

Meet the BGANZ Council.

- [Council Membership 2019 -21](#)
- [Council – How to get elected.](#)



Chris Russell (BGANZ President) is the Executive Director of Cranbourne Gardens, a division of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (RBGV) dedicated to the conservation, research, education and display of Australian plants and ecosystems.

Chris has experience in the fields of public garden management, natural resource management, tourism and education, coupled with tertiary qualifications including a Science degree with Honours and a Graduate Diploma in Land Rehabilitation. His experience includes roles in scientific research, natural area management, capital projects in natural settings, building and landscape construction, community engagement, education, and tourism. This combination provides Chris with broad insight into the challenges facing contemporary botanic gardens.

Commencing with the RBGV in 1998, Chris has overseen the development of the Australian Garden, a contemporary 15 hectare display garden showcasing Australia's remarkable plants and landscapes in an artistic and architectural setting. Coupled with this development has been leading the division through a period of significant growth through expansion of operations and staff numbers, building

relationships with key stakeholders such as local and State government, Friends and tourism sector, as well as positioning Cranbourne Gardens as a key community resource within Melbourne's south-east growth corridor.

Chris believes that botanic gardens have a critical role to play in encouraging and empowering the community to play an active role in biodiversity conservation, in creating places to bring people together with plants and with others in their community for a future that is re-connected with the natural world around us.

Helen McHugh (BGANZ Treasurer) Australian National Botanic Gardens, Public Programs Manager.



Greg Bourke (BGANZ Vice-President Australia - Co-opted Member) is the Curator Manager of the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, cool climate garden of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust.

Under Greg's management is 252 hectares including 28 hectares of ornamental gardens, high quality cool climate turf and over 200 hectares of natural conservation areas including endangered ecological communities and the first translocation site for the critically endangered Wollemi Pine

Wolfgang Bopp (BGANZ Vice – President New Zealand. New Zealand Representative.) heads Christchurch Botanic Gardens Christchurch New Zealand.

David Reid currently holds the position of Manager Garden Operations at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (RTBG) and has worked in a range of roles in horticulture since graduating from Burnley College in 1989.

His current role is challenging and rewarding, and in the eleven years that he has so far worked at RTBG he has developed a deep appreciation of the importance of botanic gardens and the essential roles that they play in the world of plant conservation and natural world education.

In 2009, David had the opportunity to study the International Diploma of Botanic Gardens Management at RBG Kew and has taken great inspiration from this experience to contribute to the development of the RTBG in the areas of conservation, education and horticulture management.

Prior to his current role, he ran a landscape design and construction business in Sydney, taught horticulture at TAFE NSW and worked in the garden design industry in Melbourne.

As a new member of the BGANZ Council, David hopes to be able to apply his knowledge of horticulture, small business, education and management in ways that will positively contribute to the ongoing support that BGANZ delivers to its members.



Dr Lucy Sutherland (CHABG Representative) Director Botanic Gardens of South Australia.



Julia Watson Senior Education and Partnerships co-ordinator at the Auckland Botanic Gardens in New Zealand, Julia Watson is passionate about engaging people with plants. She is interested in how botanic gardens can remain relevant and recognised as significant places for communities, and how to overcome barriers to people enjoying and embracing the important role that botanic gardens play within our increasingly urbanised, frenetic and densely populated cities.

Julia has worked in horticultural education and community initiatives for over a decade, and currently runs the education and volunteer programmes, interpretation and engagement projects, new media initiatives and partnership programmes at the Auckland Botanic Gardens. Julia is also the convenor of the Botanic Gardens Education Network (BGEN) for Australasia, part of Botanic Gardens Australia New Zealand (BGANZ).

Julia has an MSc in Systematics and Biodiversity Science from the University of Cape Town in South Africa and has worked in floriculture, retail horticulture, accessible community gardens and education during her career.



Grady Brand (West Australia Representative - Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority)

Grady is the Senior Curator of Kings Park and Botanic Garden, where he has worked in various positions for the past 40 years. He has a wealth of knowledge about the Western Australian flora and natural landscapes and is passionate about the

environment and its ongoing conservation.

With responsibility for horticultural and landscape development and management, Grady has played a key role in the planning, implementation and ongoing management of Kings Park generally.



Prue Pettett is the Assistant Curator of the Brisbane Botanic Gardens. Prue oversees Sherwood Arboretum Brisbane's third botanical treasure, a 15 hectare state heritage listed site containing over 1,000 Australian native trees. Prue was previously responsible for a number of high profile areas at the Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mount Coot-tha including the Tropical Dome, Cacti and Bromeliad House and Fern House.

Prue is passionate about conservation and the role botanic gardens play in education and preservation. She holds a Masters in Environmental Science and eight years' experience as an Environmental Consultant specialising in the field of Ecology. Prue has conducted ecological surveying and reporting to guide master planning for some of Queensland key projects including the Oxley Creek Transformation Project, a project aimed to transform and restore Oxley Creek into Brisbane largest parkland.

Michael Elgey (Acting Queensland Rep) Rockhampton Botanic Gardens

John Arnott (BGANZ Vic Representative) Manager of Horticulture, RBG Cranbourne.

Bede Nottingham (New Zealand Representative)

Scott Pullyblank (Northern Territory Representative)

Leonie Scriven (South Australia Representative)

Gary Davies (CHABG Council Representative 1 of 2)



Paul Tracey (former BGANZ President) has been the Curator of the Wollongong Botanic Garden since 2010 and is responsible for managing the Garden and its living collection, three natural areas recognised as annexes to the Botanic Garden, the Greenplan plant production nursery, and the heritage listed Gleniffer Brae manor house and garden.

Paul has worked in Horticulture and Park Management roles at both Local and State Government agencies for the past 20 years.

Prior to his current role, Paul held management roles including Manager Horticultural Estate and Manager Visitor Programs at the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust in Sydney, and was responsible for the parklands tree maintenance and replacement program, heritage landscape and open space maintenance, environmental asset management, education and interpretation programs, ranger services, sports users and volunteers.

Paul has been the NSW representative on the BGANZ Council since 2013 and is currently President. Paul's tenure ends in October 2019..

