



ANNUAL REPORT 2023 -2024

Buda Historic Home & Garden Incorporated

A.B.N. 53 208 103 038 Registered No. A0011259S

Presented at the Annual General Meeting of Buda Historic Home and Garden Incorporated

Held in the Garden Room at Buda
42 Hunter Street Castlemaine

Monday 19th August 2024 at 4.00 pm

BUDA HISTORIC HOME AND GARDEN ACKNOWLEDGES THE DJA DJA WURRUNG PEOPLE AS THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND ON WHICH WE OPERATE. WE RECOGNISE THEIR CONTINUING CONNECTION TO LAND, WATERS AND CULTURE AND PAY OUR RESPECTS TO THEIR ELDERS PAST, PRESENT AND EMERGING.

We acknowledge the generous contribution and greatly value the support of our volunteers without whom we would have difficulty operating at our current level.

We also appreciate the continued guidance and assistance of
Henry (Hal) C. Curwen-Walker Solicitor/Principal

Photo Credits

Vivienne Hamilton: Cover Pleasure Garden

Pg 4 Gas Stove

Pg 7 Dorothy Leviny fountain

Pg 9 Mother's day volunteers

Pg 13 Garden volunteers

Pg 17 Garden ramble

Kerry Anderson: Pg 5 Costumed life drawing

Tehriel: Pg 5 Artwork

Who we are

Buda is held by the Trustees of the Castlemaine Art Gallery and Historic Museum on behalf of the public of Castlemaine and the State of Victoria. Buda Historic Home and Garden Inc. (Buda Inc.) is an incorporated association registered as a charity and is a deductible gift recipient.

Buda Committee of Management 2023-2024

() = expiry date of term of office

The **Committee** is elected from the membership group of Buda Inc at the Annual General Meeting of Buda Inc. If you wish to have more involvement in the management of Buda, you can join this group by being nominated by an existing member of Buda Inc. The committee provides governance to the organisation, developing policies and procedures, overseeing compliance, finance and risk management.

Committee members for 2023-24:

Officers

President:	Bronwyn Rudolph (2024)
Vice President:	Peter Lukaitis (2024)
Treasurer:	George Milford (2025)
Secretary:	Pat Grumont (2024)

Ordinary Members:

Colin Tracey (2025)	Faye Shortal (2025)
Mandy Leveratt (2025)	Peter Weston
Christine Lloyd (2024)	(Acting Treasurer from March 2024)

Shire Council Representative: Tony Cordy

Buda Staff

Meredith Blake	House Curator – Resigned Nov 2023
Sarah Fraser	House Curator – Started April 2024
Ryan Garratt	Garden Curator
Vivienne Hamilton	Communications & Admin Manager
Robin Walls	House Cleaner
Andrew Harvey	House Cleaner

Curriculum Vitae Current Committee

Bronwyn Rudolph

Registered Building Practitioner
BA Interior Architecture RMIT 1976
Runs Design Connections – a building design service specializing in home extensions and renovations, bathrooms and kitchens.
Member of BDAV (building designers association of Victoria), National Trust Victoria

Peter Lukaitis

Sergeant of Victoria Police (Retired)
Accredited Mediator

George Milford

Accountant FCPA, Trustee, Castlemaine Art Gallery & Historical Museum, Trustee S R Stoneman Foundation, previously Finance Controller Thompsons Kelly & Lewis Pty Ltd and has lengthy experience as Hon Treasurer of community organizations

Pat Grumont

Retired Teacher
Education Consultant
Associated with Buda since 1981

Colin Tracey

Retired Operations Manager Telstra Satellite Services Bendigo
Campus Manager Girton Grammar School 2002 – 2007, retired again. Moved to Castlemaine 2010, volunteered at Buda 2010 primarily associated with Buildings and Grounds maintenance work

Christine Lloyd

Retired secondary art and design teacher.
Buda Tour Guide since 2018

Faye Shortal

Retired Teacher, Librarian and Retailer
Associated with Buda since 1981

Mandy Leveratt

BA (Hons) University of Sussex
PhD History ANU
Board of St. Kilda Community Housing

Peter Weston

Accountant – 50 years experience

Annual Report President 2023-2024

As I look back over the past year I feel such admiration for this organisation and the way we manage to make the most of every person who wants to be part of it in any way we can. I want to begin this my ninth Annual Report with thanks to the people who make it happen day in and day out. We see every day the commitment of so many to keep Buda open to the public, the gardens and buildings well maintained, involving the community in events and activities and looking forward for ways to make this unique place secure into the future.

Thank you to Vivienne Hamilton our Communications & Administration Manager who performs above and beyond her job description on so many fronts. We truly appreciate the innovative approach she has to getting so much done, especially in her marketing and organisational roles. Viv is always thinking creatively about how we can position Buda for the future, how we can maximise our efforts in sustainability and how she can support the committee and the volunteers. I do often wonder where we would be without her. I would also like to thank Andrea McKey who is reducing her volunteer hours. She has been such a dedicated volunteer for many years especially in the office but also often putting up her hand for many and varied other tasks. She is always keen to provide wonderful food and her amazing handmade art for one of our annual raffle prizes. We all appreciate so much the important contribution Andrea makes to Buda, thank you.

In November our House Curator Meredith Blake, resigned, to consolidate her work hours at the Kyneton Museum, leaving a legacy of three major projects still being completed. I thank her for her initiative and achievements over the two years she managed the curation of the house and collection. We had a marvellous team of volunteers who kept the house ticking along until we were able to appoint a new curator in May 2024 and I would like to particularly thank Diane Linton who was so conscientious in this capacity. The recent appointment of Sarah Frazer as our House Curator has seen her pick up where Meredith left off with the projects Meredith initiated progressing well plus new and exciting things happening in events, exhibitions and collection maintenance and management. Thank you, Sarah, for your calm and measured settling in and for your enthusiasm and appreciation of Buda which I know we will see bring forth much of interest in the years to come.

Thank you to Ryan Garratt who has now been caring for our Heritage Garden for over a year and has shown his care and innovation and careful management in every aspect of the garden. Ryan has developed an ever expanding team of interested and passionate garden volunteers and used his knowledge, imagination, creativity and connections to advance the garden. He has begun to rebuild various aspects of the garden referring always to the Heritage and historical records. It is exciting to see how Ryan is bringing his own vision for the Buda Garden alive with his team, enjoying the projects and getting involved in many rewarding ways. Thank you, Ryan, for your imagination and enthusiasm, your care of the volunteers and connection to staff and committee. It makes it a pleasure to work with you.

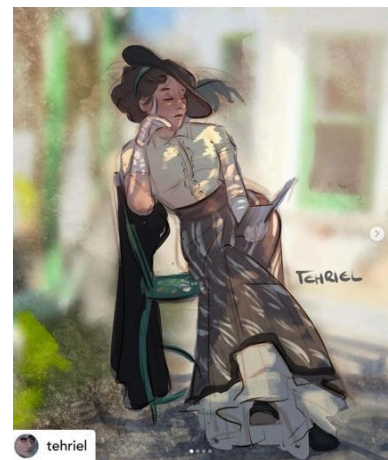


Reinstated original gas stove

Thank you to all the Committee members who all work hard in their different roles to keep Buda running. I would especially like to name Colin Tracey whose stand out "behind the scenes" fixing work is extraordinary, and contributes so much to the Buda bottom line. All this is done so willingly and jovially we want to find jobs for him to do just so we can see him at Buda! Thank you so much Colin, you are irreplaceable. The Committee welcomed Mandy Leveratt and have greatly appreciated her work on the policy documents and with Pat Grumont on the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan. We also welcomed Peter Weston to the committee in April, who has been acting Treasurer and will accept the role today, taking over from George Milford who has been so committed and steady in his management of the financial side of Buda operations. We wondered how we would ever find another to fit the role, but I am sure we have found that special person in Peter and thank him sincerely for taking on this role. Personally, I would like to especially thank Pat Grumont the Committee Secretary, without whom I could not keep on as President. She supports and guides me calmly and kindly in so many ways and is very important to the success of our day to day operations, as well as our efforts to future proof Buda as a whole.

Buda would not be the special and vibrant place it is without our wonderful volunteers who give their time and expertise in so many areas such as: the garden, catering, maintenance, office administration, reception, shop sales, publicity, marketing, cataloguing, supporting our Curators, nursery development and so much more. Thank you to everyone involved for their energy and for donating time and money, to keep this unique corner of Castlemaine a place to be proud of and a place to reflect the past into the future.

Bronwyn Rudolph



Costumed Life Drawing with Bridget Farmer

Financial Report 2023-2024

Buda Historic Home & Garden Inc.

ABN 53 208 103 038

Profit & Loss Statement for the year to 30 June 2024

	This year 2024	Last year 2023
Income		
Shop sales	17,032.54	18,146.44
Cost of goods sold		
Opening stock	3,037.00	3,871.10
Purchases	7,689.53	11,973.76
Closing Stock	(2,664.00)	(3,037.00)
Profit on sales	8,970.01	5,338.58
Nursery Sales	11,087.25	21,891.99
Cost of goods sold		
Opening stock	1,814.00	1,259.00
Purchases	5,898.01	6,757.14
Closing Stock	(1,948.00)	(1,814.00)
Profit on sales	5,323.24	15,689.85
Garden Room		
Hire	24,915.46	30,552.35
Catering	16,876.36	24,845.00
Less cost of goods sold		
Catering	14,089.50	23,062.72
Cleaning and maintenance	7,721.40	3,210.93
Profit on garden room	19,980.92	29,123.70
Gate takings	50,622.03	56,701.45
Friends of Buda	8,669.86	4,095.03
Donations, (including shire grant)	41,431.44	88,778.89
Fund raising, functions	6,735.43	15,165.67
Traditional Arts Fair	15,821.30	15,022.61
Employment Subsidies	0.00	4,250.00
Interest	5,248.02	2,670.04
National Library of Australia	7,053.00	0.00
Copland Foundation	26,399.00	0.00
RCAP Grant	0.00	28,284.55
Regional Communities Fund	0.00	9,964.00

MASC Events Grant	0.00	2,727.27
Regional Arts Victoria (Direct marketing campaign grant)	0.00	10,000.00
Unexpended Grants	(23,307.00)	0.00
Total Income	172,947.25	287,811.64

Expenditure

Admin/Operating/Insurance	20,319.78	15,832.58
Advertising/Promotion	11,127.97	21,259.56
Bank charges and interest	577.35	2,316.56
Depreciation	4,634.00	4,228.00
Functions expense	3,068.08	5,014.16
Maintenance and repairs	16,715.65	50,833.42
Architect and consultant fees	10,345.45	8,885.25
Printing, stationery, website	3,289.82	3,593.21
Utilities	7,262.28	7,754.67
Wages and annual leave accrual	89,483.53	91,936.04
Wages, oncosts, staff expenses	11,978.96	11,028.50
Total Expenditure	178,802.87	222,681.95

Operating Surplus (deficit)	(5,855.62)	65,129.69
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Buda Historic Home & Garden Inc.

Annual Statement Values

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2024

	This Year 2024	Last Year 2023
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bendigo Bank	55,725.91	43,730.11
Cash Floats	353.80	376.20
Bendigo Ethical Term Deposit	72,282.59	71,963.59
Sandhurst Select Mortgage Fund	111,796.22	109,296.22
Trade Debtors	4,654.43	3,529.97
Nursery Stock on hand	1,948.00	1,814.00
Shop Stock on hand	2,664.00	3,037.00
Fixed assets		
Plant & Equipment	72,781.15	72,781.15
Furniture & Fittings	57,246.47	57,246.47
Less Prov for Depreciation	(102,030.00)	(97,396.00)
Total Assets	277,422.57	266,378.71
Liabilities		
Bookings in advance	480.00	220.00
Trade Creditors	2,172.58	4,396.20
Gift Vouchers	200.63	100.63
Unexpended grants Cfwd	32,307.00	9,000.00
GST due to or (from) ATO	1,991.10	889.66
PAYG Withholding	2,146.00	3,301.99
Superannuation contributions	0.00	2,356.47
Provision for Annual and Long Service leave	16,002.03	15,068.00
Total Liabilities	55,299.34	35,332.95
Nett Assets	222,123.23	231,045.76
Equity		
Opening balance	198,958.76	133,829.07
Deferred Income	29,020.00	32,087.00
Net operating surplus/Deficit	(5,855.53)	65,129.69
Total net equity	222,123.23	231,045.76

Buda Historic Home & Garden Inc.

Annual Statement Values

Cash Flow for the year to 30 June 2024

	This Year 2024	Last Year 2023
Cash Flows from Operations		
Receipts from patrons, venue hire and clients	157,468.90	262,133.43
Grants and employment subsidies	45,452.09	67,225.82
Decrease(Increase) in receivables	(1,124.46)	4,227.63
Increase (decrease) in liabilities	17,315.16	7,696.03
Payments to suppliers	(108,104.82)	(160,493.96)
Wages , salaries and associated costs	(101,462.49)	(102,964.54)
Nett cash flows from operations	9,544.38	77,824.40
Cash flows on tangible assets		
Grants and special purpose donations		
Plant and equipment purchases	0.00	(17,131.19)
Improvements to the premises		
Nett cash flows in relation to tangible assets	0.00	(17,131.19)
Cash flows - financing		
Interest Income	5,248.02	2,670.04
Nett cash flows from financing	5,248.02	2,670.04
Opening balance, cash	225,366.12	162,002.86
Closing balance, cash	240,158.52	225,366.12
Nett change in cash	14,792.40	63,363.26



Mother's Day 2024

Buda Historic Home & Garden Inc.

ABN 53 208 103 038

Financial Report for the year to 30 June 2024

1. General Information

Chairperson Bronwyn Rudolph
Secretary Patricia Grumont
Treasurer George Milford
Committee: Colin Tracey, Christine Lloyd, Peter Lukaitis, Faye Shortal, Mandy Leveratt, Peter Weston (part year)

2. Principal Activities

- The activities of the Incorporated Association are set out in its statement of purposes;-
- To operate the Historic Home and Garden known as "Buda" of 42 Hunter Street, Castlemaine in the State of Victoria as a Public Museum and Public Art Gallery
- To administer the said Historic Home & Garden for the general benefit of the public of the State of Victoria
- To develop, maintain, restore, research, preserve and exhibit the various works and collections of Ernest Leviny and his family including home, chattels, goods, silverwork, paintings, gardens and surrounds
- To promote and encourage the education of the public in heritage, art craft and horticulture.

There were no significant changes in the nature of the activities during the financial year.

3. Review of Financial Operations

The operating result for the year was a deficit of \$5,855.62 (previous year surplus \$65,130).

The prior year surplus included non-recurring bequests. This accounts for the lower level of 'donations.'

Other revenues were impacted by the economic situation, but largely kept in check by reduced operational costs.

The committee thanks the staff, friends, volunteers, donors and supporters for their efforts on behalf of the community's much-valued heritage property.

4. Review of Financial Position

The cash position of the Association at 30th June 2024 was \$240,158 (compared to \$225,366 at the 2023 balance date)

5. Significant changes in the state of affairs

In the opinion of the Committee there were no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Incorporated Association that occurred during the financial year under review not otherwise disclosed in this report.

6. Matters Subsequent to the end of the Financial Year

There is no matter or circumstance which has arisen since 1st July 2024 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect, the Association's operations in future years, the result of the Association's operations in future years or the Association's situation in future financial years.

7. Environmental Regulation

The entity is not subject to significant environmental regulation in relation to its activities.

8. Related Party Transactions

As is the customary practice of all who desire the ongoing operation of Buda as a heritage-listed tourist destination/community asset, members of the committee and their families, from time to time,

- make donations to the entity,
- provide voluntary, honorary and professional services to the entity, gratis.
- are reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses incurred for the benefit of the entity.

The Committee has studied guidance notes issued by Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission and, in accordance with that guidance, understands that the above listed related party transactions are not reportable as they do not substantially influence the entity's decisions or activities.

No material contracts involving members of the Committee were entered into since the end of the previous year or existed at the end of the financial year.

Buda Historic Home & Garden Inc.

ABN 53 208 103 038

Financial Report for the year to 30 June 2024

Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

1. Basis of Preparation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commissions Act, the Associations Incorporation (Reform) Act and in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board. The Association is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise.

These financial reports have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on historical costs. The financial report is a consolidated financial report incorporating the activities of the incorporated association and its ancillary fund, the Buda Historic Home and Garden Foundation. The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period, have been adopted in preparation of these financial reports.

2. Property, Plant and Equipment.

The financial reports exclude the value of land, buildings and the collection as these assets are owned by the Trustees of the Castlemaine Art Gallery & Historical Museum Foundation. Expenditure, by the entity, on improvements to the premises has been written off as an expense in the period when the asset or improvement was acquired. Plant and equipment and furniture and fittings acquired by the entity have been depreciated over the useful lives of the assets commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Class of Asset	Rate of Depreciation.
Computer equipment	33%
Garden Equipment	33%
Furniture and fixtures	10%
Office Equipment	10%
Shipping Container	5%
Blinds	5%

At the end of each reporting period, the entity assesses whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. The assessment will include the consideration of external and internal sources of information. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less cost to sell and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognized immediately in profit or loss, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount in accordance with another Standard.

3. (A) Critical Accounting Estimates

The Committee evaluates estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the company. Estimates and judgements are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimates are revised and in any future periods affected. The estimates and judgements that have a significant risk of causing material adjustments to the carrying values of assets and liabilities are as follows:

The entity determines the estimated useful lives and related depreciation and amortisation charges for its property, plant and equipment and intangible assets (if any) The depreciation and amortisation charge will increase where useful lives are less than previously estimated lives.

3. (B) Employee Benefits

The Financial Reports include the entity's liabilities in connection with employment of curatorial and other staff. These liabilities have been measured at the amounts, including oncosts, expected to be paid if the liability was to have been settled within twelve months of the end of the financial year.

3. (C) Grant Funding

Grant revenue is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt. If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before it is eligible to receive the contribution, the recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until any such conditions are satisfied.

3. (D) Investments

Investments are valued at Cost. Interest income is recognized as earned.

3. (E) Inventories

Inventories of merchandise and nursery stock are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

3. (F) Receivables

The receivables at reporting date have been reviewed to determine whether there is any objective evidence that any of the receivables are impaired. An impairment provision is included for any receivable where the entire balance is not considered collectible. The impairment provision (if any) is based on the best information available at the reporting date.

4 Tax

The entity is a registered charity under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act and is exempt from the payment of income tax under the Australian Income Tax Act 1997. Revenues and expenses are recognized nett of the amount of GST except where the amount of GST is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognized as part of the item of expense.



Kate in the Hunter St garden bed


Statement by the Committee in relation to the Financial Reports

In the opinion of the Committee;

(a) The Financial Report of Buda Historic Home & Garden Inc presents a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30th June 2024 its performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date

(b) At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the entity will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by

 (Signature)

President (Position)

 (Signature)

Secretary (Position)

Date of signing 12th August 2024



The garden team refurbishing the Hunter St garden bed

Annual Report House 2023–2024

Firstly, thank you to all the volunteers who work with such dedication and enthusiasm in the house collections management, maintenance, preservation, and curation areas of Buda: Anita Martess, Bronwyn Rudolph, Chris Lloyd, Chris Wheat, Christine Wakefield, Clive Willman, Colin Tracey, Denise Whelan, Diane Linton, Elizabeth Beck, Faye Shortal, Jennie Collins, Jennifer Tracey, Kerry Anderson, Margaret Callister, Pam Connell, Pat Grumont, Peter Lukaitis, Mandy Leveratt, and Sabina Huggins. Your indefatigable commitment to the cause is inspiring, valued, and greatly appreciated. Thank you to Robin Walls and Andrew Harvey who do a brilliant job keeping the house clean and presentable for our visitors. You have each had a role in keeping the house and its collections safe and accessible throughout this financial year, and together your work behind the scenes ensured Buda remained open to the public during the six months between House Curators.

July – November 2023

Meredith Blake (former House Curator) initiated many projects during her tenure at Buda and was successfully awarded numerous grants prior to her resignation in November 2023. The following projects have continued throughout the FY 23/24 thanks to Meredith's initiative and funding successes;

1. Significance Assessment of the House Collection (Community Heritage Grant through National Library of Australia). Currently being undertaken by former House Curator, Lauretta Zilles. It was lovely to meet Lauretta during her Significance Assessment site visit in May, and we look forward to reading her report, due October 2024.
2. Renovation of the tennis pavilion, garage, and aviaries (Copland Foundation grant) with building works scheduled to take place in October/ November 2024.
3. Collection Digitisation Program (grant already acquitted in previous FY for the purchase of equipment and training. This has enabled ongoing digitization of the collection). Special thanks to Mandy Leveratt, Pam Connell, Faye Shortal, and Sabina Huggins from the digitisation team, and Diane Linton and Denise Whelan from the collections management and conservation team.

December 2023 – May 2024

Diane Linton took on the role of Honorary House Curator for the six months between Dec 2023 and May 2024. Throughout this time, Diane continued with cataloging the collection, conservation cleaning, and preparing items for digitisation. In addition, Diane and Chris Lloyd mounted beautiful displays highlighting the works of Dorothy Leviny and Ursula Ridley Walker. Thank you, Diane and Chris, for your beautiful work.

In the interim period between House Curators, the kitchen was reopened to the public. This has added greatly to the visitor experience. It spurs us on towards reopening other sections of the house that are currently closed on account of our museum requiring spaces for reception, offices, collection storage, archives, and the resource library. Opening the whole house, of course, is the long-term goal! In the meantime, the kitchen re-opening has been received enthusiastically by staff and visitors alike. However, the kitchen is not yet at the level of presentation that Buda aspires to, and we are very grateful to Diane Linton for her generous donation that will enable us to resurface the kitchen floor. Thank you to Colin Tracey, Andrew Harvey and Michael Freeman for cleaning, restoring, and installing the original gas stove for display.

Buda has also received a generous bequest that will enable us to restage and reopen the Studio/ Sunroom. Research for this project has commenced, including scientific analysis on paint scrapings carried out by the Grimwade Centre for Conservation through assistance from the Stoneman Foundation. This research will enable colour-matching of the wall paint. Similarly, thanks to the Stoneman Foundation, Grimwade carried out analysis of the glass panels in the Reception door. We look forward to the renovation and restoration of these panels in FY 24/25.

In September we activated our new database, Presto Works, which replaces DBText. The new database has a separate file for photographs and, thanks to a generous donor, a second user licence too, making access to item records easier.

May - June 2024

In May 2024, I was appointed the new House Curator for Buda. I look forward to signing off on existing projects and launching new ones in due course. It is an exciting and productive time to be at Buda. Joy and a sense of community abound! I am grateful to have landed here and to be sharing this journey with the Buda Brains Trust, that is Buda's Volunteers, Committee of Management and Staff. I am grateful to each of you for your warm welcome and assistance in settling into the role. It has made for a smooth transition. My first six weeks (to EOFY 30/6/24) were very full and life at Buda continues in that vein!

Sarah Frazer House Curator



White Cockatoo - Coloured Lino Cut by Ursula Ridley Walker

Annual Report Garden 2023-2024

Firstly, I would like to say what a wonderful experience it has been to complete my first complete financial year period here at Buda. What a fantastic group of people, from all of the parts of the organization that make up the strong whole that Buda represents. Whether it is the more regular interactions I have with the Garden team on a weekly basis, the opportunity to chat with House and Administration volunteers, working with our dedicated Committee of Management on both the smaller day to day concerns of running Buda and looking at ways we can bring our Master Plan to reality, it has all been refreshingly enriching and engaging. I will never get sick of having any small morsel brought to my attention that may inform works within the garden, with the rich history of Buda and the Leveny family I find everything is well worth looking at. I would also like to express the ease and joy I find in working with my fellow staff members Viv and Sarah, both being great communicators, ever positive and creative in their approach and ideas, thank you and I am looking forward to the next 12 months.

While I am somewhat hesitant to single out the efforts of any one individual volunteer, things are kept going and progressed by everyone's contributions from people who help cover summer watering, look after our precious aviary birds, come in on a Friday morning to perform a final rake and tidy around the house ahead of the weekends and the higher and vital visitation that they bring, through to those that are able to pitch in on a more regular basis on our Monday and Tuesday gardening days. I find with a lot of aspects of Buda that every little part that makes up the whole are just as significant as the whole itself. This being said I would like to take the opportunity to highlight two such parts. Firstly a huge thank you Mark Wakeham who, along with other contributions, comes in every Tuesday to hook up our trailer full of garden trimming and take it off for green waste disposal and, of recently, take our container deposit scheme bins when they are full off to cash in. I would also like to acknowledge Jane Elliot, a valued member of the Tuesday gardening team.

Not only does Jane turn up on a regular basis she also often arrives with a ute load of manure, either from her two pet cows or purchased from the side of the road. This provides us with some of the vital ingredients for our compost making. As I am sure the gardeners out there would readily know the Central Victorian goldfields are not overly blessed with soil resources, our onsite compost production is one of the most important things we can do to give any planting the best start and when used as topdressing help give any garden bed a lift.

While the earnings for our little plant nursery fell short of our projections, I still find some solace in the fact that out-going expenses were kept reasonably low. I think there were a number of factors that contributed to this. Weather is always at play when it comes to plant sales. This year we had a dry start to spring, the Bureau of Meteorology had predicted a long hot, dry summer. This is what I was expecting and stocked the nursery accordingly. As it turned out our summer was another with above average rainfall (sometimes maybe a bit too much all at once) so there may have been some opportunity to bring in some more vital funds for Buda. Other factors are things like the state of our interest rates, the cost of living crisis and, as these things often dent consumer confidence, the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and Gaza cannot be discounted. While I would much rather be on the tools in the garden, I do like looking at the numbers, identifying patterns and looking where we might find opportunity to get a bit closer to our goal. One thing that is reasonably apparent is sales are greater where we have a known influx in visitors above what might be expected with the general walk-ins. This is most strongly illustrated by the numbers provided during November when we have our annual Traditional Arts Fair. With this in mind I will work with events within Buda's Public Programs and pre-booked large tour groups to help increase sales in the coming financial year.

On the subject of Public Programs, I would like to say how much I enjoy being part of our Public Programs sub-committee. It is always a positive experience with the members working together and thinking creatively in the search for events we can add to the Buda calendar that can provide our visitors with a meaningful experience that also fits snugly under Buda's mission and themes. On the garden front I was exceptionally pleased with the winter Garden Ramble with its talk by Stephen Ryan on the botanical art of Ellis Rohan. The day was well attended, the tireless Buda volunteers provided a wonderful hot soup lunch (perfect for what was a cold winter day) and I never find it hard to talk about the garden, its history and our hopes and dreams in view of revitalization works. Everyone in attendance seemed well pleased with the day, I think I personally get as much from the walk and talk in the garden as anyone who comes along, finding that in communicating these things, it makes me think about them differently, both edifying thoughts and knowledge as well as allowing different perspectives. As I was so happy with the day I thought it provided a fantastic blueprint to expand these Garden Rambles to four a year, once per season, under the same format. I am also very happy that we have locked in the Spring Ramble with Penny Woodward coming in to discuss heirloom tomatoes with a look at the different phyto-nutrients present in different coloured fruit. For anyone who hasn't had the opportunity to hear or read Penny what I will say is not only is she extremely knowledgeable but also very thorough.

Other activities and achievements in the garden this past year include the identification and treatment of *Cinara cupressivora*, commonly named Cypress aphid. These little pests had taken up residence within the great hedge and had begun to cause considerable dieback. I am happy to say that they no longer seem to be present but I will re-apply the treatment leading into spring when they are likely to become active again to be on the safe side. Along with the day to day maintenance of keeping the paths and gravel areas as neat as we can manage, trying to keep on top of the lawns and all of the other regular tasks that go with an open garden like Buda, we did manage one reasonably significant revitalization project. We were able to address the bed that runs along the Hunter St side of the property. The reasons for me wanting to tackle this bed as my first real work in the garden is because there was nothing original of importance to the fabric of Buda, there happens to be some wonderful photos of the area dating from the very early 1900's that show it in a much finer state than it was with plants with a long flowering period, and it is where all of our visitors enter the site. This was a great project to work on with the volunteers and I really enjoyed making sure they were engaged with the different steps in the process as we went along.

Ryan Garratt
Garden Curator



Winter Garden Ramble with Ryan Garratt

Annual Report Administration & Communications 2023-2024

I have been with Buda almost 6 years now and it is so rewarding to work with the incredible people that make up this organisation; staff, committee and volunteers. It is my pleasure to fulfil my role and promote Buda as a professional organisation, key tourism attraction and museum of significance. Without the dedicated and tireless work of our volunteers, Buda would not remain open to the public and I thank them all. Special thanks from me must go to administration volunteers Andrea McKey, Marianne Day and Jennie Renfree, who help enormously with the day to day running of the office.

Vivienne Hamilton

Admin and Communications Manager

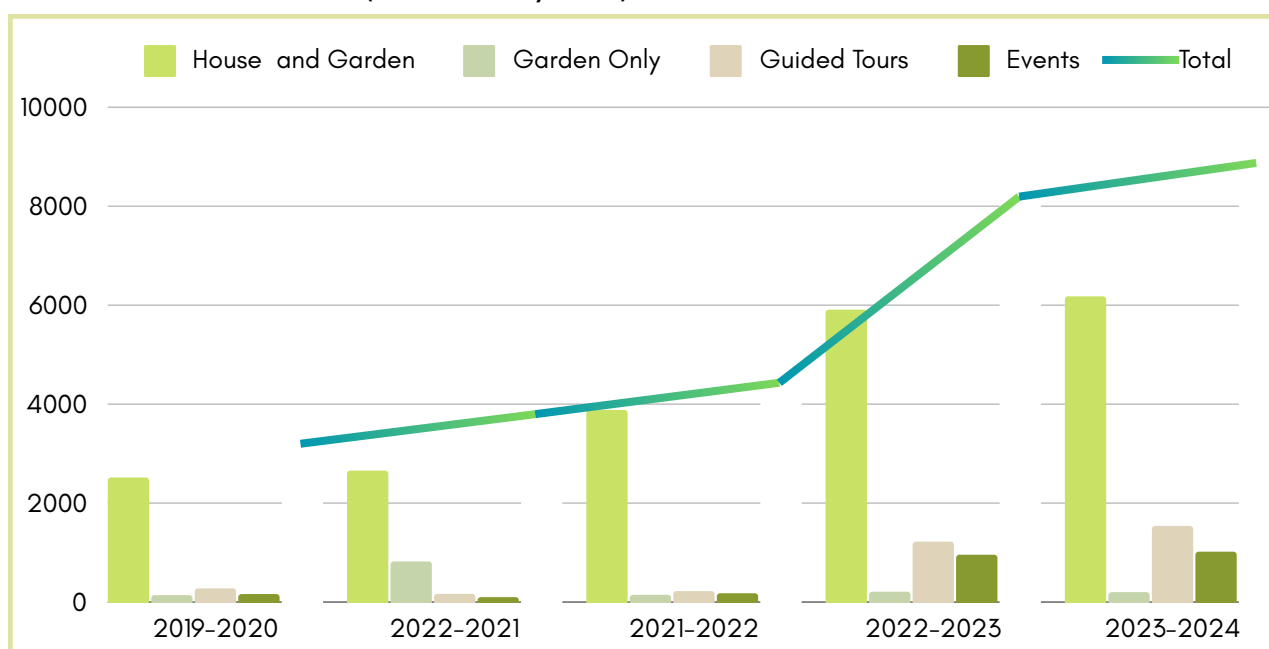
Visitation Statistics

Total Visitors 2023-2024												
	Single	Conc.	Child	Family	Garden	No. of Groups	No. in Groups	Locals Deal	FOB +1	Big4 deal	Total	2022-2023
Jul	106	131	13	20	18	0	0	2	12	0	302 ↓	319
Aug	118	134	5	80	3	3	64	5	4	0	413 ↑	260
Sep	120	223	3	44	84	7	214	6	22	2	718 ↑	660
Oct	103	253	4	40	89	7	152	8	10	2	661 ↑	594
Nov	138	239	5	40	18	8	111	4	1	2	558 ↓	672
Dec	143	146	9	64	14	0	0	1	1	0	378 ↓	426
Jan	188	187	11	88	7	1	30	3	6	0	520 ↓	528
Feb	71	99	0	24	6	1	20	0	0	0	220 ↓	324
Mar	134	240	6	16	8	5	168	5	7	0	584 ↑	529
April	181	242	18	72	16	4	110	4	4	0	647 ↓	713
May	113	222	0	20	29	6	144	2	2	0	532 ↓	849
June	132	114	4	24	30	6	219	1	6	0	530 ↑	355
Total	1546 ↑	2251 ↑	77 ↑	440 ↓	200 ↓	48 ↑	1539 ↑	43 ↓	79 ↓	4 ↓	6179 ↑	5910
2022-23	1417	2228	62	460	210	44	1221	130	112	6	5910	

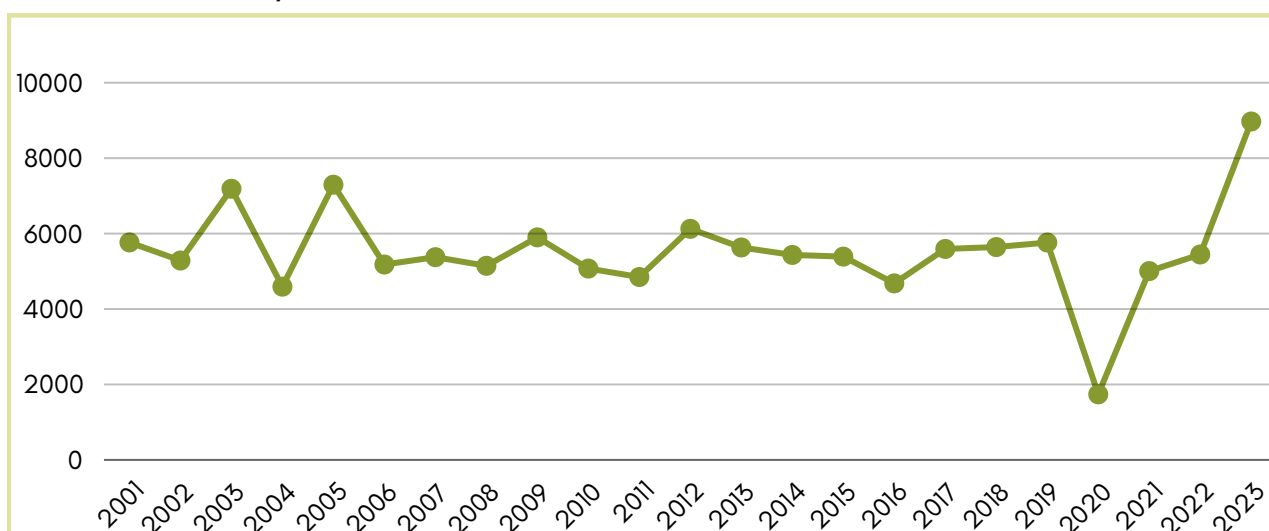
NB: Family = average 4pp

Visitation 2019-2023 (Calendar years)					
	2019-2020	2022-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
House and Garden	2,517	2,657	3,883	5910	6179 ↑
Garden Only	140	821	146	210	200
Guided Tours	277	165	221	1,221	1539 ↑
Events	162	99	178	957	1,018 ↑
Total	3,096	3,742	4,428	8,298	8,936 ↑
	Covid	In recovery			

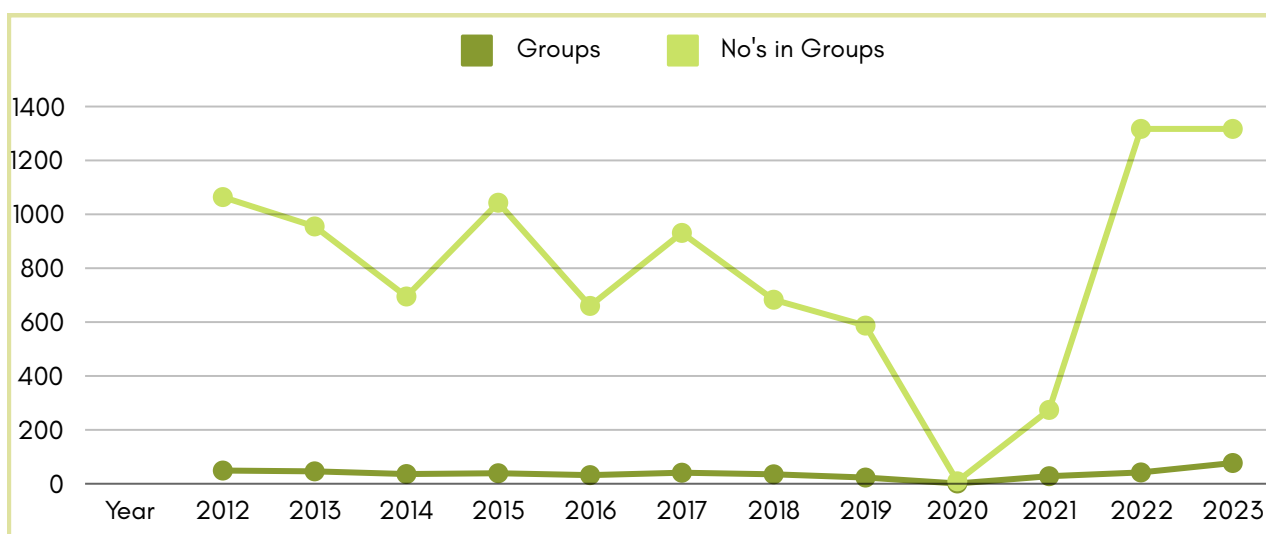
Visitation 2019-2023 (Calendar years)



Visitation Twenty+ Year trend



Tour Groups



Garden Room Visitors 2023-2024		
	Garden room numbers	Comparison 2022-2023
Jul	273	238
Aug	306	273
Sep	231	209
Oct	250	377
Nov	242	519
Dec	342	185
Jan	120	271
Feb	147	184
Mar	217	694 (Castlemaine State Festival)
April	268	396 (Castlemaine State Festival)
May	289	530 (2 Hungarian events)
June	112	225
Total	2797 ↓	4495

Membership

Friends of Buda

There are 211 current Friends of Buda members, (↓ from 253), 11 of whom are Life members. Friends of Buda receive a quarterly newsletter, free entry for themselves and friend year round, special invitations to events and discounts on events, the nursery and giftshop.

Corporate Members

Corporate members remain only The Mill Castlemaine. We thank them for their continued support. The Hungarian Ambassador His Excellency Mr. Zsolt Csenger-Zalán and the Embassy of Hungary are complimentary corporate members.

Community and Education Group memberships

Buda offers annual membership to local community groups that provides a reliable funding stream through the membership fees and regular venue hire. (Reduced rate for venue hire offered) Community & Education Group members in 2023-2024:

Embroiderers Guild of Victoria – Castlemaine, Castlemaine and District Garden Club, The Festival of Gardens, Frances Gall Violin in conjunction with CSC, Goldfields Roses and Garden Group, Dugald McLellan Italian Lunch Group, The Criterion Club, The Victorian Hungarian Council and The Hungarian Literature & Cultural Heritage Society.

Locals deal

Buda offers free entrance to residents of the shire if they bring a paying out of town customer. In this way we are encouraging the continual revisit of our local community. This offer has been extended to Big4 Castlemaine customers as a co-marketing initiative.

Volunteers

Buda currently has 108 registered volunteers that volunteer across a range of areas including Committee of Management, reception, tour guiding, collection management, gardening and maintenance, events and administration. The garden team consists of 25 volunteers across 2.5 days and the reception team has 17 members who keep Buda open to the public 7 days per week.

Buda could not continue without the huge input of volunteers. The average hours spent by each of the 108 volunteers over the course of a year is 73 hours each, but it is worth noting that special events volunteers may only come in once or twice a year. Estimated average committee hours are 86 each per year, average garden volunteer hours are 110 per year and average reception hours are 88 each per year. We thank every one of them for their valued contribution.

Volunteer hours 2023-2024

Month	Admin	Collection	Aviary & House Cleaning & Maintenance	HOT	Gardening	Special Projects	Reception	Tour Guides	Committee
July	38	33	5	10	229	2	147	12	65
August	63	136	232	19	6	13	143	5	65
September	36	3	4	9	261	20	133	9	65
October	73	21	5	8	242	60	143	16	65
November	80	29	2	13	242	1026	133	12	65
December	57	29	8	4	193	12	126	0	65
January	0	27	2	6	258	29	137	4	65
February	56	29	3	5	226	34	123	11	65
March	55	13	3	18	217	18	142	2	65
April	60	36	3	16	240	9	136	11	65
May	65	41	2	15	229	12	138	12	65
June	58	34	3	11	283	56	136	7	65
Subtotals	642	430	272	134	2626	1289	1637	98	780
Total	7908 Average 73 hours each per year x 108 volunteers								

NB: Special projects includes the Traditional Arts Fair. Committee hours are an average across all members

Public Programs

Buda operates an annual schedule of public programs that reflect our Statement of Purpose: *promote and encourage the education of the public in heritage, art, craft and horticulture.*

Exhibitions are also crucial to upholding the Buda Statement of Purpose, creating greater engagement and encouraging repeat visitation: *develop, maintain, restore, research, preserve and exhibit the various works and collections of the Leviny family.*

Talks, workshops, demonstrations and seminars are presented relating to history, conservation, the arts, collections and horticulture. These are either stand-alone events or sometimes linked with social events such as Buda High Teas, the Josine McEwan Annual Lecture and Dinner etc. which are always well attended by both local and outside community members.

The Events and Exhibition Program 2023-2024:

- **19 November 2023** Traditional Arts Fair
- **21 January 2024** Costumed Life Drawing with Bridget Farmer in the house and grounds
- **18 February 2024** Costumed Life Drawing with Bridget Farmer in the house and grounds
- **24 March 2024** Costumed Life Drawing with Bridget Farmer in the house and grounds
- **April - May** National Trust Heritage Festival. Creation of walking/driving tour of significant Leviny connections in Castlemaine
- **21 April 2024** Costumed Life Drawing with Bridget Farmer in the house and grounds
- **12 May 2024** Mother's Day Afternoon Tea: Chris Lloyd talk on Louie Riggall and Jessie Traill
- **22 June 2024** Ramble and Rowan with the Ryans: Winter Garden ramble with Ryan Garratt, hot soup lunch and talk by Stephen Ryan on the botanical art of Ellis Rowan.

Traditional Arts Fair

Buda's Traditional Arts Fair on Sunday November 19th, 2023 from 10am till 4pm showcased traditional arts, cooking and gardening in as many and varied forms as possible, in the spirit of the Leviny daughters.

Traditional Arts Fair 2023 - The Figures				
	INCOME	EXPENSES	PARTICIPANTS	2022
BBO/LAKSA	\$2,660.00	\$798.20		
TOILETS		\$310.00		
DONATIONS	\$2,000.00			
GATE ENTRANCE	\$4,359.15		872	741
BOOKING FEES		\$4.16		
MUSICIANS		\$400.00		
NURSERY	\$1,534.65	\$0.00		
PRODUCE	\$5,907.30	\$171.77		
RAFFLE	\$1,324.00			
TEAROOM	\$2,045.60	\$85.40		
TOURS	\$250.00			
GIFTSHOP	\$30.00			
MAKE 'N TAKE	\$90.00			
STALL FEES	\$1,200.00			
Bank Fees		\$118.90		
Marketing/Printing		\$2,002.00		
Crew		\$32.67		
TOTALS	\$21,400.70	\$3,923.10		
Profit 2023		\$17,477.60		\$15,341.71

Marketing

Tourism Marketing Memberships & Partnerships

Tourism marketing partnerships remain crucial for Buda to stay connected to shire and state level tourism marketing opportunities.

While expensive to sustain, these marketing partnerships are vital to maintain a presence in the key visitor information centres and Visitor Guides throughout Central Victoria and Melbourne, plus allow access to subsidized marketing workshops and networking opportunities. Current Tourism body memberships 2023-2024 include:

- Tourism Victoria
- Bendigo Tourism
- Mount Alexander Shire Marketing Partnership
- Daylesford Macedon Ranges Tourism

Buda continues to raise its profile through quality professional marketing produced inhouse to save costs. Media spend is selective and favours tourism publications, local media, social media and select Heritage publications. Buda also encourages positive word of mouth from all its volunteers, partners and stakeholders.

“Council values Buda Historic Home and Garden as a key delivery partner in sustaining and supporting cultural, social and economic outcomes in our shire.”

The Mount Alexander Shire continues to actively promote Buda through its visitor information centre and inclusion in tourism events and media famils. We thank the Council very much for their support.

Email and Social Media

Our combined email and social media database of over 6551 people continues to build engagement. Some examples of feedback are:

Google 5 stars: Tania Hammond

Local Guide•54 reviews•124 photos

2 months ago

Beautiful house, volunteer staff are very informative and helpful.

They were having a live drawing session on the gardens,the models dressed up in their best vintage outfits.

Wonderful history, recommended 🍷

Tripadvisor 4 stars: Mark L.

Knowledgeable tour guide

Jan 2024 • Couples

Very interesting wander around learning about the family that owned this place for 118 years. Very crafty and some amazing pieces on show.

Email: Lucinda Fraser, Support Practitioner, Very Special Kids

Sept 2023

Thanks so much for helping us with our remembrance day on Sunday. The families all really enjoyed the peaceful location and food. Lela, one of the 8 year olds who attended asked me to tell you “please tell the chef that she is THE Best Cook Ever!” Imagine him enthusiastically saying this with scones and jam in his mouth for the full joyful effect 😊

Venue hire

After a rapid rise in event hire in the Garden Room in 2022–2023 post Covid, it has plateaued again. I believe this is likely due to the cost of living crisis, plus the previous year saw a large increase due to several events (see chart in visitation).

The Buda Garden Room continues to be used for a multitude of purposes from Buda itself for events, to community groups holding workshops or meetings, corporate workshops and seminars, private lecture and lunch events, funerals and memorials to parties and weddings.

Venue hire has a set fee schedule, however there are community groups who attract negotiated prices, such as the Castlemaine Embroiderers Guild. In return these groups are expected to maintain a community membership and cut maintenance costs by doing their own cleaning etc.

Tour groups also use the garden room for their catered lunches or morning/afternoon teas. They do not pay a venue hire fee, but pay a guided tour fee of \$9 per person, plus a tour package catering fee. Buda also takes a profit margin on tour groups catering of 40%.

Frequency of use of course varies from month to month but a typical month would be as below:

Day	Date	Event	Tour only no catering	Who	Numbers	Cost
Wednesday	1-May	Dugald Lecture series		Dugald McLellan	30	\$280 per day
Thursday	2 May	Workshop		Embroiderer's Guild subgroup	15	\$60
Friday	3-May	Conference with catering		Kosmac and Clemens	30pp	\$1,565
Sunday	5/5	Tour	Tour only	Malaysian Specialist teachers	5-6pp	\$54.00
Monday	6/5	Northern Books event		Northern Books	40pp	\$275
Tuesday	7 May	Violin lessons		Frances Gall	15pp	\$60
Wednesday	9 May	Lunch Celebration		Robin Freeman and Rob Blackburn	46pp	\$400
Sunday	12 May	Mother's day afternoon tea		BUDA	40	
Tuesday	14 May	Tour	Tour only	Torquay Zeally Bay Probus Club	37pp	\$333
Wednesday	15 May	Tour and morning tea		Gladstone Park Probus	44 + 1 staff FOC	\$640
Friday	17 May	Tour	Tour only	Heathcote Health Social Support Group	12 + 2 staff FOC	\$108
Saturday	18 May	Tour	Tour only	Expanding Horizons	35pp + 2FOC	\$315
Tuesday	21 May	Violin lessons		Frances Gall	15pp	\$60
Wednesday	22 May	Dinner		Criterion Club	15pp	\$130
Sunday	26 May	Your and lunch		East Burwood Travel,	27pp + 2FOC	\$810
Monday	27 May	Conference with catering		Nexus Advantage	11pp	\$669
Wednesday	29 May	Workshop		Embroiderers Guild	15pp	\$60

Donors 2023-2024

(Over \$100 acknowledged)

General

Deirdre Gowan
Tom and Dorothy Minchin
Chris Wheat
George Milford
Diane Linton
Bob Cameron and Alison Hogan
Grumont Family

Christine Lloyd
Anonymous
Jean Dowie
John Kalman
Marianne Day
Algis Kingston
Marion Downe

Diana Iskra
Rena Geroe
Margaret McCready
Nola McKinnon
Jane Goodrich

Garden

Goldfields Roses and Garden Group
Beverly and Anthony Knight
John and Bronwyn Rudolph
Max Kay

Traditional Arts Fair

Andrea McKey
Diane Linton
Sam Grumont
Duang Tengtrirat
Rae McPhee

Grant Providers 2023-2024

Grant	Description	Amount received
National Library of Victoria	Significance Assessment	\$ 7758
Copland Foundation	Outbuildings conservation	\$ 29,039
	1st instalment	
Mount Alexander Shire Council	Operational Funding	\$12,500



BUDA HISTORIC HOME & GARDEN INC

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday August 15th 2023
4pm

MINUTES

1.0 **Present:** Chris Lloyd, Ryan Garratt, Maurie Ryan, Tom Comerford, Helen McLean, Christine Wakefield, Clive Willman, Mandy Lereratt, Diane Frape-Linton, Vivienne Hamilton, Louise Smith, Jenifer Tracey, George Milford, Meredith Blake, Max Kay, John Rudolph, Pat Grumont, Faye Shortal, Julie King, Sam Grumont

1.2 **Apologies:** Steve and Sue Prove, Clive Allen, Mary Davidson, Liz Beck, Claire Bayliss, Suzanne Savona, Teeshia Fitzgerald, Judith Staude, Jean Dowie, Marianne Downe, Christobel Comerford, Peter Lukaitis, Elizabeth Eager

2.0 Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting 16th August 2022

MOTION: that the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting as tabled be received and passed

Moved Bronwyn Rudolph *Seconded* Diane Linton

3.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes: Nil

4.0 Presentation of Reports (as seen in the Annual Report document)

4.1 President's Report

Bronwyn spoke to her report adding a special thankyou to Claire Bayliss, who is retiring from the committee, for her work on the committee and everywhere else at buda since 1988

4.2 Financial Report

4.3 House Curator's Report

4.4 Garden Curator's Report

4.5 Administration Report

5.0 Motions Arising from the Presentation of Reports

MOTION: that the President's Report be accepted

Moved Tom Comerford *Seconded* Diane Linton

MOTION: that the Financial Statement of Buda Historic Home & Garden Inc. 1/7/'22 to 30/6/'23 be received.

Moved George Milford *Seconded* Max Kay

MOTION: that all other Reports be accepted

Moved Bronwyn Rudolph *Seconded* Faye Shortal

MOTION: that the annual fee be set at the same fee as Friends of Buda

Moved Pat Grumont *Seconded* Chris Lloyd

MOTION: That sincerest gratitude be expressed to Meredith Blake, Carol Henderson, Vivienne Hamilton, Ryan Garratt and Andrew Harvey for their hard work and dedication over the last twelve months.

Moved Colin Tracey *Seconded* Bronwyn Rudolph

6.0 Election of Committee Members

Bronwyn then called for nominations for 5 vacancies for a term of office for 2 years expiring in 2025.

George Milford, nominated by Bronwyn Rudolph seconded by Colin Tracey

Mandy Leveratt nominated by Christine Lloyd seconded by Faye Shortal

Faye Shortal, nominated by Bronwyn Rudolph seconded by Pat Grumont

Colin Tracey, nominated by Pat Grumont seconded by Bronwyn Rudolph

There being no further nominations all were declared elected for the term of 2 years (2025)

7.0 General Business: Nil

Meeting closed: 4.35

George Milford provided a very informative talk on

The History of Duneira at Mount Macedon and its comparison to Buda

BUDA HISTORIC HOME & GARDEN INC
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday August 19th 2024

4pm

AGENDA

1.0 Present:

1.2 Apologies:

2.0 Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting 15th August 2023

MOTION: that the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting as tabled be received and passed

Moved

Seconded

3.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes:

4.0 Presentation of Reports (as seen in the Annual Report document)

4.1 President's Report

4.2 Financial Report

4.3 House Curator's Report

4.4 Garden Curator's Report

4.5 Administration Report

5.0 Motions Arising from the Presentation of Reports

MOTION: that the President's Report be accepted

Moved

Seconded

MOTION: that the Financial Statement of Buda Historic Home & Garden Inc. 1/7/'23 to 30/6/'24 be received.

Moved

Seconded

MOTION: that all other Reports be accepted

Moved

Seconded

MOTION: that the annual fee be set at the same fee as Friends of Buda

Moved

Seconded

MOTION: That sincerest gratitude be expressed to Meredith Blake, Sarah Frazer, Vivienne Hamilton, Ryan Garratt, Robin Walls and Andrew Harvey for their hard work and dedication over the last twelve months.

Moved

Seconded

6.0 Election of Committee Members

Call for nominations for 5 vacancies for a term of office of up to two years expiring in 2026

Vacating Positions (all eligible to re-nominate) Bronwyn Rudolph, Peter Lukaitis, Pat Grumont, Christine Lloyd

7.0 General Business:

Meeting closed:

Speaker

First Ladies of Castlemaine Art Museum

Sarah Frazer, House Curator



We thank you for your ongoing support of Buda



August 2024

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