

# BGANZ- Current Council 2021

## Meet the BGANZ Council

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### **Chris Russell**

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**

Helen McHugh (BGANZ Treasurer) is the Public Programs Manager at Australian National Botanic Gardens.

### **Wolfgang Bopp**

Wolfgang Bopp (BGANZ Vice President — New Zealand Representative) is the Director of Christchurch Botanic Gardens Christchurch New Zealand.

### **Michael Elgey**

Michael Elgey (BGANZ Vice President — Australia Representative) is the Curator Manager at Australian Botanic Gardens, Mount Annan at Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain.

### **Bede Nottingham**

Bede Nottingham (New Zealand Representative) is the Horticultural Team Leader at Christchurch Botanic Gardens.

### **Aaron Bean**

Aaron Bean (Queensland Representative) is the Team leader Horticulture at Mackay Regional Council.

**Leonie Scriven**

Leonie Scriven (South Australia Representative) is the Deputy Director Collections at Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium of South Australia.

**Emma Bodley**

Emma Bodley (Co-opted NZ Member and BGEN Convenor) is the Botanical Records & Conservation Officer at Auckland Botanic Gardens

**John Arnott**

John Arnott (Co-opted AUS Member and Victoria Representative) is the Manager of Horticulture at Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Cranbourne.

**Amanda Shade**

Amanda Shade (Western Australia Representative) is the Nursery Curator and Trainee Coordinator at Kings Park and Botanic Garden.

**David Reid**

David Reid (Tasmania Representative) 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.

**Scott Pullyblank**

Scott Pullyblank (Northern Territory Representative) is the Curator at Alice Springs Desert Park.

**Gary Davies**

Gary Davies (CHABG Council Representative 1 of 2) is the Director Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens at Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE).

