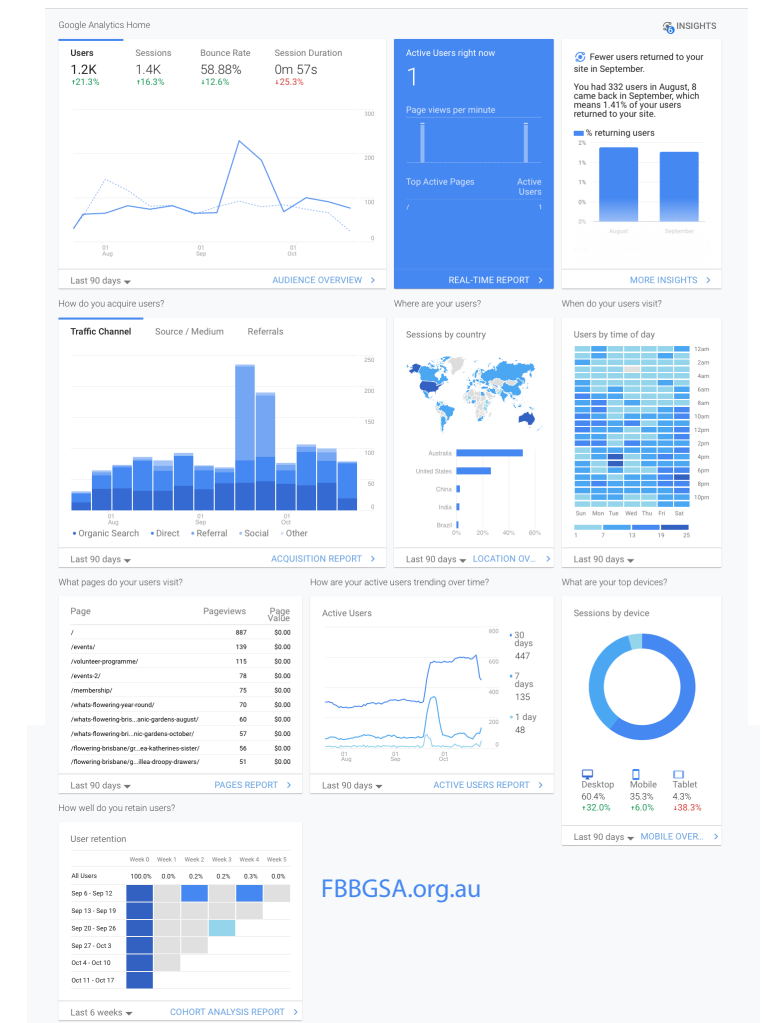


Website Analytics

Webmaster keeps board abreast of our activities and what is working and what is not on both our websites



BrisbaneBotanicTreasures.info



FBBGSA.org.au

1. Promoting and Communicating

Mailchimp e-News continue to be our main communication path with members, other subscribers, all BCC Councillors, news offices & other like minded associations & groups.

- Monthly issues of a variety of news of fBBGSA allows easy communications with
- A staggering 52.7% of members regularly read the mail chimps - industry standard is 36.1%

Social Media - Facebook & Instagram - Annette Irish & Anne Marlay continued to post popular & effective pics & stories during the year.

Instagram reporter wanted - We are seeking a new Instagram 'reporter' as Anne had to step down in June.

Printed brochures & posters provide traditional information platforms

- All posters were updated during 2019 -2020
- Brochures are in progress - held up awaiting options to manage COVID19 restrictions in the future



- Drone videos - planning for seasonal visual history captures to provide the gardens staff, the community, students and researchers historical data over the seasons and years. The board felt that this is a lasting collateral that the fBBGSA can donate to Brisbane

2. Protecting the Gardens

After the heady days of the intrusion of the failed Zipline at Mt Coot-tha and the building of the Police Memorial in the City Botanic Gardens the board and members will continue to advocate against further similar additions.

The inclusion of a main gardens nursery into the Masterplan for Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha will be a priority for fBBGSA advocacy during 2021.



3. Enjoying the gardens

This aspect of our botanic gardens became all too relevant in 2020 with the onset of COVID19 restrictions. The importance of our gardens as sanctuaries in unknown times made both printed & televised news.

The gardens gave solace for many through access to healthy walks and exercising in natural settings.

Opportunities to draw, paint, photograph, write, meditate, de-stress, be creative or just breath deeply will always be an enjoyment possible within the gardens.



4. Listening and Learning

- Tuesday Talks continued until February when COVID19 restrictions were set in place: Talks by Tim Entwisle, Bruce Dunstan, Annette Irish, Jean Sim
- From Bruce Dunstan talk we were pleased to [donate to the gardens \\$440.00](#) of collector Tillandsia cultivars.
- Talks will now be held every alternate second Wednesday starting in March 2021
- The popular Spice Walk held in BBGMC in August 2019
- fBBGSA contextualised Volunteer training sessions held October and November 2019
- Sherwood Arboretum guided walks
- Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers bus tour September 2019
- Brookfield Garden & Plant Expo - Raffle management
- Ramble through Lumeah Gardens, Chapel Hill
- Pohlman's Nursery & Queens Park Ipswich Tour February 2020
- Brisbane Garden and Plant Expo March 2020

And then on March 15th there was none! COVID19



5. Being Part of a Team

Volunteering is satisfying but we need to protect our volunteers as well

- We actively supported Health and Safety matters concerning our volunteers, including insurance cover, training sessions & record keeping.
- We continued to work with the Brisbane City Council to enhance the training program to ensure it is relevant to our activities
- We have provided plant crèches at several horticultural events, only possible by members' generous volunteering.
- Kitchen Garden, Growing Friends and the Label Auditing Teams are groups of intrepid helpers at BBGMC.
- We are currently at various level of planning with BCC staff for new team activities based around the BBGMC Seed Bank facility, a Photography group & City Botanic Gardens Formal Garden team.



6. Gardening with Friends

- Our gardening team meets monthly in the MCBG Kitchen Garden and continues to be our most popular activity being at maximum membership with an ever growing waiting list!
- Planning continues to design and build the temporary Friends nursery at BBGMC. Once the plans are approved, building completed & commissioned our Growing Friends will be able to recommence fBBGSA's propagating program.
- Label Auditing Team meets weekly - their purpose is to audit the plant labels & note their condition for possible replacement



Volunteer Teams Program Report

The volunteer teams are a very popular and active component of the fBBGSA.

Those members involved really enjoy the time they spend in the gardens, the things they learn and the friends they make. We currently have 3 Friends volunteer teams assisting at Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens – the Label Auditing Team - Team Coordinator Marie Hollingworth; the Growing Friends team, Team Coordinator, Julie Lumsdale; and the Kitchen Garden team Team - Coordinator Patty Munro.

We hope to introduce some new projects in 2021. Discussion with BCC and planning is underway for the Seed Bank team, 'Capturing the Gardens' Photography group and City Botanic Gardens Formal garden team, so stay tuned.

My focus over the last year has been on getting to know the teams, learn about what they are doing and what they most enjoy, and discussing how we might enhance our collaboration with the botanic gardens. I have met with many of the volunteers involved in the Label Auditing team and the Kitchen Garden team over the last couple of months and look forward to meeting up with the Growing Friends early in the new year.

One of our larger fBBGSA projects is the construction of a new nursery area to be used by the Growing Friends to propagate plants for planting in the botanic gardens and for sale to members and the public. The board congratulates the team's efforts in assisting with the sale of plants which contributed over \$1200 to the fBBGSA funds. We hope to begin construction of the facility in 2021.

We all look forward to an active year free of the impacts of COVID19.

**Arno King, fBBGSA Director Volunteer Teams Program,
December 2nd 2020**

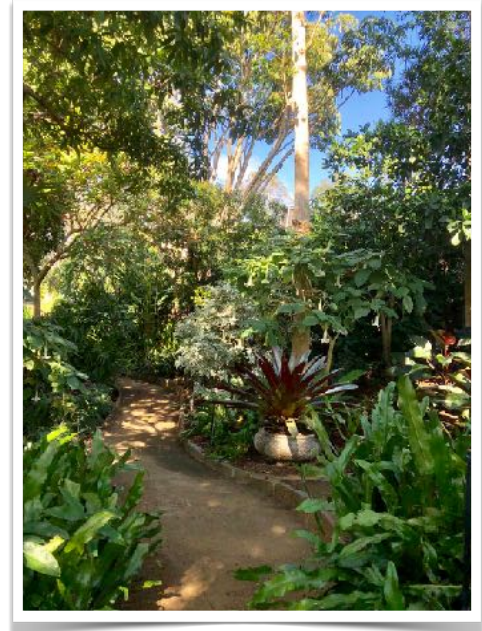
7. Making new Friends at Events

- Our annual 2019 Christmas Party in the Kitchen Garden pavilion was a very warm but wonderful afternoon in November. The raffle was fun with members donating prizes and we attained a surplus of \$181. Sadly this year we had to cancel our Xmas gathering.
- Catering at many of activities enables meeting, greeting and eating!
- Meanwhile making new and keeping old members continues.
- Bring a Friend - when you encourage a new member to join you will receive \$20 as credit to your account - make sure they note their buddy when joining on-line and that you send an email to members@fbbgsa.org.au to receive your discount code to claim your credit. Ts&Cs apply



8. Rambling through Garden Treasures

- Continued partnership with FOSA and the Volunteer guides for tours of Sherwood Arboretum
- Toowoomba Garden Festival
- Lumeah Gardens at Chapel Hill
- Pohlman's Nursery & Japanese Gardens Queens Park Ipswich



9. Sense of Satisfaction for helping a Good Cause

fBBGSA Ltd. is a not-for-profit Company limited by Guarantee

- While we are already a registered charity, in October 2019 we sought advise from our Solicitor to prepare our application for DGR (Donor Gift Recipient) status. This allows a tax benefit to donors. After consultation & quote the board had to make the hard decision to postpone our application to the ACNC.
- Membership subscriptions, event income and donations help us implement our objectives
- We have in place a MOU with Brisbane City Council and continue to ensure smooth working relations with new policies and procedures.
- COVID19 required the board to prepare a management plan and review all our activities and procedures to ensure compliance with QLD Health directives.

Endrim Funds

fBBGSA accepted the 'Endrim Funds' of \$10000.00 with the request from the Endrim Group to use the funds for the purchase of an art, built or sculpture installation within the gardens.

The board have since managed and held these funds in a quarantined fBBGSA account.

Discussion as to how these funds could be used within the gardens has been ongoing with BCC.

Recent discussion has been held with the Endrim group who reiterated their desire for the installation to be clearly placed and with a suitable plaque noting their singular donation.

The board are now seeking suitable piece/s for placement within the gardens that meet BCC's needs and future maintenance requirements.

The Endrim group are very happy with any advice the fBBGSA board provides. It has been agreed that 2 options are to be sought and their preference to be noted to the board.

The board is now seeking out suitable art/sculpture installations that meet both party's criteria..... so keep an eye for a new attraction within the gardens in 2021.

Annette Irish December 2nd 2020

What the Future Holds

How can we meet our member and the community needs in a new COVID world?

The unknowns have made the board think outside the box as to how, what, where and when we plan, implement and manage our activities.

The gardens staff noted to us that more younger people and families were using the gardens and have continued to do so post the lockdowns.

How do we enhance their experiences?

How do we have social gatherings? Remembering no matter the 'tag', if the activity is planned for fBBGSA member attendees, our COVID19 mgt plan must be applied.

How do we interact with the public at plant sales and other events? Planning options are being developed for input by members.

What the Future Holds

How can we meet our member and the community needs in a new COVID world?

As a beginning the Event Planning team will be expanding our horizons with new projects

- The 'View from on high' project - drone videos bringing the beauty of the gardens from a birds eye view, supplemented by videos of the gardens
- Photography group - an ongoing program for members to capture the nuances of the gardens; will be supported by professional photographers with on-line lessons & tasks; meeting once a month
- The added positive are both projects will gather historic records over the seasons of our gardens available for research, promoting the gardens and a source of data for future garden development.
- Masterclasses to be recommenced once a program that meets COVID19 distancing and venue are sorted
- Garden Arts & Crafts Thursdays - researching options

Trial you-tube Drone flight at Mt Coot-tha



New Volunteer Team Programs

What are we capable of doing?

- The Kitchen Garden and Growing Friends are at capacity so new programs are being explored by BCC and fBBGSA.
- Seed Bank project -
 - In planning with BCC staff,
 - Workplace health and safety conditions to be considered
 - Capacity within the labs will limit team size to 3 or 4 in the initial stages - will expand at later date
 - Will include cleaning and organising the lab and then auditing of seed collection
 - Future outcome will be condition of seed stock and viability testing
 - Training in seed testing required - 2 fBBGSA board members are qualified in seed testing & lab work
- City Gardens Formal garden team - Workplace health and safety conditions to be considered

Please have a wonderful Festive Season

Stay well and travel safe

**Happy 2021 from all
members of the board**

