

## **BGANZ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2006**

The second Annual General Meeting of BGANZ was held at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne on 25 October 2006. At the conclusion of the 2005-06 financial year BGANZ had 24 individual members, 16 institutional members, and three associate members. The organisation finished the year in a sound financial position, aided particularly by the membership of a number of the larger botanic gardens on both sides of the Tasman. However, if BGANZ is really to prosper it needs more members – individuals, and also more botanic gardens from regional areas of Australia and New Zealand. A further two individual, two institutional and two associate members have joined in the current financial year.

Existing regional networks in New Zealand, New South Wales and Victoria have re-badged themselves under the BGANZ banner, and all three groups have been active during the year with a number of local meetings and conferences. Regional gardens in Queensland are in the early stages of forming a state BGANZ network there. BGANZ NZ has produced two newsletters, and is well advanced in organising the next BGANZ Congress to be held at the Hamilton Gardens in October 2007. Four issues of the excellent BGANZ newsletter *The Botanic Garden* were prepared by the editor Virginia Berger and emailed to members in 2005-06.

The AGM was held in association with the first BGANZ professional development workshop, which focussed on water management for botanic gardens. The two-day meeting was hosted and organised by RBG Melbourne and was attended by 32 gardens staff from as far afield as Perth and Mackay. The low-cost, high-value workshop featured on-site demonstrations and expert speakers from botanic gardens, universities and water authorities. Topics included landscape planning for climate trends, plant selection, plant-soil-water equations, water sensitive urban design, water supply issues for botanic gardens, managing water quality in lakes, water testing procedures, turf management, and irrigation performance testing. Feedback from participants was very positive in supporting the value of BGANZ auspicing more workshops like this for members. BGANZ NZ is preparing to hold a workshop on Integrated Pest Management at Wellington Botanic Garden in March, and an education programs workshop is under consideration, possibly in NSW, in 2007.

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