



Southern Highlands
Botanic Gardens

Annual Report 2019

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About SHBG

Management of the garden

The Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens is a 15-hectare site located at 1 Old South Road, Bowral, and is classified as community land. It is managed according to the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Plan of Management, adopted by the Wingecarribee Shire Council (WSC) in March 2011.

Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Limited (SHBG) was appointed to manage the garden with a lease being entered into between the WSC and SHBG on 21 May 2015 for 21 years.

SHBG is guided by the Management Vision as set out in the Plan of Management:

To recognise the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens as a “significant place” in Wingecarribee Shire Council’s open space system, ensuring protection and conservation of identified values through appropriate management, in a way which best meets the cultural, environmental, recreational and social needs of the present community and future generations.

Development of the garden has been undertaken with funds raised by the community and grants.

The development takes account of SHBG’s concept plan designed by Taylor Cullity Lethlean in 2011. The theme underpinning the design of the garden is to reflect the seasons in a cool climate where water resources are increasingly scarce. The main features of the design are a town garden, represented by exotic plantings; a country garden, represented by a mix of exotic and native plantings; and a regional garden, represented by native plantings.

Local heritage and culture are recognised in the garden design with the inclusion of a fern garden inspired by Louisa Atkinson, a botanist and artist who was born and died in the Highlands in the 1800s.

The garden is in the early stages of development, with some garden structure in place, together with small buildings, pathways and nursery.

Significant funding is required before the greater part of the garden can be commenced. As a community funded garden, such funding is expected to take some time.

Consistent with this Vision, SHBG actively opens the garden for recreational use and holds events that will attract a wide demographic representation of the community to visit and enjoy the garden.

Botanic gardens have education as a core purpose and SHBG is developing its collections for the national register and implementing education programs for school children and adults. Adult education programs on horticulture are frequently held and a pilot education program for school children is being developed.

Chairman's Report

I seem to say this every year, but this past year has really seen the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens move ahead in leaps and bounds.

Our major achievement for the year is to finally open the gardens to the general public every day. With the support of volunteers, we have the gates open daily from 9am to 5pm. We have recently installed a people counter to help monitor the number of visitors into the gardens each day.

Building on our revised business plan, we completed a study on the "Economic and social benefit analysis of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens" (SHBG). This report concluded the SHBG will produce a cost benefit of 2.5 over a 20-year period.

The main source of income generated by SHBG continues to be plant sales, both through onsite and off-site events. Council approval to operate as a retail nursery continues to elude us. After submitting our application in January 2018, we anticipate approval will finally be granted in the coming months.

Our focus this year has been on raising funds for the construction of the Education Centre. Since the launch of the building appeal at Oldbury, Sutton Forest in March we have raised approximately 20% of the total cost. Applications for funding through grants continues. Hopefully by the time approval for the building is granted by Wingecarribee Shire Council we will have adequate funding in place.

Over the past year we have raised the profile of SHBG. We held 4 off site events and 5 onsite public events, including a successful attempt for a Guinness World Record for solar lanterns during the earth hour event. After rebranding SHBG with a new logo, we have continued to develop the information brochures about SHBG which are distributed to visiting groups or during public presentations and talks.

The site itself continues to develop. New collections have been planted, including the dwarf dogwood and the Tony Davis Daffodil Collection, both of which will be put forward for inclusion as Nationally registered Collections. Development in the native area will be a target for the coming year, including detailed plantings at the Southern entry. Plans are underway to commence the establishment of the first part of the Endangered Shale Woodland planting in the eastern portion of the garden.

We continue to develop education opportunities at the botanic gardens. Aside from visiting schools, we held 2 practical education workshops for gardeners, including hedge laying and amenity tree pruning. Short education sessions are also held each week during the working bees.

Local garden owners continue to generously support the Botanic Gardens. Six garden owners made their gardens available for fundraising individually or as part of our Autumn Open Garden weekend. Currently these open gardens contribute a major portion of our annual income.

With great elation we recently won a grant to install a playground in the gardens which will add another dimension to what the gardens have to offer. It is due to the diligence, commitment and hard work of our grant writer Lyn Collingridge that we won this grant.

Without staff we would not be able to progress the development of the gardens. Thanks to the generosity of the Paul Ramsay Foundation, funds were made available to employ an

administration manager and I was appointed Chief Executive Officer, which takes our part time staff numbers up to 4, including our Development Manager and bookkeeper.

My appreciation is extended to volunteers Jeanne Villani who continues to edit our newsletter, and to Margaret Roberts who has taken on the role of Nursery Manager.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the valuable commitment from all our volunteers, including the Directors of the Board, the numerous members of the committees and our Friends which all help the ongoing development and operation of the gardens.

Charlotte Webb OAM
Chairman

Strategic Goals

SHBG has adopted Vision and Mission Statements which inform all of the board's decisions and will be used to develop longer term strategic plans.

Vision statement

To be the leader in displaying and researching both native and exotic flora of the Southern Highlands; advancing the knowledge of horticulture, conservation and sustainability to the wider community.

Mission statement

The Southern Highlands Botanic Garden will display the native and exotic flora of the region which contribute to the uniqueness of its seasonal character, providing education and research in a setting enhanced by public art and managed according to environmentally responsible principles.

Core Values

Values to which the SHBG board and staff adhere are:

- **Respect** in the way we relate with people and our environment;
- **Education** and research into exotic and native flora of the region, as a key offering to visitors;
- **Excellence** in all our activities, botanic displays, artistic and cultural experiences;
- **Inclusion** of all social groups and all interested groups, neighbours and visitors from all walks of life, young and old; and
- **Leadership** in providing visitor experiences and managing our activities according to environmentally responsible principles.

Purpose

The business purpose of SHBG is to achieve three primary goals:

- Establish the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens as a leading facility for the protection of, research into, and education on regional cool-climate flora;
- Provide social, health and recreation benefits to the community, together with economic gains through tourism; and
- Establish a financial and operational structure for the botanic gardens that provides for its long-term future.

Strategic Priorities

The strategic priorities over the next three years are to make significant progress towards:

- Constructing an Education Centre to provide facilities for special interest and school groups.
- Attracting funding for a landmark Visitor Centre that will provide a range of facilities catering to the requirements of local and regional families, clubs and other organisations. The building will also promote the botanic gardens as a driver of tourism to the Southern Highlands region and generate revenue to support the gardens' operations.

- Attracting funding to develop a landscaped car park and entry point to the gardens.
- Attracting funding to progress significant development of the botanic gardens themselves, including a formal parterre, amphitheatre, children's play area, open meadow, regional native garden, fern garden, boardwalk and other walks designed to provide recreation and botanic views.

Financial Summary

The 2019 Financial year concluded with a slight increase on revenue for the year up nearly 10% on the previous financial year.

While our expenses for the same period have also increased by approximately 21 % against the previous period, this increase is quite explainable due to increased activity of the now 3 part time employees, up from only 1 in the previous year. There are associated spends needed in keeping the higher headcount busy and productive, as they explore and develop new ways of generating continuous and recurring income sources for the ongoing longevity of the gardens. The advancement of the infrastructure of the gardens continued in FY2019, which is reflected on the balance sheet, leaving us at year end UP on last year's total equity figure by reasonable increase of just over 22 % for the year.

Gregory Freckmann
Director SHBG

Key Achievements

Education

Our education program targets school children and adults.

- Bowral High School years 7 and 8 children visit the garden weekly over one or two terms a year to learn basic skills.
- A weekly information session on plants, safety and gardening skills is provided to volunteers attending working bees.
- Workshops for adults on more technical gardening skills are conducted from time to time, eg hedge laying and corrective tree pruning.
- Quarterly newsletters carry at least one education article on plants.

Community

We aim to increase visitor numbers.

- Working bees have increased from monthly to weekly, with numbers of volunteers attending averaging 25-30 pw.
- The number of visitors to the garden has increased with the garden being open to the public daily from 1 July 2019.
- School visits are frequent.
- Gardening clubs, including those from regional NSW and Canberra, visit approximately monthly.
- Five annual community events are held, with other ad hoc events during the year.

Horticulture

Two collections were included in the National Plant Collection Register in November 2016:

- 23 species of *Betula*, three of which are considered rare in Australia;
- 21 species of *Buxus*, one of which is thought to be endangered and two are rare.

Two further collections are expected to be registered in the FY2019/20:

- 8 types of Dwarf dogwood;
- 69 cultivars of Tony Davis bred Daffodils.

Plantings in the garden now include a number of collections based on Genus or seasonal interest, including the Crab apple walk with 14 types of crab apples, the winter maple collection with a number of different coloured stem maples and cherries, the winter flowering witch hazel collection and a collection of elderberries.



Tony Davis with some of his daffodil collections in the gardens

Building the organisation

Our organisation has a core of volunteers who are vital to the ongoing operation and maintenance of the garden.

Employed staff have been introduced as the need has arisen and funds for salaries have been made available. The Paul Ramsay Foundation has generously funded all new staff positions.

- A part time Development Manager was appointed in 2018.
- A part time Chief Executive Officer was appointed in February 2019.
- A part time Administration Officer was appointed in March 2019.
- A part time bookkeeper was appointed July 2019.

Commercial Sustainability

As a self-funded entity, our fundraising activities and grants have contributed a net profit of almost \$480,000 for 2018/19. This supports the maintenance costs and minor development of the garden.

The longer-term fundraising strategy for the major development costs is aimed at making the garden a significant tourist attraction and regional asset.

2018 Business Plan

During 2018/19 SHBG's Business Plan was restructured for 'due diligence' focussed towards attracting potential investors. The Plan provides a breakdown of costs to fully develop this botanic garden and outlines a plan of action for that development over a 2-3 year period once funding is available.

The Business Plan estimates:

- Garden development costs of \$15 million, plus Visitor Centre construction costs of a further \$15 million, both of which are supported by detailed quantity surveyor cost estimates.
- In the second full year of operation, SHBG will have an ongoing net operating profit of around \$188,000.
- The Education Centre will generate around \$24,000 pre-tax profit during its first full year of operation.

2019 Urbis Report

The board commissioned Urbis to provide a cost-benefit analysis identifying the net economic and social benefits to the Southern Highlands region attributable to the potential development of SHBG. That report was received by the board in September 2019 and estimates that SHBG will:

- deliver a net benefit to the region of \$56.6 million over 20 years following full development;
- directly and indirectly create a significant number of full-time equivalent jobs during the construction phase of 3 years and over 20 years; and
- as a result of its operations, additional jobs in the tourism industry will be created.

Strategy and Projects

Through our strategies and projects, we are preparing for the future of SHBG. In particular:

- We continue to work collaboratively with other agencies, including WSC, to ensure the best outcomes for the wider community to enjoy this botanic garden;
- We collaborate with other botanic gardens and like-minded groups to share ideas and expand the target audience for financial support and visitation;
- Our funding applications in 2019/ focus on projects involving sustainable practices and plant conservation;
- Meticulous recording of our rare daffodil collection is taking place in 2019/20.
- A priority project to implement the first stage of the key infrastructure is to construct the Education Centre during 2019/20, that will deliver on our education goal.
- An imminent project made possible by a recent grant will provide a playground to entice young families and children.
- Community events are directed towards families and a wide demographic sector of the population.

Conservation and Environmental Performance

Plant Conservation

Eucalyptus macarthurii is our only locally listed endangered tree species. As part of our conservation efforts we have recently planted ten of these trees at the southern entrance to the Botanic Gardens.

E. macarthurii is an impressive spreading tree growing to 40m high. It occurs as part of our locally endangered Shale Forest and Woodland Ecological Community which is endemic to almost all of the geographical limits of the Wingecarribee Shire. Quite often it is found growing on cold grassy, relatively fertile flats, near water, not unlike our site.



Similar to other Eucalypt species it produces juvenile leaves which are opposite, dull green and heart shaped (cordate). The adult leaves are dull green, narrow and lanceolate 8-16cm long and 0.8-1.5 cm wide. The bark is shortly fibrous and persistent on the trunk and larger branches and shedding in small strips on the upper branches.

The main threats to the species are through land clearing, weed invasion and lack of recruitment through grazing and pasture management techniques.

Jenny Simons staking the Eucalyptus macarthurii at the Southern entry garden

Environmental Considerations

The gardens and Visitor Centre designs maximise the environmental benefits of technology to provide energy and to operate within a sustainability framework.

Solar panels

The Visitor Centre will house solar panels to limit reliance on the regional grid for heating, cooling and power.

The Education Centre, with wide verandas to provide shade and protection from summer heat, will add solar panels to improve energy efficiency.

Greenhouse biome

The Visitor Centre greenhouse will act as a biome, creating a specific micro-climate resulting in minimal electricity usage.

Various technologies within the façade of the Visitor Centre will target internal spaces to control temperatures, including:

- Insulated 'pillow' roofing over the greenhouse area;

- Directional shades/ vents high on the northern wall; and
- A mini-trombe wall lower on that same façade (reverse brick veneer) providing cooling in summer and heating in winter.

Geothermal system

A geothermal heat pump in the Visitor Centre will transfer heat to or from the ground to provide a central heating or cooling system, using the earth at all times as a heat source (in the winter) or a heat sink (in the summer).

Sustainable resource management

Our sustainability framework extends to both operational and horticultural activities.

Low water usage principles practised in the garden include heavy mulching around all trees and across garden beds, reducing evaporation and modifying soil temperature to inhibit weed growth.

Water management

Automatic timers in the nursery are programmed to allow short blocks of watering, resulting in economic water consumption.

Sustainable water usage will be employed in the garden with the imminent installation of a bore (with Water NSW approval).

Further water efficiency will occur with the installation of a 200,000-litre water retention tank to receive water pumped from the bore for irrigation around the garden.

Waste management

Various waste management practices are in place or being introduced.

- Single use plastic bags are discouraged, with SHBG issuing reusable cloth-like bags to members of the public when they purchase nursery items.
- Green waste is collected for recycling.
- Office waste and waste from events is sorted for recycling.
- A funding application in 2019/20 is for the installation of water bubblers to discourage single use plastic water bottles.



New wall and sign to the southern entry to the gardens

Social Performance

Visitation

Overall visitation to the garden is increasing. Ticketing was introduced for some events in 2018/19 and a people counter at the main gate is now installed, both of which will improve accuracy of visitation numbers.

- During the reporting year, five annual events attracted over 5,000 visitors, slightly more than 2017/18.
- Other events during the year attracted a further 1,500 visitors.
- The gates to the inner part of the garden are open daily from July 2019, resulting in around 10 visitors each day, so far, during the cold and deciduous winter months. Entry is free.
- The cycle path that borders three sides of the garden has a constant stream of users, being cyclists, walkers, mothers with prams and toddlers, etc. No count is made of these visitors passing through the garden.

Visitor engagement highlights

Free open public events held during the year included:

- Christmas picnic and plant fair;
- Earth Hour solar lantern display and children's workshop on making a solar powered lantern – resulting in a Guinness World Record;
- Botanic Gardens Open Day music festival;
- Kite Flying and children's workshop day;
- The Kaya open garden and plant sale weekend (off-site).



Successful World Guinness Record attempt for the largest display of Solar lanterns

Fundraising events held during the year included:

- Autumn Weekend Open Gardens (off-site);
- Autumn Weekend Plant Fair;
- Chelsea Flower Show fundraising dinner with Charlie Albone (off-site);
- Oldbury fundraising cocktail evening (off-site);
- Hedge laying workshop (off-site);
- Corrective tree pruning workshop.



2019 Plant fair

Community outreach

Community engagement continues with local garden clubs touring the garden at least annually and funding trees and garden seats.

SHBG engaged with the public during a display of SHBG activities, achievements and plans at the WSC Expo on Leisure and Travel in the summer.

Frequent presentations provide updates on SHBG development and activities to members of local community groups, including gardening clubs, Probus and Rotary.

A regular program of Corrective Service workers provides valuable services in the garden.

Students from Bowral High School participate in regular community service and undertake basic gardening tasks while learning gardening techniques.

Many board members attended external gatherings during the year to widen the network of like-minded groups, including:

- A PWC and Barbara May Foundation seminar in Sydney;
- Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens AGM at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney; and
- Southern Tablelands Ecosystems Park workshop at the National Arboretum, Canberra.

Volunteering

A large number of volunteers actively contribute to the development, upkeep and maintenance of the garden.

During the reporting period:

- Many hundreds of volunteers contributed to garden tasks and assisted with fundraising events.
- Volunteers contributed in the order of 6,398 hours of volunteer work to SHBG, equating to 3.7 full time equivalent positions at a value of \$250,000 of in-kind value.
- From this volunteer labour, the net income generated from fundraising events during the year exceeded \$100,000.
- Volunteer guides assist when groups visit the garden, to give a tour of the garden highlights and inform these visitors of future development plans.
- Many volunteers hold a 'working with children' clearance so they can participate with children in the garden.
- Volunteers assist with the SHBG education pilot program involving Bowral High School frequently visiting the garden to participate in a community awareness program, learning gardening skills, botany, social interaction, outdoor activities and contributing to the work in the garden.
- Volunteers conduct workshops for children to learn to make solar powered lanterns at the Earth Hour event.
- Volunteers conduct workshops for children to make and decorate their own kite before flying it in the garden at the Kite Flying day.
- Volunteers support other activities that occur in the garden by providing refreshments to attendees at workshops and preparing for events.
- The quarterly newsletter, Operculum, is contributed to, edited, designed and produced by volunteers.
- Grant applications are researched, written and submitted by volunteers in consultation with the board and relevant community entities.
- For special events, volunteers drop flyers in letterboxes and hand out flyers and brochures at shopping centres and village markets.
- Volunteers propagate and grow nearly all plants sold in the nursery, raising \$29,000 during the reporting year.
- Since the garden was opened daily in July 2019, volunteers have stepped forward for gate opening and closing duty each day of the week.
- In October 2019, Lend Lease provided a contingent of workers for one day to plant a new section of the regional native garden.

Thank you to volunteers

A number of 'thank you' events are held each year in recognition of the work undertaken, and contribution made, by volunteers. The largest 'thank you' follows the major annual fundraising event of the Autumn Garden Weekend.

'Life Membership', as a Friend of the Garden, is awarded to special individuals who volunteer their time more than others, are always there, often behind the scenes, and whose work is greatly valued. Currently there are six Life Members.

Volunteers don't usually get a title, but the title of 'Honorary Nursery Manager' has been awarded to the qualified horticulturalist who has taken 'ownership' of managing the nursery in a superb fashion. Under her passionate direction, the SHBG nursery has become an important and reliable source of revenue.



Community Education

SHBG aims to provide education for an interested community on topics pertaining to gardens and environmental issues. Groups range from schools, garden enthusiasts, clubs, our neighbours, and to all who visit the garden.

Bowral High School groups, as part of their community service activities, are typically involved in planting. In the winter of 2018 they planted some of Tony Davis's iris and daffodils among the birch grove, and the results were obvious in spring. In the process, they learned some horticultural skills and the effect of the seasons on plants.



Bowral high School planting the new native garden, sponsored by IMB

The Aurora Steiner school explored the gardens to identify the signs of spring.

SHBG is an attractive venue for groups of seniors, such as those arranged by St George Community Transport. These senior citizens enjoy hearing about the issues of creating a new botanic garden and SHBG is a congenial place to visit. Light refreshments provided by volunteers make an enjoyable outing while these visitors learn about the garden. We hope to expand this service to local retirement and nursing home groups.

Garden clubs, both local and national have a thirsty interest in SHBG, hearing our progress and making useful contributions towards plants and facilities.

Instructional segments on propagation and similar skills have become an important part of the weekly Working Bees. Topics have included the use of our defibrillator, dealing with snakes in the garden, elements of bonsai, presentation of camellias for show, masterclass on daphne and Viburnum and taking winter cuttings.



Informal information session on Bonsai by Volunteer Steve Wilson

A one-day workshop on pruning and one on hedge laying were a sell-out success to home gardeners and professionals and indicated a future direction with skilled speakers on relevant topics.



Successful Tree pruning and hedge laying workshops

SHBG education programmes are always at risk from the vagaries of Southern Highlands weather, but will be greatly enhanced by construction of the planned Education Centre.



Proposed education Centre, located adjacent to the existing buildings

Support

Friends and volunteers

The Business Development Committee of the board, together with the Friends of SHBG, directs the fund-raising activities of SHBG.

The Friends focus is on the Autumn Gardens and Plant Fair weekend, our biggest fund-raising event of the year. This event incorporates a plant fair at the site of the garden and five private gardens open to the public with profits to SHBG. The money raised at this event is the mainstay of our annual operating revenue and usually exceeds \$100,000 net. The Friends also undertake other fundraising events, including open gardens, plant fair activities and community events held at the site to increase awareness of the public as well as raising funds.

These events could not be offered without the support of volunteers who are not, necessarily, Friends of the Garden. The Autumn Garden weekend, alone, involves over 150 volunteers and is a clear expression of the local community's support for SHBG.

Volunteers form the backbone of support for the garden. Volunteers can regularly attend the garden at the, now weekly, working bees and contribute to the regular maintenance of the garden and minor development work. Many members of the community may only contribute their time once or twice each year, while others regularly come to working bees.

Plant growers' group

A major contributor to sales at the Autumn Plant Fair and other plant fairs held during the year, is the plants that are propagated and nurtured by the Plant Growers' Group. The focus of this group of hands-on volunteers is to grow plants at home throughout the year and bring them to the garden in the season during which they will be sold to the public.

The other major contributor to plant fair sales is the production of the plants in the SHBG nursery. Volunteers spend time at the working bees, and at additional peak times of the year, to grow-on the propagated nursery plants that are sought after by the public at the plant fairs.

Revenue from plants sold in 2018/19 was \$29,000, providing a major source of income for the garden. There is opportunity to improve the revenue to the garden once retail sales from the nursery are permitted by council.

Major donations

The Paul Ramsay Foundation has generously donated \$450,000 in two tranches towards the salaries of three part-time staff of SHBG. These donations have enabled the work of the garden to become less ad hoc and to formalise the functions and activities in an orderly manner.

Local support

Other support includes Wingecarribee Shire Council, by providing the SHBG site for a peppercorn rent and committing to mow the site on 16 occasions each year, as well as enabling some council development fees to be reduced due to the non-profit status of SHBG.

Valuable support is also provided by the Corrective Services Division of the NSW Department of Justice, through participants of the corrective services program undertaking work at the garden on a regular basis throughout the year.

Sponsorship

Local businesses sponsor SHBG, including Acenet who host the SHBG website; Your Event Solution YES, with provision of discounted tents for certain events; and fertiliser company, Terra Firma, providing products such as 'Organic Life'.

Local garden owners

A big thank you goes to local garden owners for generously opening their private garden for the public to visit, with proceeds going to SHBG. These private garden openings are the mainstay of the SHBG Autumn Garden Weekend, with some owners going an 'extra yard' by donating some of the proceeds to SHBG from other group visits to their garden and selling SHBG plants on our behalf.

Future development

Grants & donations

Specific development projects of the garden cannot be undertaken without significant funding. Efforts to raise funds for such major projects are through grant applications, targeted fundraising events and donations.

Grant applications for the development of a community funded botanic garden has proved to be unreliable, which means that no rational planning of the development can be undertaken without available funds. SHBG grant applications over eight years to December 2018 (42 in total) sought funding of a total of \$4.3 million and resulted in funding of \$139,000.

Over the same eight-year period, SHBGs fundraising efforts raised \$1.9 million, including the major corporate donor of The Paul Ramsay Foundation.

Whilst there has been a low success rate of raising serious funds through grant applications, SHBG did succeed in being awarded \$200,000 for a playground through the *My Community Project* in September 2019.

Donations to SHBG are tax deductible if made through our not-for-profit fundraising account with the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal.

Business Plan 2018

The SHBG Business Plan was updated in late 2018 with the assistance of Fletcher Douglas, a Melbourne consultant. The Business Plan enabled rigorous and accurate costings for the development of major infrastructure of the garden. In particular, the visitor centre and car park were costed at \$15 million and the full development of the 15-hectare garden was also costed at \$15 million. Operational costs were identified in the Business Plan, showing that SHBG is projected to make an annual profit of \$188,000 within the first two full years of operation. Construction of the visitor centre, car park and full garden development is anticipated to take nearly three years, once full funding is available.

The Business Plan also includes the construction of the Education Centre as part of the SHBG development. This is a small but critical project that is expected to cost in the order of \$650,000, including fit out with audio-visual equipment. The establishment of this building will enable the SHBG education program to be fully rolled out for both children and adults and will enable community groups to use this facility which, in turn, will provide some much-needed revenue for the garden.

Specific fundraising efforts have been focused on this project during 2019 and, to date, donations amount to \$80,000. A grant application has also been made for the construction of the building.

URBIS Report 2019

In mid 2019, the board commissioned an independent report from URBIS, a Sydney based consultant firm, to provide an economic and social benefit analysis of SHBG for the Southern Highlands region.

Viability

URBIS states that the completed botanic gardens are estimated to produce a benefit-cost ratio of 2.5, or an expected return in economic and social benefits of \$2.50 for every \$1 invested.

Economic benefits

Establishment costs of \$28.4 million (over 3 years), together with operational costs of \$9.8 million over 20 years, will result in total costs of \$38.2 million.

These costs are estimated to generate a total economic benefit of \$94.8 million over 20 years, broken down as:

- Construction activity (over 3 years) generating a benefit of \$16.8 million;
- Economic activity from operation of the garden generating \$25.1 million;
- Tourism generating \$17.9 million;
- Social and cultural value of \$35 million.

The net benefit over 20 years following completion of the garden is estimated at \$56.6 million.

Employment

During the construction period of 3 years, it is estimated that 40 full time equivalent (FTE) jobs will be created by SHBG.

Over a period of 20 years it is estimated that 18.8 FTE positions will be generated from full operation of SHBG.

Following completion of the garden development, the tourism industry is expected to generate a further 18 FTE positions over 20 years.

Tourism

The number of tourists to SHBG following full development is estimated to be 111,039 annually, not including visitation to the garden for discrete purposes such as weddings, functions, conferences and meetings. Visitors to the Southern Highlands region are expected to be 1,857,200 annually following full development. URBIS has conservatively forecast an increase in annual tourism to the Wingecarribee shire of 25,624 visitors.

The average annual value generated by tourism following full development of SHBG is estimated at \$894,618, or \$17.9 million over 20 years.

Social value

Key social benefits of the proposed botanic gardens development include:

- Amenity value – enjoyment of green space (associated with stress relief and relaxation);
- Health benefits – including psychological and physical;
- Education and conservation value – people learn without realising;
- Cultural/ community value – well frequented public-access events.

URBIS estimates the social value of SHBG to result in:

- Use value (for those who visit and directly derive value) - \$1.5 million annually;

- Non-use value (for those who value an asset irrespective of their plans to use it) - \$0.3 million annually.

Together, this represents a total of \$35 million in social and cultural value over 20 years.

SHBG priority of pursuing funds

The board has a high priority of actively lobbying prospective philanthropists, government representatives and others with a view to sourcing funds for the development of the garden. Large grant opportunities also become viable once significant co-funding has been sourced.

This work is ongoing, following heightened activity prior to each of the 2019 NSW and Federal elections. Whilst no positive funding has yet been forthcoming, our profile has been heightened in the minds of those with significant funds.

Once initial major funding is available, from whatever source, opportunities will widen to keep the funding snowball rolling.

Development applications

Whilst SHBG has development approval for the concept design of the garden, it is necessary to comply with all local council requirements for development approvals in respect of all work carried out on council owned land.

Development applications that are currently awaiting completion are:

- Construction Certificate for the Education Centre, following approval of the DA application in March 2018.
- A DA for change of use to operate the SHBG nursery as a retail outlet was submitted in January 2018 and approved in November 2018. A modification application to the conditions imposed in that consent was submitted in July 2019.
- Approval for a liquor licence was received from Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority in February 2019. A DA application, also required for a liquor licence, was submitted in December 2018 with consent in September 2019. A review of the consent conditions is being considered.

A further DA application will be made in the near future for the construction of a utility storage shed.

30-Year Lease

The lease for SHBG is for 21 years from mid 2015 and, following SHBG's request, council is pursuing a new lease to be issued for 30 years. This request was made by SHBG in August 2018 and, following a public notice period, is being progressed between council and the Office of Local Government.

Governance

Overview

SHBG is a company limited by guarantee and established as a not-for-profit entity. The Constitution sets out, inter alia, the objectives of the company, the appointment of the directors, the role and responsibility of the board of directors and arrangements for meetings of members.

The members of the board have a diverse range of skills and experience in horticulture, landscape design and construction, law, finance and commercial business.

The board is committed to best practice in corporate governance. Directors meet monthly to review the performance of the organisation and to plan for its future. A comprehensive Business Plan was developed in 2018 to guide the development of the Gardens over the immediate future and has been highlighted elsewhere in this report.

With no full-time management, the directors have all been allocated specific roles relating to the operation of SHBG, in keeping with their individual skills and experience. Directors receive no remuneration for their services.

Board of Directors

Charlotte Webb OAM

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Founding Member of Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens (1999)
Director since 7 June 2013

More than 30 years' experience in the landscape industry, including landscape design, horticulture and the nursery trade. Charlotte has previously established and managed a wholesale and retail nursery, managed an exhibition garden for 18 years, while concurrently running a landscape design practice in the Southern Highlands of NSW. An avid plant collector with an interest in rare plants. A specialist landscape heritage consultant and a founding member of Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens.

Bachelor of Agriculture (Horticulture), Masters Heritage Conservation. OAM for service to horticulture and the community 2012. Past Secretary Australian Garden History Society Southern Highlands Branch. Past Company Secretary and Board Chairman Australian Institute of Landscape Designers and Managers Ltd.



Chris Blaxland

Director, Appointed 18 September 2015

Recently retired as a founding partner in a consulting firm, developing and implementing strategies, and raising venture funding for early stage biopharmaceutical and medical technology companies in the U.S. His previous experience had been in international pharmaceutical management in Australia, South Korea, The Netherlands and the United States. Chris trained as a veterinarian and practiced in Australia and the United Kingdom before joining this industry.



Lyn Collingridge

Director, Appointed 26 October 2015

Lyn is a retired solicitor with over 40 years' experience in Commonwealth and NSW public sectors and several years in private law firms, specialising in superannuation and corporate law. Lyn was General Counsel for 11 years and one year as A/CEO in the NSW public sector.

She has extensive experience in policy development, compliance and corporate governance and is a past director of superannuation fund trustee.

Lyn's formal qualifications are a Bachelor of Arts in Administration, Bachelor of Laws, Registered Justice of the Peace and Executive member of Southern Highlands Branch of the NSW Justices Association (voluntary role).



Gregory Freckmann

Director, Appointed 21 May 2018

Gregory comes from an extended background in financial markets starting out as a "Chalkie" in 1983. He has detailed understanding of all types of financial instruments and has the ability to get a good understanding of any type of industry quickly. He has had in-depth exposure to a variety of segments of industry, including but not limited to, fashion production and sales, hospitality, building and the fitness industry.



He currently splits his time between working on finance and compliance for a Securities Dealer and doing compliance and business development for a Home Care Nursing service business. Gregory has been a consistent weekend visitor to the Southern Highlands since 2002 and is an avid believer in this area.

Christine Hawkins AM

Director and Company Secretary, Appointed 21 May 2018

Company director and Managing Director of Cinnabar International Pty Limited, which specialises in good governance for all companies but with a focus on the not-for-profit sector.

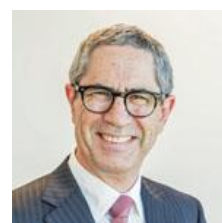
Christine's career has been in economics, finance and tax, with the Reserve Bank of Australia, chartered accounting firms and investment banks. She has a long career as a company director, including as chairman of companies in environment and resource management, plant biosecurity, agriculture and food, textiles and fashion, and higher education. Christine has been Chairman of a Ministerial Council and a non-executive director of major Commonwealth statutory corporations. She is part of the professional faculty of the Australian Institute of Company Directors for her expertise on corporate governance. Formal qualifications are a Bachelor of Commerce (Hons) and Master of Commerce degrees from the University of New South Wales, Fellow of CPA Australia and Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Christine loves gardens and spends inordinate amounts of time wandering around gardens in the Southern Highlands, where she lives.



Peter Rowe

Director, Appointed 26 October 2015

Company director and retired solicitor. A former partner of and now a consultant to a leading international law firm where he had a number of roles including head of the Australian Financial Services Group and deputy chairman of the firm's Pro Bono and Community committee. Peter has 40 years' experience in the Financial Services Sector in Australia and Asia and recent board appointments have included companies in Australia and Singapore. Peter has had an association with the not-for-profit sector that exceeds 25 years.



Chris Webb

Director, Director since 7 June 2013

Founding Member of Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens (1999)

Following graduation from Sydney University with a degree in Agriculture, Chris returned to manage the family farm in the Southern Highlands for the next 12 years. After obtaining his Associate Dip Landscape he became a full time Landscape Designer and Horticultural Consultant, practising in the Southern Highlands since 1998.



Being the 5th generation of the Webb family in the local area he has a passion for the history of the Southern Highlands and an avid interest and concern in its ongoing development. He is a founding member of Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens.

Chris is a Past Chairman and committee member of the Australian Garden History Society Southern Highlands Branch (7 years), Past Secretary and Chairman of the NSW DFA Moss Vale Branch (4 years), member of Rotary Club of Berrima District since 2001.

Management and staff

Charlotte Webb was appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company on 1 February 2019 and works in that paid capacity three days a week. Charlotte remains Chairman of the company, in addition to her CEO responsibilities and separate from her salaried role.

Ross Stone works two days a week as our Business Development Manager, having been appointed to that role in January 2018.

Anne Kragh was appointed as Administration Officer on 5 March 2019 and works two days each week.

With very few staff, SHBG relies heavily on volunteers for many of the day-to-day activities that are fundamental to a botanic garden. Volunteer work is organised by the CEO and volunteers are protected by the same Work Health and Safety policies and processes that protect the organisation's employees.

In addition to their board roles, the board directors also undertake work for SHBG on a voluntary basis, supporting financial management and administration, business development, marketing and applications for grant funding.

Committees

Committees are integral to the work of SHBG and the lifeblood of its success. At board level, committees use specialist director expertise to oversee various aspects of the organisation's work, while volunteers provide skills and expertise that are essential in developing and operating the organisation.

Committees also provide social interaction for the volunteers and a way of using the amazing talents of our community to create a legacy for the Southern Highlands.

SHBG has a number of committees that have been formed to support the formal policies developed by SHBG. All committees are chaired by a board director, with membership comprising directors and may include other volunteers. All committees operate in accordance with Terms of Reference that are approved by the board. The operation and effectiveness of committees is subject to board oversight and each committee reports to the board monthly.

Arts Committee

The Arts Committee comprises at least one director and such other members to make a committee of five. The primary role of the committee is to ensure that the SHBG Public Art Policy is properly implemented and to advise the board on the acquisition of art works to be incorporated into the garden and visitor centre. Expert Advisers assess the art work and provide advice to the committee on whether or not a work of art is to be acquired, taking into account the garden design and mission statement.

Business Development committee

The Business Development Committee comprises three members of the Board, the Development Manager and the Chief Executive Officer/Chairman as ex-officio member. The committee is responsible for funding strategies, marketing, government relations. One member of the committee is responsible for all grant applications and the implementation of projects funded by grants. The committee initiates events and passes those on to an Events Committee for implementation. The committee meets weekly at the garden.

Consultants and Contracts Committee

The Consultants and Contracts Committee is an ad-hoc committee with two board members and the CEO as an ex officio member when the need arises. The purpose of the committee is to oversee SHBG's procurement processes and procedures relating to major contracts for goods and services as required by SHBG. No formal activity has occurred with this committee.

Events Committee

The Events Committee comprises two board members, the Business Development Manager and is chaired by the CEO. The Events Committee takes its lead from the Business Development Committee to plan and implement events to be held at the site of the garden or off-site. The Committee meets weekly, following the Business Development committee meeting and co-opts relevant members of the community to assist plan and coordinate events.

Friends Committee

The Friends Committee comprises five or more members and is chaired by a board director. The role of the committee is to assist the Events Committee organise fundraising events. It also raises community awareness and increases the public profile of SHBG and its plans and activities in relation to the development of the garden site. The Committee meets monthly.

Governance Committee

The Governance Committee comprises three members of the board. It was established to review the composition of the board, the skills and experience needed to enable the board to operate effectively and in accordance with SHBG's vision and strategic objectives. The committee will also undertake regular board performance reviews.

Succession Committee

The Succession Committee is an ad hoc committee to be appointed with a minimum of two, possibly three, board members and any external person if thought necessary. Its role is to expedite the succession planning process to meet immediate needs if, and when, the need arises and is guided by the timetable outlined in the SHBG Succession Plan. No committee appointments have needed to be made.

Contractors

SHBG has a policy of using local contractors and service providers whenever possible.

SHBG hires local contractors to undertake work in the garden when needed, including construction of buildings and paths, laying of brick paving, erecting of fencing around the nursery, minor earth works and hole digging.

Until 2018/19, the bookkeeping duties of SHBG were undertaken by a volunteer. For a short period during 2018/19, SHBG's auditor took over those duties until arrangements were made in July 2019 for a private contractor to undertake that role.

Risk Management

SHBG is committed to managing its risks through an integrated Risk Management Framework that covers every area of the organisation's governance, development and activities. A new framework is in development and is a live system based on input from the board, staff and volunteers.

A new Risk Policy was adopted in 2019 requiring management to incorporate risk mitigation strategies into all activities and require third parties who use our site to address risks through contracts, licences and usage agreements. Reputational and other strategic risks are regularly considered by the board in its planning.

Some of the SHBG's risks are covered by insurance, but all risks require management strategies that are monitored and reviewed regularly by the board to support the development of the garden and to ensure the efficient operation of the organisation and the site.

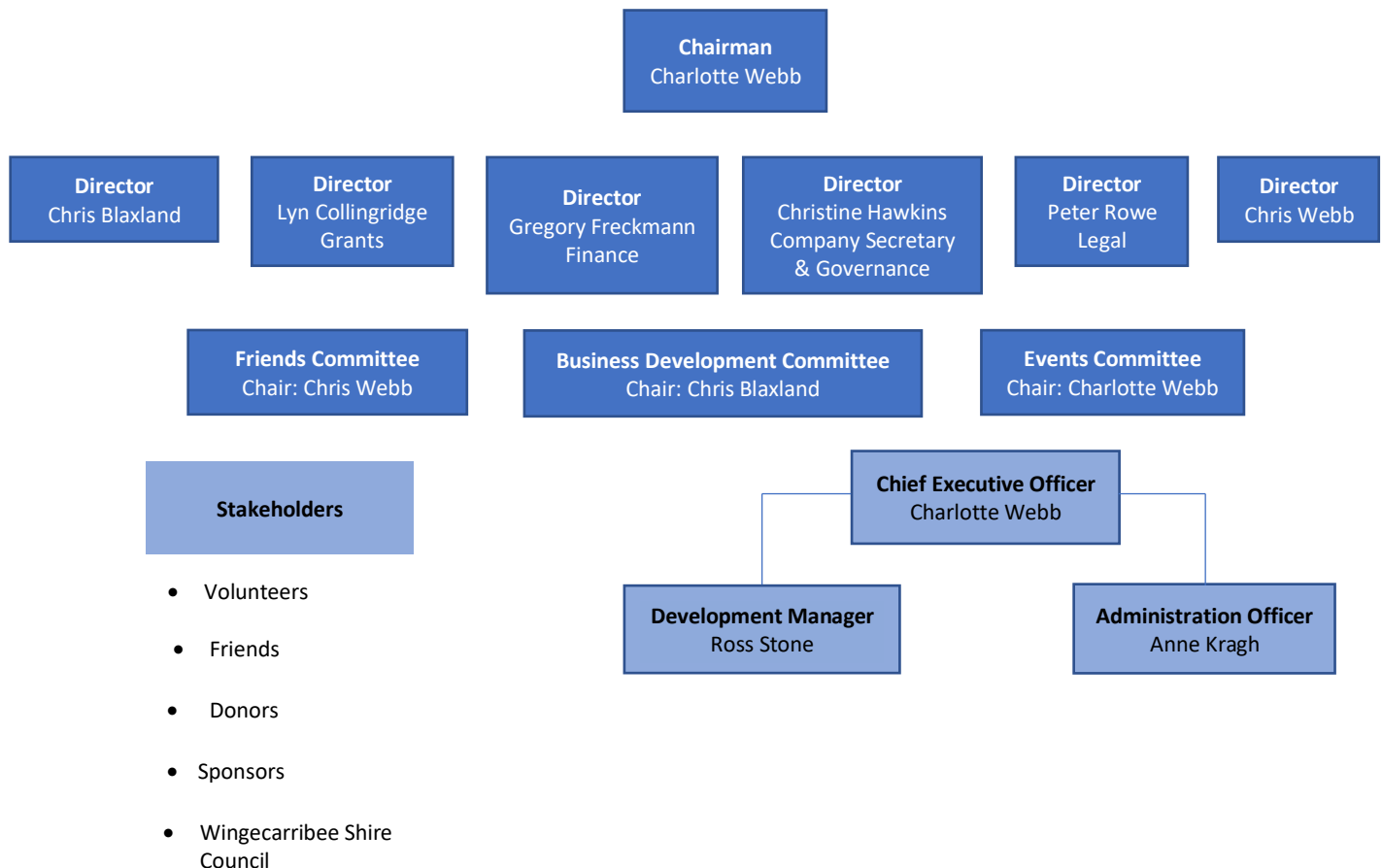
Incidents

The safety of everyone visiting and using the gardens is paramount. Every incident, even a minor one, is required to be reported to a supervisor or the office and logged in the Incidents Register. This enables areas of the gardens that require work or protection to be identified, and to continuously improve the approach to ensuring the safety of everyone on the site.

Organisational matters

Organisation structure

The following organisation chart reflects the SHBG organisation comprising board members, primary committees, staff and stakeholders.



Workplace Health & Safety

SHBG is committed to ensuring a safe and healthy workplace for all employees and volunteers in compliance with all laws and regulations.

While volunteers sometimes find the paperwork intrusive, we collect information strictly in accordance with the requirements on SHBG through the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (NSW) as well as to fulfil our requirements for liability insurances maintained. All information is confidential and individual privacy is maintained.

Financial Performance

Revenue Streams

Fundraising Events

SHBG is yet to commence commercial activities as part of its full-time operation. Income for the year has been derived from the following sources.

- Fundraising events were the primary contributor to the SHBG revenue stream. The major fundraising event of the year is the Autumn Open Garden Weekend and Plant Fair, which changed format for the first time this year to include invited specialty nurseries to make this event more aligned to major city and regional plant fairs. Consequently, ticketed entry was introduced to make up for the potential shortfall in revenue from SHBG plant sales. That weekend event, together with other smaller events during the year, contributed nearly \$110,000 in revenue.
- Donations contributed revenue of \$331,000.
- Income from plant sales, contributed \$29,000 in revenue.
- Grants totalled \$11,000 for the reporting year.
- Donations made to the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal from an appeal to fund the construction of the Education Centre raised nearly \$70,000. This money can be released from FRRR once SHBG makes a suitable application at the time of construction. Many of the donations to FRRR resulted from two fundraising events of the Chelsea Flower Show dinner with Charlie Albone at Bendooley Restaurant and a cocktail fundraiser at Oldbury.
- Income from Friends' subscriptions, sponsorships, minor fundraising appeals and interest raised \$26,000.

In-kind donations

In-kind donations cannot be quantified accurately into a dollar value but are worthy of mention. Some valuable in-kind donations include the following.

- The volume of mulch delivered by local arborists to the garden site cannot be quantified but, at a value of around \$55 per cubic metre, the dollar value would amount to many \$100,000s.
- The Southern Highlands Branch of Australian Garden History Society donated a stone bench in October 2018, which is installed in the winter garden.
- The Mittagong Garden Club donated funds for a Crimson King maple and planted the tree in the garden in July 2018.
- Jenny Simons donated towards a number of Paddy's River Box, or *Eucalyptus macarthurii*, part of the endangered ecological community, Southern Highlands Shale Woodlands. This stand of 2-metre-high trees is located at the southern entrance to the gardens.
- The Southern Highlands Branch of Australian Garden History Society also provided funding towards an avenue of brilliant autumn coloured Lipstick maples, now planted along the pathway near the main entrance of the garden.
- Bowral Garden Club planted a stand of Bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) sponsored by the club. These trees are located towards the eastern end of the garden.

Other in-kind contributions to the garden are in the form of labour from:

- regular visits from the Bowral High School years 7 & 8 students.
- Corrective Services, NSW Department of Justice providing workers to spruce up the garden on frequent occasions, especially prior to an event to be held on-site.
- Members of the community who come to regular weekly working bees, which provides a constant source of labour and love to the development of the nursery and garden.



Bowral Garden Club planting 3 Bald Swamp Cypress



**Southern Highlands Botanic
Gardens Ltd**

ABN 68 164 166 821

Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2019

HASSOS | CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

SYDNEY | BOWRAL

PO Box 2134, BOWRAL NSW 2576

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Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Ltd
ABN 68 164 166 821

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Your directors present this report on the company for the financial year ended 30 June 2019.

Directors

The names of the directors in office at any time during or since the end of the year are:

Charlotte Webb
Peter Rowe
Lyn Collingridge
Chris Webb
Chris Blaxland
Christine Hawkins
Gregory Freckmann

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

Principal Activities

The principal activities of Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens are the establishment, plantings, design and operation of a botanic garden.

Objectives

The objective of the company is to provide a botanic garden for the purpose of:

- developing living and other collections for research and educational purposes;
- conducting and disseminating the results of scientific research;
- contributing to conservation of local and other threatened or endangered plants;
- educating and informing student and the general public about plants and plant communities;
- promoting environmental responsibility and sustainability through best practice and education;
- providing an enjoyable and inspiring environment for a wide range of recreational activities commensurate with the function of a botanic garden;
- building community capacity and social interaction through participation in horticulture;
- fostering the arts through providing a space for artistic performance and production and display of the visual arts; and
- visitors and the community.

Members guarantee

The company is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 and is a company limited by guarantee. If the company is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$10 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the entity.



Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Ltd
ABN 68 164 166 821
Directors Report

Auditors Independence Declaration

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001 has been included.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:



Charlotte Webb
Director



Peter Rowe
Director

Dated: 25/10/19



Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Ltd

ABN 68 164 166 821

Auditor's Independence Declaration

UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2019 there have been :

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the Audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit

Peter Hassos



Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Ltd
ABN 68 164 166 821
Statement of Profit or Loss and other Comprehensive Income
For the year ended 30 June 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
Revenue	<u>2</u>	506,886	334,487
Advertising and promotion		(9,767)	(49,871)
Office expenses		(5,890)	(4,934)
Other expenses		<u>(229,516)</u>	<u>(87,129)</u>
Total surplus attributable to members		261,713	192,552

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Ltd
ABN 68 164 166 821
Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash assets	3	408,585	299,159
Receivables	4	6,377	179
Total Current Assets		414,962	299,337
Non-Current Assets			
Other financial assets Property,	5	10	10
plant and equipment Other	7	662,019	504,370
	6	813	813
Total Non-Current Assets		662,842	505,193
Total Assets		1,077,804	804,531
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	8	2,062	
Current tax liabilities	9	16,228	5,602
Provisions	10		1,128
Total Current Liabilities		18,290	6,730
Total Liabilities		18,290	6,730
Net Assets		1,059,514	797,801
Equity			
Retained profits		1,059,514	797,801
Total Equity		1,059,514	797,801

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Ltd

ABN 68 164 166 821

Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30/06/2019

	Notes	Retained surpluses	Total Equity
Balance at 01/07/2017		605,249	605,249
Surplus for the year		192,552	192,552
Balance at 30/06/2018		797,801	797,801
Surplus for the year		261,713	261,713
Balance at 30/06/2019		1,059,514	1,059,514

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Ltd
ABN 68 164 166 821
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 30 June 2019

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Cash Flow From Operating Activities		
Receipts from customers	497,956	185,785
Payments to Suppliers and employees	(221,799)	(141,087)
Interest received	2,732	3,523
Net cash from operating activities	<u>278,889</u>	<u>48,221</u>
Cash Flow From Investing Activities		
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(169,463)	(148,096)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>(169,463)</u>	<u>(148,096)</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	109,426	(99,875)
Cash at the beginning of the year	299,159	399,034
Cash at the end of the year	<u><u>408,585</u></u>	<u><u>299,159</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements cover Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens as an individual entity, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens is a company limited by guarantee.

Note 1: Significant Accounting Policies

The directors have prepared the financial statements on the basis that the company is a non-reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. The financial statements are therefore special purpose financial statements that have been prepared in order to meet the requirements of the Corporations Act 2001.

The company is a not for profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities reporting under the Corporations Act 2001 and the significant accounting policies disclosed below, which the directors have determined are appropriate to meet the needs of members. Such accounting policies are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise.

The financial statements, except for cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in the notes. The material accounting policies that have been adopted in the preparation of the statements are as follows:

Accounting Policies

(a) Revenue recognition

Revenue is recognised when it is probable that the economic benefit will flow to the company and the revenue can be reliably measured. Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable.

Donations

Donations are recognised when received.

Interest

Interest revenue is recognised as interest accrues using the effective interest method. This is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and allocating the interest income over the relevant period using the effective interest rate, which is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial assets to the net carrying amount of the financial asset.

Note 1: Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(a) Revenue recognition (continued)

Other revenue

Other revenue is recognised when it is received or when the right to receive payment is established.

(b) Income tax

As the company is a charitable institution in terms of subsection 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, as amended, it is exempt from paying income tax.

(c) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

(d) Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are shown at cost less depreciation.

(e) Goods and Services Tax (GST) and other similar taxes

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the tax authority. In this case, it is recognised as part of the cost of the acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Note 2: Revenue and Other Income

Revenue:

Interest revenue	2,732	3,523
General Donations	307,997	2,068
Tree Donations	1,000	1,000
Nursery Appeal	34,300	27,300
Donations in kind		145,000
Building fund	800	
Event Proceeds	51,905	35,883
Merchandise - Book Sales		136
Friends	4,555	182
Pavers	545	145
Autumn Garden Income	52,272	1,091
Raffle proceeds	3,190	
Friends donations		5,002
Sponsorship Income	455	2,500
Advertising income	2,800	
Entry to gardens	1,991	
Other Income	2,670	1,181
Plant sales	28,675	64,957
Grant- Community Building Partnership		15,000
Wingecarribee Shire Council	6,000	5,550
IMB Community Foundation		15,000
Stronger Communities Dept Infrastructure		8,969
Department of Social Services	5,000	
	506,886	334,487

2019

2018

Note 3: Cash assets

Bank accounts:

IMB Everyday Account	20,464	24,407
SHBG Barry Barford		1,006
SHBG Chris Webb	1,000	588
SHBG Chris Blaxland	642	1,660
SHBG Ross Stone	500	23
SHBG Lyn Collingridge	500	905
My Community Account - Savings	287,465	167,064
My Community Account - Payroll	10,868	23,623
General Account	56,487	51,590
Appeals Account	28,547	28,292
BDCU 777S90.4 - CharlotteW	1,812	

Other cash items:

Cash on hand	300	
	<u>408,585</u>	<u>299,159</u>

Note 4: Receivables

Current

Trade debtors	6,377	179
	<u>6,377</u>	<u>179</u>

Note 5: Other Financial Assets

Non-Current

Shares in other companies - at cost

- Unlisted	10	10
	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>
	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>

2019

2018

Note 6: Other Assets

Non Current

Preliminary expenses	813	813
Less: accumulated amortisation		
	<u>813</u>	<u>813</u>

Note 7: Property, Plant and Equipment

Buildings:

- At cost	356,906	217,192
- Less: Accumulated depreciation	(13,894)	(10,614)
	<u>343,012</u>	<u>206,578</u>

Plant and equipment:

- At cost	31,261	16,983
- Less: Accumulated depreciation	(10,957)	(6,916)
	<u>20,304</u>	<u>10,067</u>

Other plant and equipment:

- At cost	164,060	148,588
- Less: Accumulated depreciation	(10,357)	(5,863)
	<u>153,703</u>	<u>142,725</u>

Other property, plant and equipment:

- At cost	145,000	145,000
- Less: Accumulated depreciation		
	<u>145,000</u>	<u>145,000</u>

662,019

504,370

Note 8: Payables

Unsecured:

-Trade Creditors	2,062	
	<u>2,062</u>	

2019

2018

Note 9: Tax Liabilities

Current

GST clearing	6,156	554
PAYG Withholding	10,072	5,048
	<u>16,228</u>	<u>5,602</u>

Note 10: Provisions

Current

Superannuation Payable		1,128
		<u>1,128</u>

In accordance with a resolution of the directors of Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens, the directors declare that:

1. the financial statements and notes are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001:
 - (a) comply with Accounting Standards described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the Corporations Regulations; and
 - (b) give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2019 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.
2. in the directors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



Charlotte Webb
Director



Peter Rowe
Director

Dated: 29/10/19

Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Ltd

ABN 68 164 166 821

Statement by the Directors - Charitable Collections

For the year ended 30th June 2018

In the opinion of the officers:

- a) the accounts give a true and fair view of all income and expenditure in respect to fundraising appeals;
- b) the statement of financial position gives a true and fair view of the state of the company with respect to fundraising appeals;
- c) the provisions of the Act, the regulations under the Act and the conditions attached to the fundraising authority have been complied with by the organisation; and
- d) the internal controls exercised by the organisation are appropriate and effective in accounting for all income received and applied to the organisation from any of its fundraising appeals.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution by the directors' and is signed for and on behalf of the directors by:



Charlotte Webb (Director)



Peter Rowe (Director)

Date: 29/10/19

We have audited the financial report of Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Ltd (the Company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial reports based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

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

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001. We confirm that the independence declaration required by the Corporations Act 2001, which has been given to the directors of Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of the auditor's report.

Basis for qualified opinion

Cash donations and cash fundraising income are significant sources of revenue for the company. As is common for organisations of this type, it is not practicable for Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens to maintain an effective system of internal control over donations and other fundraising activities until their initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, as the evidence available to us regarding revenue from this source is limited, our audit procedures with respect to donations had to be restricted to the amounts recorded in the financial records. We therefore, are unable to express an opinion whether the cash donations and cash fundraising income the company obtained are complete.

Qualified opinion

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the basis for qualified opinion paragraph, the financial report of Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens is in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2019 and of its performance for the year ended on that date;
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and the Corporations Regulations 2001;
- c) complying with Div 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

We also report that:

- a) the financial statements show a true and fair view of the financial result of fundraising appeals conducted during the year;
- b) the accounting and associated records have been properly kept during the year in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991, and the regulations; and
- c) money received as a result of fundraising appeals conducted during the year have been properly accounted for and applied in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and the regulations.

Basis of accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purposes of fulfilling the directors financial reporting responsibilities under the Corporations Act 2001. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Signed on :



Peter Hassos

Date:

25/10/19

