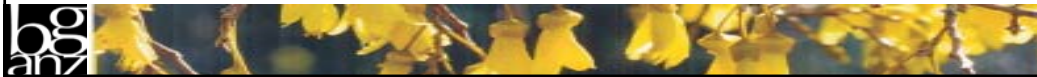


BGANZ CONGRESS 2009

‘Plan(e)t Priority: Regional Reality’

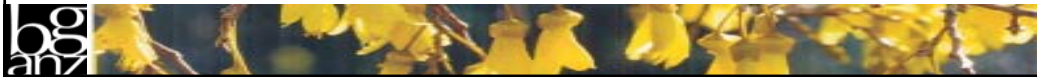


Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand

- Four regional groups (QLD, NSW, VIC, NZ)
- 64 members (including 37 gardens)
- Regional activities, including two recent conferences
- Newsletters and website
- On-line survey: BGANZ future directions
- Collaboration with BGCI to assist Asia/Pacific gardens



Plan(e)t Priority: Regional Reality



Plan(e)t Priority: Regional Reality

- Climate change
- Environmental sustainability
- Biodiversity conservation
- Population growth

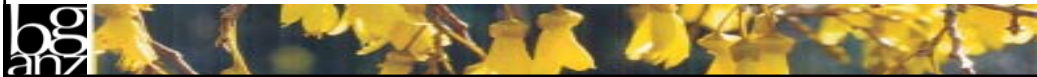


Population growth

Australian Bureau of Statistics predicts (September 2009)
by 2049:

- Australian population 35 million (+65%)
- Current national population growth c500,000/year
- People aged 65+ will be 22% population (now 13%)
- Young people and people of working age will increase by 45%

Treasurer Swan: “Population growth is arguably one of two of our greatest economic challenges along with climate change”



Population growth

Melbourne:

- Current population just passed 4 million
- Annual growth 90,000 (1,700 per week)
- Population 5.4 million by 2026
- 61% of 2008 growth in suburbs >20kms from CBD



‘Deceptive green of suburban gardens’

‘The private gardens of suburbia are indirectly responsible for the worst pollution figures per capita in the world. Because of the gardens, we have a catastrophic urban sprawl, which forces people into cars....**Ultimately the fault lies with the area occupied by gardens.**’

Robert Nelson, *The Age*, 20 September 2009



‘Deceptive green of suburban gardens’

- What needs to change is not smaller or fewer gardens, but how we utilise green spaces
- Value gardens and green spaces for their ecosystem services in support of sustainable lifestyles and enlightened community planning
- Plan(e)t priority: regional reality

