



Port Augusta

CITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF AUSTRALIAN ARID LANDS BOTANIC GARDEN COMMITTEE MEETING

MEMBERSHIP

Mrs Anne O'Reilly - Chairperson

Mr John Zwar	Mr Ben McCallum
Mr John Sandham	Cr Fran Paynter
Ms Suzy Graham	Mr John Banks
Mr Brian Reichelt	

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 41 of the *Local Government Act 1999*, that an **AUSTRALIAN ARID LANDS BOTANIC GARDEN COMMITTEE MEETING** will be held in the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Conference Room, Stuart Highway, Port Augusta on **FRIDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2022** commencing at **11AM**.

Zoom meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83698475225?pwd=ZXhTQ1djQTJwWEhVYnE0djdhZURadz09>

Passcode: 690740

A copy of the Agenda for the above meeting is attached to this notice.

ANNE O'REILLY
DIRECTOR CORPORATE & COMMUNITY SERVICES

27/01/2022

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AGENDA

1. DECLARE MEETING OPEN

By Chairperson Mrs Anne O'Reilly.

2. APOLOGY/IES

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Recommendation

That the minutes of the previous AALBG Committee Meeting (AR21/52989) held on 22/10/2021, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

5. REPORTS/AGENDA ITEMS

5.1 AR22/3362 – AALBG Partnerships Update January 2022

5.2 AR22/3413 – AALBG Activity Report

5.3 AR22/1806 – AALBG Trust – Bank Reconciliation as at 11 January 2022

5.4 AR22/3383 – AALBG Budget Comparison as at end of 2nd Quarter 2021/22

5.5 Friends of the AALBG Report (To be tabled at meeting)

6. OTHER BUSINESS

7. NEXT MEETING

8. DECLARE MEETING CLOSED

**MINUTES OF
AUSTRALIAN ARID LANDS BOTANIC GARDEN COMMITTEE
HELD ON FRIDAY 22 OCTOBER 2021**

PRESENT

Members

Mrs Anne O'Reilly, Director Corporate & Community Services (Chairperson)
Mr John Banks, Chief Executive Officer
Mr Brian Reichelt, Friends of the AALBG
Mr Ben McCallum, SA Arid Lands NRM
Ms Suzy Graham, Business Representative

VIA ZOOM

Mr John Zwar, President of the Friends of the AALBG
Mr John Sandham, Botanic Gardens of SA

Officers

Mrs Rebecca McCarthy, Finance Manager
Mrs Carly Archer, Manager Tourism Facilities

WELCOME

The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 11.04am.

APOLOGIES

Cr Fran Paynter
Mr Ryan Hayward, AALBG Garden Coordinator

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr B Reichelt / Ms S Graham that the Minutes of the previous Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Committee Meeting (AR21/22861) held on 14/05/2021 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

CARRIED

Mr John Sandham entered the meeting via Zoom at 11.09am

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr J Zwar queried whether staff had received recognition for their efforts in managing financial pressures and exceeding budget expectations during a difficult period and whether training opportunities had been provided.

AALBG PARTNERSHIPS UPDATE
AR21/51725
F21/10

Mr J Zwar / Mr J Sandham that **Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Committee** receives and notes the report (AR21/51725) dated 01/10/2021, submitted by the Director Corporate & Community Services concerning AALBG Partnerships Update.

CARRIED

AALBG MARKETING PLAN 2021/2022
AR21/51727
F21/10

Mr J Sandham / Mr B Reichelt that **Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Committee** receives and notes the report (AR21/51727) dated 01/10/2021, submitted by the Director Corporate & Community Services concerning AALBG Marketing Plan 2021/2022.

CARRIED

Discussion took place regarding signage and points of interest in the garden for all age groups and interests. Ideas included development of an App or QR Code system for interpretive information, "fun facts" signage for various plants as well as other less technical signage throughout the garden, activity booklets for various age groups, a Garden Ambassador and promotion of famous visitors to the Garden.

AALBG ACTIVITY REPORT
AR21/51930
F21/10

Mr B McCallum / Ms S Graham that **Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Committee** receives and notes the report (AR21/51930) dated 05/10/2021, submitted by the Director Corporate & Community Services concerning Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Committee Activity Report.

CARRIED

AALBG TRUST
AUDITED
FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS
2020/21
AR21/52065
F21/10

Mr B Reichelt / Mr J Sandham that **Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Committee** receives and notes the report (AR21/52065) dated 05/10/2021, submitted by the Director Corporate & Community Services concerning Audited Financial Statements for the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Trust.

CARRIED

AALBG TRUST
BANK
RECONCILIATION
AS AT 12 OCTOBER
2021
AR21/53921
F21/10

Mr J Zwar / Mr J Sandham that **Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Committee:**

1. Receives and notes the report (AR21/53921) dated 13/10/2021 submitted by the Director Corporate & Community Services concerning AALBG Trust – Bank Reconciliation as at 12 October 2021.
2. Notes the out of session approval of expenditure from the AALBG Trust Account.
3. Approves expenditure of \$3,024 from the AALBG Trust account towards the 2021/22 SCA television advertising package on the condition that funds of \$3,024 are received from the Friends of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden prior to expenditure occurring.

CARRIED

AALBG BUDGET
COMPARISON AS AT
END OF 2020/21
AND AS AT END OF
1ST QUARTER
2021/22
AR21/52097
F21/10

Mr B McCallum / Mr B Reichelt that **Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Committee** receives and notes the report (AR21/52097) dated 07/10/2021, submitted by the Director Corporate & Community Services concerning AALBG - Budget Comparison at end of 2020/21 and as at as end of 1st Quarter 2021/22.

CARRIED

Mrs Rebecca McCarthy left the meeting at 12.22pm

FRIENDS OF THE
AALBG REPORT
AR21/55768
F21/10

Ms S Graham / Mr J Sandham that **Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Committee:**

1. Receives and notes the report (AR21/55768) dated 22/10/2021, submitted by the President, Friends of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Committee.
2. Notes the voluntary contribution at their own cost (accommodation and travel) of the Friends of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden to attend plant sales and fairs across South Australia to sell plants and promote the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden.
3. Thanks Mrs Chris Nayda for providing informative tours to Minister for Environment Mr David Spiers, and the Governor of SA, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC and Mr Rod Bunten during recent visits to the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden.

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr B McCallum

Advised that an interactive QR Code project is currently under development for Nilpena. Further information will be provided to the AALBG Committee in due course.

Ms S Graham

Provided feedback regarding the Christmas Extravaganza poster for consistency with AALBG branding.

Mr J Zwar

Queried the status of the Boardwalk replacement project. The Committee were advised that quotes had been received for work to be undertaken. An application for funding is being developed to submit to the Nature Based Tourism Co-Investment Fund towards the cost of replacing the Boardwalk.

Expressed concern regarding the SCA Television advertising signage that is adjacent the carpark does not meet the AALBG Style Guide and queried the background to the installation of this signage.

Expressed concern regarding the damage being caused to garden by feral animals and queried the timeframe for replacement of fencing at beach level at both north and south boundaries. A 'Customer Request for Maintenance' has been submitted to the Depot for repairs to the current railway iron fencing. Installation of additional fencing will require scoping and costing, including relevant permissions from Coastal Protection Board due to fencing being submerged in the gulf during high tide.

Mr J Banks

Requested a single page history fact sheet of the garden to be used during promotion of the garden and discussions with external parties.

Action: John Zwar to prepare dot point of history and e-mail to Council.

NEXT MEETING

Friday, 4th February 2022

The meeting was declared closed at 12.52pm.

REPORT FOR:	AALBG Committee		
MEETING DATE:	4 February 2022		
REPORT FROM:	Director Corporate & Community Services		
REPORT TITLE:	AALBG Partnerships Update as at January 2022		
FILE NAME:	F22/7	RECORD NO:	AR22/3362

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS	
2	Economy
2.2	Our City is known as a destination of choice where people come to stay awhile to experience our lifestyle and environment.
3	Environment
3.4	The region's unique natural resources and urban environment are recognised as a key element and high value asset in the City's economic future.
4	Infrastructure
4.1	Our physical infrastructure meets our community needs.
4.2	We have safe, accessible and well-utilised CBD, public spaces and built environments that reflect the priorities of our community.
4.3	Our City develops and evolves in a planned way, improving the appearance of our City and making efficient use of infrastructure.
5	Governance and Financial Sustainability
5.3	We are in a surplus financial operating position

SUMMARY/ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report is to provide the AALBG Committee with an update of partnerships between Council through the AALBG and other external organisations as at January 2022.

This update does not include the partnership between Council and the Friends of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden as the Friends provide a separate report to the Committee outlining activities that the Friends have undertaken.

RECOMMENDATION

Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Committee:

1. Receives and notes the report (AR22/3362) dated 19/01/2022, submitted by the Director Corporate & Community Services concerning AALBG Partnerships Update as at January 2022.

BACKGROUND

The Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens enters agreements with other organisations from time to time to undertake specific projects.

This report will provide an update of current projects being undertaken in conjunction with external bodies.

DISCUSSION

Cochineal Nursery

The Cochineal Nursery is now fully operational and functioning well.

Whilst the nursery belongs to the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board, information regarding the Cochineal Nursery has been incorporated into information sent to schools outlining opportunities at AALBG.

The nursery remains a unique point of interest at the Garden.

Reflection Garden Enhancement

The local Suicide Prevention Network 'SILPAG' provided funding of \$3000 towards enhancement of the Reflection Garden at the Arid Lands Botanic Garden. Further development and enhancement of the space was identified by the SILPAG members as an important activity for 2020/21.

Garden Coordinator, Ryan Hayward liaised with representatives of SILPAG to progress discussions and design.

The upgrade is now completed with decorative fence panels installed and the surrounding garden area replanted and mulched.

A small ceremony with SILPAG members, Friends of the AALBG and Council will be held when Covid permits

Geological Survey of South Australia

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Council and the Geological Survey of SA (Department of Energy & Mining) for collection of plant reference material.

No further activity has occurred in relation to this agreement in recent months.

University of Adelaide Internship

An Adelaide University student studying a Bachelor of Science (Wildlife Conservation Biology) worked on a project collecting information for interpretive signage. The student spent one week full time on site from 12th July 2021 and interacted with Garden staff externally with the AALBG every Tuesday from 20th July 2021 until 12th November 2021.

Tasks during the internship included creating and compiling information to expand on the interpretive signage throughout the Botanic Garden with the focus on the Bush Tucker Garden. This included mapping existing interpretive signage and research and collation of plant information and images.

Council officers have worked with Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann from the Adelaide University Department of Linguistics to interpret Barngala language names for the plants following the recent determination of Native Title to the Barngala people. Professor Zuckermann is keen to visit the garden when new Interpretive signage incorporating Barngala language as well as other languages common to the region is installed.

Interpretive signage is currently being finalised and proofread before sending to printer for final designs.

Adelaide University – Parasitoid Wasps

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the University of Adelaide School of Biological Sciences and Port Augusta City Council regarding Collection of Parasitoid Wasps from the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden.

The project relates to the taxonomy of a group of parasitoid wasps called microgastrines. The University is documenting the species diversity of the wasps across Australia and describing new species. An honours student studying a particular genus of these wasps called *Apanteles*, is doing collections that focus on the arid zone region of SA to understand the number of species in the region. A PhD student is studying psyllid lerps on *Eucalypts* and the tiny chalcid wasps that parasitise the lerps.

Collection of samples has occurred from AALBG and no further action is expected.

Adelaide University – Collection of Plant Reference Materials.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the University of Adelaide School of Biological Sciences and the Port Augusta City Council regarding collection of Plant Reference Materials from the Australian Arid Land Botanic Garden.

The plant reference materials relate to two plants that are members of the family *Gyrostemonaceae* (*Codonocarpus cotinifolius* and *Gyrostemon australasicus*) and the samples are intended for use in a non-commercial, international collaborative study of molecular evolution in the order *Brassicales*. Because the study involves both DNA and RNA sequencing, the samples need to be taken from living plants and collected on site directly into specialised fixatives.

This project has now been completed and evidence of acknowledgement has been forwarded to Council (see attachment 1)

CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISIONS

N/A

RISK MANAGEMENT

1: Financial/Budget/Asset Management

Projects proposed in this report will not negatively impact on the budget.

2: Legal/Policy

n/a

3: Environment/Planning

Projects within this report are supporting the natural environment.

4: Community

n/a

Anne O'Reilly

19/01/2022

Camel poison, bells and cabbages: evolution and biology of Gyrostemonaceae by John G Conran

Gyrostemonaceae: an Australian endemic oddity.

The family Gyrostemonaceae consists of about 20 species of small trees and shrubs placed into 4–6 genera, all restricted to Australia and distributed sporadically across the continent, particularly in southern and central semi-arid to arid regions, often in areas which have had recent fires. (1)

Three relatively short-lived, small arid lands tree species occur in South Australia: the widespread *Gyrostemon ramulosus* (Corkybark) and *Codonocarpus cotinifolius* (Bell-fruit tree or Desert Poplar) and *C. pyramidalis* (Camel Poison), which is largely restricted to the Ikara–Flinders Ranges and Vulkathunna–Gammon Ranges and listed as endangered in SA (2) (3)



Gyrostemon ramulosus in the AALBG courtyard, Oct 2014; and *Codonocarpus cotinifolius* at the D. B. Mack Reserve near Blanchetown, SA, Sept 2020. J. G. Conran

The family was in 1845 named by the French botanist Adrien-Henri de Jussieu (4), with *Gyrostemon* named from the Greek *gyros*, a circle and *stemon*, a stamen; referring to the whorls (rings) of stamens in the male flowers. *Codonocarpus* was named by the English botanist Alan Cunningham from the Greek *kodon*, a bell and *karpos*, a fruit; alluding to the shape of the fruit (hence the common name Bell Fruit).



Male and female flowers of *G. ramulosus*, Aug 2021, growing in the AALBG, J. G. Conran.

These plants have brittle, easily snapped branches. The flowers in Gyrostemonaceae are unisexual and in *Gyrostemon* the occur on separate male and female trees, while those of *Codonocarpus* are borne on different parts of the same tree, usually with the males carried on branches below the female flowers.

The biology of the family is relatively unstudied in the field, and it is generally assumed that the flowers wind-pollinated (5), but those of both SA *Codonocarpus* species have been seen being visited actively by numerous potentially pollination insects and the flowers of *C. pyramidalis* have a strong spicy/caramel scent (pers. obs.). Accordingly, the reproductive biology of the SA members of the family is the subject of current study.

The bell-shaped fruits in both genera break apart at maturity into multiple, 1-seeded, winged fruitlets that are wind-dispersed and which then split open to release the seed. Germination is environmentally-controlled (6) and may be potentially fire- and/or flood-associated.



Male and female flower of *C. cotinifolius* growing in the D.B. Mack Reserve, Feb 2021, and bell-shaped unripe fruits of same, Oct 2014, growing in the AALBG, J. G. Conran.

Recently, I was invited to be part of an international team based in the USA who are looking at the molecular evolution of gene expression in the species-rich and character trait-diverse order Brassicales, which in addition to Gyrostemonaceae includes well known plants such as mustard, cabbage, pawpaw, capers and nasturtiums. This DNA- and RNA-based study has three key goals: 1) What is known about key character traits in the cabbage family Brassicaceae; 2) do the same genes behave in the same way in other families of Brassicales; and 3) can such comparative gene-expression studies across the order lead to a better understanding of gene, genome, and character trait evolution in flowering plants more broadly (including crop species).

As part of this study, samples of the SA members of Gyrostemonaceae are being studied both in the lab (using DNA and RNA), as well as in the field looking at aspects of their ecology and reproductive biology. These data will hopefully allow the integration of up-to-date information about this unusual Australian plant family into the broader study of character and genetic evolution in Brassicales and the flowering plants in general.

Acknowledgements: Ryan Hayward, Garden Coordinator, AALBG and Chris Nayda from the Friends of AALBG for their help in organising access to samples in the AALBG for use in the ongoing studies.

1. <https://bie.ala.org.au/species/https://id.biodiversity.org.au/taxon/apni/51299977#overview>
2. Toelken, H. R. (1986). Family Gyrostemonaceae. In J. P. Jessop & H. R. Toelken (Eds.), *Flora of South Australia, Part 1: Lycopodiaceae to Rosaceae* (pp. 184–188). South Australia Government Printing Division.
3. <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/22805>
4. de Jussieu, A.H.L. in d'Orbigny, C.H.D. (1845), *Dictionnaire Universel D'Histoire Naturelle* 6
5. George, A. S. (2003). Gyrostemonaceae. In K. Kubitzki & C. Bayer (Eds.), *The families and genera of vascular plants, edited by K. Kubitzki. Volume 5. Flowering plants. Dicotyledons: Malvales, Capparales and non betalain Caryophyllales* (pp. 213–217). Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-662-07255-4_25
6. <https://spapps.environment.sa.gov.au/SeedsOfSA/scientificresults.html?family=Gyrostemonaceae&genus=&species=&sortby=family&synonyms=true>

REPORT FOR:	AALBG Committee		
MEETING DATE:	4 February 2022		
REPORT FROM:	Director Corporate & Community Services		
REPORT TITLE:	Activity Report – AALBG Committee Meeting 04/02/2022		
FILE NO:	F22/7	RECORD NO:	AR22/3413

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS	
2	Economy
2.2	Our City is known as a destination of choice where people come to stay awhile to experience our lifestyle and environment.
3	Environment
3.1	Our community reduces potable water and energy consumption.
3.4	The region's unique natural resources and urban environment are recognised as a key element and high value asset in the City's economic future.
4	Infrastructure
4.2	We have safe, accessible and well-utilised CBD, public spaces and built environments that reflect the priorities of our community.
5	Governance and Financial Sustainability
5.3	We are in a surplus financial operating position
5.4	We put the customer first and give each customer a great experience of Council's services.

SUMMARY/ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report is to provide the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden (AALBG) Committee with a summary of activities undertaken at the Garden during the period October to December 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Committee receives and note the report (AR22/3413) dated 21/01/2022, submitted by the Director Corporate & Community Services concerning Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Committee Activity Report 04/02/2022.

DISCUSSION:

Garden Funding

Lobbying to the State Government for recurrent funding of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens is continuing.

Port Augusta City Council's CEO, John Banks held an online meeting with Michael Harvey Director Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium, Department for Environment and Water in early January 2022. Mr Harvey will be undertaking a visit to the garden as soon as practicable.

Economic Impact Statement

Discussions have been held between the State Government and Council's CEO regarding the preparation of an Economic Impact Statement to describe the economic benefits of the AALBG to Port Augusta, South Australia and Nationally.

At this stage, it is being suggested that funding may be available for this project. No further information is available at this stage.

Car Parking Fees

The suggestion of car parking fees at AALBG have been circulating for some time. Whilst it may be an opportunity to increase revenue through the car parking fees, it may also detract visitors to the garden, particularly locals who frequent the AALBG Café.

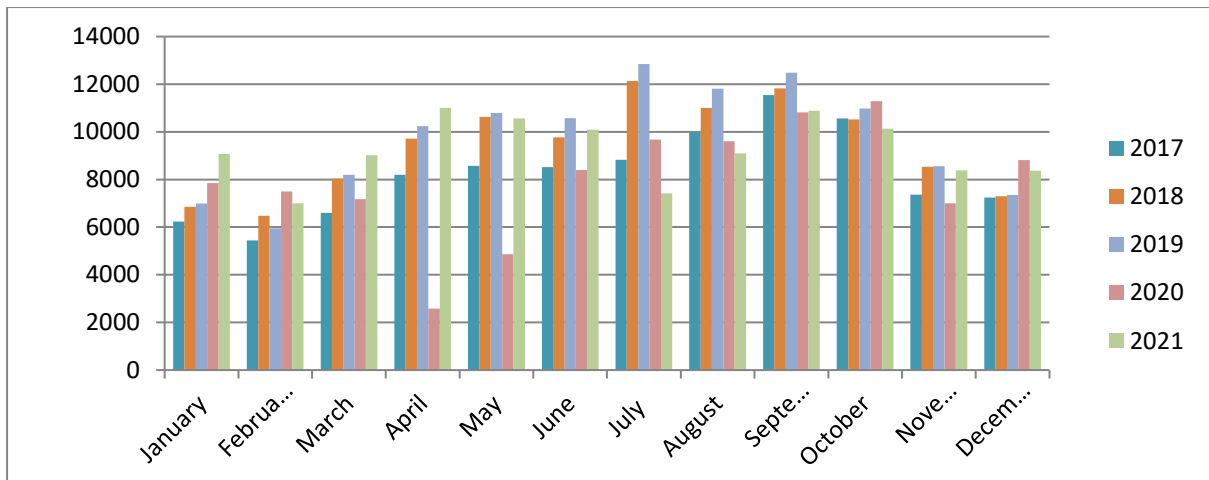
A cost/benefit analysis is proposed to include other sites across Port Augusta where car parking fees have been suggested including the Boat Ramp and the Port Augusta Airport. This analysis will consider the capital cost of installation of paid parking, the potential impact on users of these facilities as well as the impact on visitation.

No further action has been taken in relation to this item.

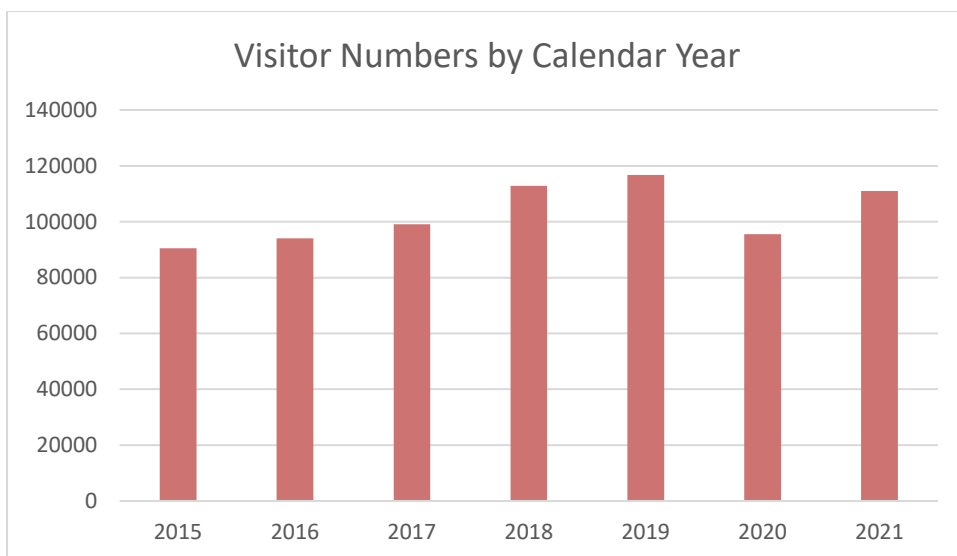
Visitors

The visitor centre has continued to adapt to changing Covid-19 requirements whilst delivering quality customer experiences.

Visitor numbers to the garden started the 2021 year strongly, however the South Australian state-wide Covid-19 lockdown from 21st to 27th July 2021 inclusive, together with closure of the Visitor Centre for a weekend in August resulted in lower visitations in those months. November 2021 visitations were strong and whilst December 2021 was lower than the previous year, visitations were higher than average.



From the graph below, the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on visitations in 2020 is obvious. 2021 rebounded to some extent but visitations were not as high as 2018 or 2019.



Café

The Café has been quite busy during the October to December period with many visitors enjoying the warmer weather.

The Café reverted to its summer menu from 1st October 2021 incorporating foods suitable for warmer weather whilst continuing to offer favourites.

A Christmas Extravaganza was held on Thursday 2nd December 2021 with the event booking out quickly due to restricted numbers for both indoor and outdoor dining. Flinders Gin were a draw card for the event, achieving a number of sales on the night. The meal was excellent and many took the opportunity to sample free tastings from Flinders Gin. A Christmas Sale event was also held in the gift shop on the night.

Summer opening hours commenced from 6th December 2021 with the Visitor Centre closing at 4pm on weekdays rather than 5pm due to historic low patronage between 4pm and 5pm on weekdays during the hotter months of the year.

Events & Marketing

An online wildflower photography competition encouraging people to share their regional wildflower images was run on Wadlata and AALBG social media pages during October 2021. The winner of the competition was Morgan Palmer Dunn with a magnificent phot of *Ooldea Mallee* taken at the AALBG.

Christmas Table Styling Workshops with Adelaide Stylist and Designers "Markus and Zak" and using materials from the AALBG were held on 11th and 12th December 2021 which were popular.

A Christmas Extravaganza was held at the AALBG Visitor Centre for one night only on Thursday 2nd December 2021. The Gift Shop had 10% of stock (excluding items already on sale, marked down or consignments). Flinders Gin were present to provide tastings of their wares and the Café team put together a delicious menu. It was a great night with many attending not keen to leave. Unfortunately, Covid-19 restrictions saw limited numbers able to attend.

Promotion of the Wheen Bee Foundation's free webinar on Bee Friendly Gardening held on 13th November 2021 occurred via the AALBG Facebook page.

SA Arid Lands Landscape Board hosted Bush Food and Native Plant Workshops with Neville Bonney at AALBG on 12th and 13th November 2021. Sessions were initially fully booked; however, some vacancies did occur just prior to the event due to heavy rains and road closures preventing travel.

Plants are being promoted on social media through an updated Plant Availability List posted each month.

It was great to see Sophie Thomson, an Australian horticulturalist and television and radio personality from Adelaide who also is a presenter on ABC's Gardening Australia and an ABC radio talk back host and writer for major newspapers and magazines promote her visit to the AALBG in December 2021 by saying that she had spent the morning at one of her favourite botanic gardens with vision of AALBG included. Sophie will be returning in 2022 which we are looking forward to.

Upcoming events include the Easter Bilby Hunt, April School Holiday activities, Botanic Gardens Day in May 2022.

Garden

The Garden Coordinator has been working through the current AALBG plant catalogue and updating information.

Garden beds have been weeded and replanted in various areas of the garden.

Please also refer to the AALBG Committee Report – Partnerships Update January 2022 for information regarding other projects.

Garden beds have been weeded, mulched and 261 plants have been planted in various locations in the October to December 2021 period.

Information for 20 new interpretive signs is being reviewed by staff and tour guides in preparation for printing and installation.

The upgrade of the Reflection garden has been completed.

Plant identification (species name) labels still being produced on site in high numbers.

Nursery

The nursery has been focussing on ensuring that popular plants are available for sale in the Gift Shop whilst also producing bulk orders.

Eureka Landscapes purchased 602 various plants for parks in Birdsville QLD. The AALBG nursery has previously supplied plants to this company.

Whyalla City Council has ordered 400 eucalypts for delivery in autumn which are currently being propagated and have also secured a second order for 800 various plants for National Tree Day this year to start propagation in March 2022.

Joy Baluch Bridge duplication project order for 568 various plants have been propagated and require grow time ready for Autumn.

Parks and gardens have purchased 45 sturt desert peas for planting around Port Augusta.

Cranbourne Botanic Garden in Victoria have made contact recently to discuss possible supply of plants for their arid garden display. Nursery staff are currently working through the list to see what can be supplied by the AALBG nursery.

The AALBG plant availability list continues to be promoted on Council's social media at the beginning of each month to highlight this to the wider community.

The nursery team are continuing to expand the Eremophila collection through grafting.

A shade structure was upgraded with new cloth to enable the grafted Eremophila collection to be stored.

Anne O'Reilly
21/01/2022



REPORT FOR:	AALBG Committee		
MEETING DATE:	4 February 2022		
REPORT FROM:	Director Corporate & Community Services		
REPORT TITLE:	AALBG Trust - Bank Reconciliation as at 11 January 2022		
FILE NAME:	F22/7	RECORD NO:	AR22/1806

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS	
2	Economy
2.2	Our City is known as a destination of choice where people come to stay awhile to experience our lifestyle and environment.
3	Environment
3.4	The region's unique natural resources and urban environment are recognised as a key element and high value asset in the City's economic future.
4	Infrastructure
4.1	Our physical infrastructure meets our community needs.
4.2	We have safe, accessible and well-utilised CBD, public spaces and built environments that reflect the priorities of our community.
4.3	Our City develops and evolves in a planned way, improving the appearance of our City and making efficient use of infrastructure.
5	Governance and Financial Sustainability
5.3	We are in a surplus financial operating position

SUMMARY/ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report is to provide the AALBG Committee with an update of the balance of the AALBG Trust Account as at 11 January 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Committee:

1. Receives and note the report (AR22/1806) dated 20/01/2022 submitted by the Director Corporate & Community Services concerning AALBG Trust – Bank Reconciliation as at 11 January 2022.
2. Notes the out of session approval of expenditure from the AALBG Trust Account since the last meeting relating to purchase of:
 - a. Purchase of materials to construct garden seats
 - b. Purchase of Interpretive Signage Posts
 - c. Steel Storage Cabinets

BACKGROUND

The Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens Trust was signed in 2002 to establish and maintain a public fund to be held by the Trustee for the purpose of the objects of the Trust. The AALBG committee of management will administer the Fund.

DISCUSSION

1. The attached AALBG Trust Bank Reconciliation as at 11 January 2022 is provided for Member's information.
2. Donations come from several sources to the Trust including minor donations received at the Garden and donations from the Friends of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens for specific projects.
3. The combined balance of AALBG Trust funds available as at 11 January 2022 is \$27,597.79. This report also shows the individual balances of the Friends donations and Trust donations.
4. The Trust has a bank balance of \$24,633.93 with no current commitments.
5. The Friends has a bank balance of \$2,963.86.
6. Commitments of \$13,451.74 have previously been approved by the Friends and the AALBG for expenditure on specific projects as per below:

Commitments

Mulch, Rocks etc	Committed \$21k. \$8811.82 spent.	-\$ 12,188.18
Soil for Nursery Propagation	Committed \$4k. \$2736.44 spent.	-\$ 1,263.56

Outstanding Items

Road Base	Reimbursement received 18/6/20. No expenditure.	\$ 12,000.00
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7. Due to some discrepancies with reimbursement amounts from the Friends (relating to the treatment of GST), Council now advises the Friends once an invoice has been paid and request reimbursement.
8. The AALBG Trust Account is audited by independent auditors as part of Council's end of financial year audit process.
9. Out of session approval had been provided by the AALBG Committee for the following expenditure from the AALBG Trust Account in December 2021 and January 2022:

Steel Storage Cabinets	\$ 907.27
Interpretive Sign Posts	\$ 2,734.74
Materials for 10 x Garden Seats	\$ 8,993.00

CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISIONS

N/A

RISK MANAGEMENT

1: Financial/Budget/Asset Management

n/a

2: Legal/Policy

n/a

3: Environment/Planning

n/a

4: Community

n/a

ANNE O'REILLY

20/01/2022

AALBG Trust Account Bank Reconciliation**as at 11/01/2022**

Balance brought forward 2020/21	\$	25,113.89
Donations	\$	16,143.93
Credit Interest	\$	-
Expenditure	-\$	13,660.03
Balance as per Bank Statement	\$	27,597.79
Friends Bank Balance	\$	2,963.86
Trust Bank Balance	\$	24,633.93
	\$	27,597.79

The following is a breakdown of the funds held:**AALBG Trust - DGR****as at 11/01/2022**

Balance brought forward 2020/21

\$ 22,150.03

Donations received

2021/22

1st Quarter

\$ 1,463.90

2nd Quarter

\$ 1,020.00

\$ 2,483.90

Credit Interest

Jul-21

\$ -

Aug-21

\$ -

Sep-21

\$ -

Oct-21

\$ -

Nov-21

\$ -

Dec-21

\$ -

\$ -

Expenditure

\$ -

Bank Balance**\$ 24,633.93****AALBG Trust - Friends****as at 11/01/2022**

Balance brought forward 2020/21

\$ 2,963.86

Donations Received

Transfer 26/08/21

\$ 3,330.00

Transfer 13/10/21

\$ 3,024.00

Transfer 14/10/21

\$ 690.88

Transfer 14/10/21

\$ 2,897.00

Transfer 17/11/21

\$ 3,027.27

Transfer 29/11/21

\$ 690.88

\$ 13,660.03

Expenditure Incurred & Reimbursed

Mulch

DATGAW Services

SJ000832

-\$ 3,330.00

Seedling Mix

Van Schaik's Bio Gro Pty Ltd

55325

-\$ 690.88

Gravotech Plant Labels

Gravotech Australia Pty Ltd

SOR150127

-\$ 2,897.00

Television Advertising

Southern Cross Austereo

71260342

-\$ 3,024.00

Mulch

DATGAW Services

SJ000913

-\$ 3,027.27

Seedling Mix

Van Schaik's Bio Gro Pty Ltd

60789

-\$ 690.88

-\$ 13,660.03

Expenditure Incurred & Not Yet Reimbursed

\$ -

Bank Balance**\$ 2,963.86**

REPORT FOR:	AALBG Committee		
MEETING DATE:	4 February 2022		
REPORT FROM:	Director Corporate & Community Services		
REPORT TITLE:	AALBG - Budget Comparison as at end of 2nd Quarter 2021/22		
FILE NAME:	F22/7	RECORD NO:	AR22/3383

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS	
2	Economy
2.2	Our City is known as a destination of choice where people come to stay awhile to experience our lifestyle and environment.
3	Environment
3.4	The region's unique natural resources and urban environment are recognised as a key element and high value asset in the City's economic future.
4	Infrastructure
4.1	Our physical infrastructure meets our community needs.
4.2	We have safe, accessible and well-utilised CBD, public spaces and built environments that reflect the priorities of our community.
4.3	Our City develops and evolves in a planned way, improving the appearance of our City and making efficient use of infrastructure.
5	Governance and Financial Sustainability
5.3	We are in a surplus financial operating position

SUMMARY/ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report is to provide the AALBG Committee with an update of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden budget position as at the end of the second quarter of the 2021/2022 financial year.

RECOMMENDATION

Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Committee receives and note the report (AR22/3383) dated 21/01/2022, submitted by the Director Corporate & Community Services concerning AALBG - Budget Comparison as at as end of 2nd Quarter 2021/22.

BACKGROUND

The Budget Comparison is a standing agenda item for the AALBG Committee.

This report provides members of the AALBG Committee with information as to the financial position of the AALBG at the end of the 2nd Quarter of the 2021/22 financial year.

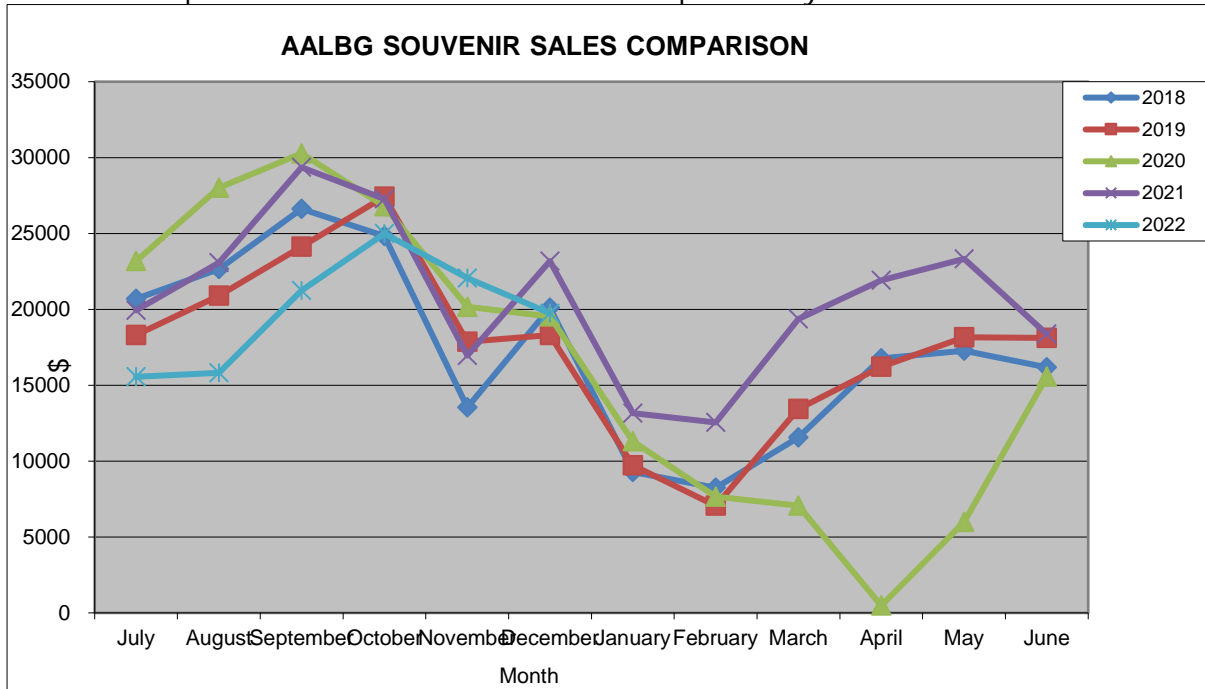
DISCUSSION

1. The budget comparison for the period ended 31st December 2021 is provided for Member's information.
2. Covid-19 restrictions continue to impact café operations with cafe and conference room seating restrictions as well as additional cleaning regimes. Restricted access to South Australia for interstate travellers also impacts on visitor numbers. A state-wide lockdown from 21st to 28th July 2021 impacted on AALBG operations, as did closure of the garden on the weekend on 28th and 29th August 2021 due to SA Health directive out of an abundance of caution due Covid-19 exposure locations elsewhere in Port Augusta. Staff were approved access to limited Emergency Leave based on their rostered hours during the lockdown period.
3. Staff continue to reconfigure café seating to optimise café patronage and undertake cleaning of tables and chairs between customers and additional cleaning of high touch point areas throughout the day.

AUSTRALIAN ARID LANDS BOTANIC GARDEN				
		BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	BUDGET
		2020/2021	AS AT 06/01/2022	2021/22
Arid Lands Visitor Centre				
	Salaries & Wages	166,400	80,205	84,340
	Other Operating Costs	258,800	129,937	137,090
	Depreciation	59,500	30,158	30,158
		484,700	240,299	251,588
Arid Lands Visitor Centre Revenue				
		245,500	131,532	124,432
Arid Lands Café Expenditure				
	Salaries & Wages	276,900	196,197	140,347
	Other Operating Costs	209,900	104,263	111,171
	Depreciation	12,200	6,184	6,184
		499,000	306,643	257,701
Arid Lands Café Revenue				
		522,500	310,108	264,829
Arid Lands Garden Expenditure				
	Salaries & Wages	230,200	95,979	116,677
	Other Operating Costs	158,400	69,933	87,534
	Depreciation	83,100	42,119	42,119
		471,700	208,031	246,330
Arid Lands Garden Revenue				
Arid Lands Nursery Expenditure				
	Salaries & Wages	124,900	55,152	63,305
	Other Operating Costs	68,400	32,426	38,170
	Depreciation	32,200	16,321	16,321
		225,500	103,898	117,796
Arid Lands Nursery Revenue				
		110,000	51,829	55,753
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)				
		(802,900)	(365,403)	(428,401)

- Souvenir sales started off slowly in the 2021/22 financial year but increased significantly in November with sales stronger than previous years in that month before returning to average sales in December 2021.

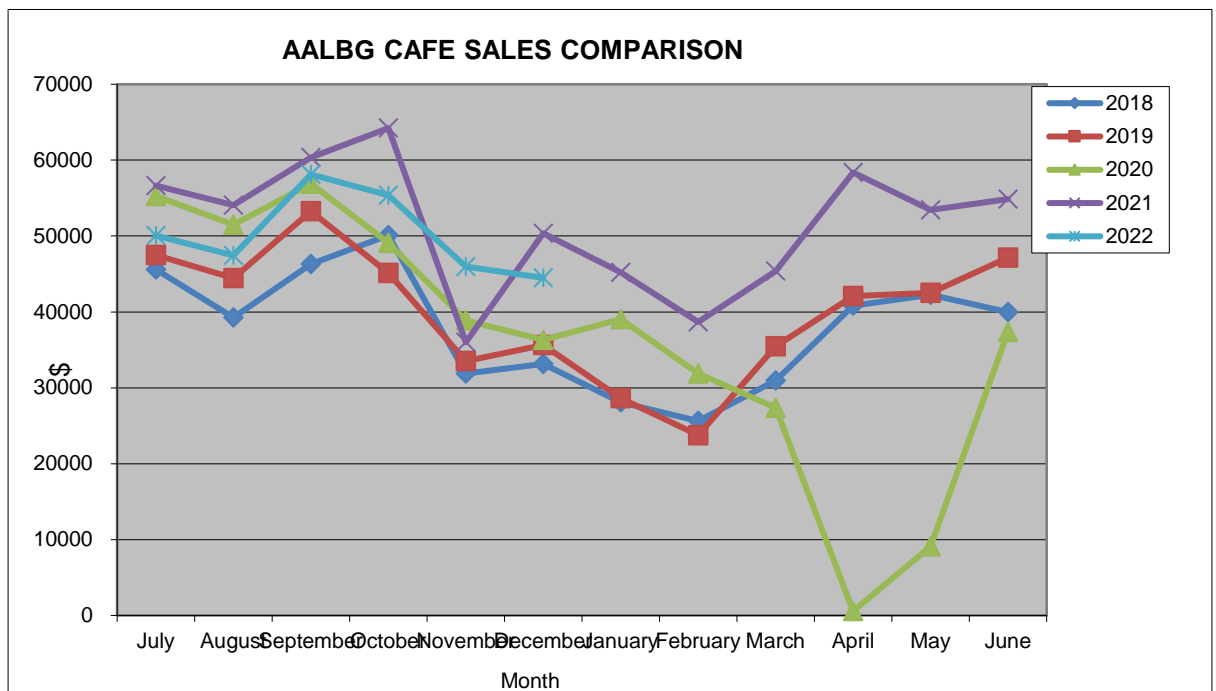
A comparison of the souvenir sales for the past five years is set out below.



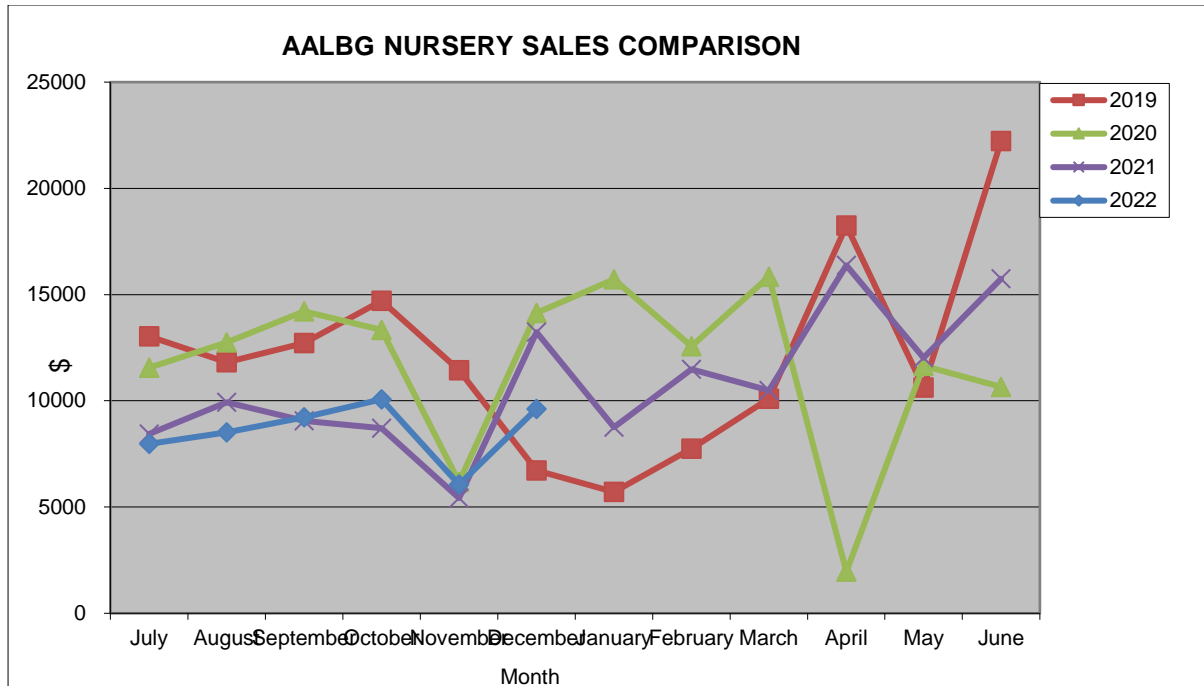
- Café salaries & wages are above budget for the year to date but this expenditure is being offset by increased revenue through café sales.

Whilst not at the extreme level of 2020/21, the café has experienced relatively strong sales in the first half of the 2021/22 financial year, despite the State wide lockdown in July and the weekend closure in August which impacted on revenue.

A comparison of AALBG Café Sales for the past five years is set out below:



6. Nursery Sales for 2021/2022 have started off slowly with sale remaining at lower than average across the first half of the financial year. Revenue is slightly below budget for the year to date. The nursery has been working to maintain stock levels of popular plants with the Sturt Desert Peas having Christmas bows and gift tags during December as these are common gifts.



7. Overall, the AALBG operating result is below budget for the year to date. Expenditure is below budget in the Visitor Centre, Garden and Nursery. Whilst expenditure is over budget in the Café due to high patronage necessitating additional staffing, revenue is also above budget to offset this.

CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISIONS

N/A

RISK MANAGEMENT

1: Financial/Budget/Asset Management

Covid19 Emergency Provisions enacted by the State Governments continue to restrict visitations from interstate and international travellers. However, the operating result is continuing to be relatively strong in 2021/2022.

2: Legal/Policy

n/a

3: Environment/Planning

n/a

4: Community

n/a

Anne O'Reilly
21/01/2022