



PLANT  
TRUST

(GPCAA Incorporated)  
A0017946R

*Annual Report 2025-26*

*&*

*Notice of 2026  
Annual General Meeting*

to be held on

Wednesday 21 October 2026 at 7pm  
Domain House, Dallas Brooks Drive, South Yarra VIC 3141

Plant Trust (GPCAA Inc.)  
C/- Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne  
Birdwood Avenue  
South Yarra VIC 3141



Garden Plant Conservation Association of Australia Inc.  
(GPCAA Inc.) known as **Plant Trust**  
Incorporation Registration Number A0017946R  
(ABN 17 035 716 441) as the

C/- Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne  
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Australia  
[contact@planttrust.org.au](mailto:contact@planttrust.org.au)  
[www.planttrust.org.au](http://www.planttrust.org.au)

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### *Notice is hereby given*

That the 2026 Annual General Meeting of Plant Trust (GPCAA Inc.) will be held on Wednesday 21 October 2026 at 7pm in Domain House, Dallas Brooks Drive, South Yarra, Victoria 3141.

### *Agenda*

1. Meeting Open & Welcome – President, Stephen Ryan
2. Proxies & Apologies – Admin. Officer, Damian Nieuwesteeg
3. Confirmation of Minutes – President, Stephen Ryan  
*Confirmation of Minutes of the 2025 AGM held on September 11, 2025*
4. President's Report – Stephen Ryan  
*To receive and adopt the 2025-26 President's Report*
5. Treasurer's Report – Deborah Crellin  
*To receive and adopt the 2025-26 Treasurer's Report*
6. Vote on Special Resolution seeking Amendment to Article 6.3 of the Constitution
  - i. **Article 6.3 currently reads:** *Members joining after 1st January of a financial year will be deemed a member until the end of the next financial year.*
  - ii. **Proposed amendment:** *Members joining after 1st April of a financial year will be deemed a member until the end of the next financial year.*
7. Election of Office Bearers – Admin. Officer, Damian Nieuwesteeg  
*Receipt of nominations for the following positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Administrative Officer*
8. Election of Ordinary Committee Members – Admin. Officer, Damian Nieuwesteeg  
*Receipt of nominations for up to eight ordinary committee positions, including at least two professional horticulturalists and at least two members who hold a collection registered by the Association.*
9. Meeting Close – President, Stephen Ryan

By order of the Committee of Management  
**Dale Simpson**, Secretary  
Dated: 2 October 2026



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### *Program for Wednesday 21 October 2026*

|               |                                                                  |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6:30pm        | Cheese and wine reception, and delivery and inspection of plants |
| <b>7:00pm</b> | <b>Annual General Meeting</b>                                    |
| 7:30pm        | Rare & Unusual Plant Auction with MC Stephen Ryan                |
| 8:45pm        | Raffle drawn                                                     |
| 9:00pm        | Close                                                            |

### *Donations to the Rare & Unusual Plant Auction and Raffle*

Plant Trust's annual Rare and Unusual Plant Auction and Raffle are key fundraising activities for the organisation. Donations of rare and unusual plants, gardening tools, books and related items are greatly appreciated. To arrange a donation, please contact our Administrative Officer, Damian Nieuwesteeg, with details of the item.

Please note: due to the presence of Myrtaceae rust in Australia, specimens from the Myrtaceae family must not be brought into the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne.



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## *President's Report*

As Plant Trust marks its 40th year, we have continued to encourage the conservation of garden plants and promote community awareness of the value of living plant collections. This has also been a year of renewed energy for the organisation, reflected in stronger membership, more active communication with members, and continued progress in programs that recognise the importance of conserving cultivated plant diversity.

The Committee has remained focused on supporting registered collection holders, strengthening member engagement and ensuring Plant Trust remains a practical and trusted voice for garden plant conservation.

I thank the members of the Management Committee, especially our Administrative Officer, Damian Nieuwesteeg, and all volunteers who have contributed their time and expertise throughout the year. Their commitment sustains Plant Trust's activities and provides essential support to our members and collection holders.

The progress outlined elsewhere in this report demonstrates what can be achieved when members, collection holders and volunteers share their knowledge and enthusiasm. It also underlines the importance of building on that momentum: encouraging more people to value living plant collections, supporting those who care for them, and ensuring that Plant Trust remains visible, practical and relevant to the wider horticultural community.

The coming year will provide further opportunities to build participation, support collection holders and share knowledge across the horticultural community. As we begin the next stage of Plant Trust's work, I look forward to continuing this momentum with our members and supporters, and to welcoming more people into the shared work of conserving, understanding and enjoying garden plants.

Yours,

**Stephen Ryan**  
President



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## *Year in Review*

Over the past financial year, the support of Plant Trust members has helped turn renewed momentum into measurable growth, broader engagement and stronger foundations for our future work. We have:

- i. **grown our membership** by over 100%, increasing from 56 members in 2024–25 to 120 members in 2025–26
- ii. reviewed **registered collections** and laid the groundwork for the registration of five additional collections
- iii. published four bumper editions of the member-only quarterly publication **Genus**
- iv. shared more than a dozen editions of our **eNews bulletin**, keeping members informed and connected
- v. strengthened our presence on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and now [Instagram](#), with our Facebook content generating 27,650+ views and 585+ interactions — a 240% increase on the previous year
- vi. hosted **garden tours**, including our end-of-year celebration in the Yarra Valley, which was attended by more than 50 guests
- vii. promoted the **events and activities of affiliated organisations** and members through Plant Trust's communication channels
- viii. workshoped, finalised and begun implementing our 2026–28 **strategic plan**, and
- ix. expanded our [website](#) with annual reports, codes of conduct and a comprehensive list of plant collections eligible for registration with Plant Trust

## *Looking Forward*

In the coming year, we will build on renewed and new memberships to continue this momentum and strengthen Plant Trust's work by:

- i. keeping **membership fees unchanged**, while continuing to grow the benefits and opportunities available to members
- ii. highlighting the creativity and generosity of members through the publication of a celebratory **recipe book** featuring 25 member-submitted recipes
- iii. offering members opportunities to connect, contribute and discover rare plants through the AGM and **Rare and Unusual Plant Auction**, and garden tours and related activities

- iv. seeking **Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status** so members and supporters can, if approved, make tax-deductible donations to strengthen Plant Trust's work
- v. supporting the ongoing delivery of *Genus* and member **eNews** communications
- vi. implementing our 2026–28 **strategic plan**, with a focus on strengthening member engagement, registered collections, and advocacy for cultivated plant conservation

Together, these initiatives reflect a practical commitment to strengthening Plant Trust's role as a connector, advocate and source of knowledge for those who value cultivated plant diversity. As we enter the first year of our new strategic plan, our emphasis will be on turning renewed interest into lasting participation: supporting collection holders, encouraging new registrations, and helping members share their expertise with one another and with the wider community.

We also recognise that garden plant conservation depends on people as much as plants. The knowledge held by members, growers, collectors and horticultural professionals is one of Plant Trust's greatest assets, and the year ahead offers an important opportunity to capture, celebrate and pass on that knowledge. We encourage all members to remain involved, invite others to join us, and contribute in whatever way they can to the continued growth, relevance and shared purpose of Plant Trust.

## Treasurer's Report | Financial Statements

Plant Trust | Financial Reports 2025-2026

ABN 17 035 716 441

### PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT

| Income                       |             | Expenditure                     |                     |
|------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Subscriptions                | \$3,755.00  | Administration Expenses         | \$14,220.00         |
| Donations                    | \$90.00     | Events (AGM, End of Year, etc.) | \$1,463.65          |
| Events (AGM)                 | \$3,910.02  | Events (40th)                   | \$3,000.00          |
| Events (40th)                | \$2,020.00  | Genus                           | \$9,300.00          |
| Events Other                 | \$1,298.35  | Govt. Charges                   | \$144.40            |
| Merch. (Catalogue)           | \$40.00     | Insurance                       | \$310.49            |
| Merch. (Plaque)              | \$0.00      | IT (Internet, Website, etc.)    | \$1,498.82          |
| Merch. (Other)               | \$0.00      | Marketing                       | \$0.00              |
| Genus (Advertising)          | \$0.00      | Miscellaneous                   | \$405.94            |
| Interest (Term Deposit [TD]) | \$834.58    | Office Equipment                | \$0.00              |
|                              |             | Postage, Printing & Stationery  | \$0.00              |
|                              |             | RBG Facilities                  | \$99.83             |
|                              |             | <b>Profit (+) or Loss (-)</b>   | <b>-\$18,495.18</b> |
|                              | =====       |                                 | =====               |
|                              | \$11,947.95 |                                 | \$11,947.95         |

### BALANCE SHEET

| 2025        |                                | 2026         | % Change |
|-------------|--------------------------------|--------------|----------|
|             | <b>Current Assets</b>          |              |          |
| \$11,057.47 | Cash at Bank (closing balance) | \$7,407.02   | -33.0%   |
| \$26,298.08 | Term Deposit (closing balance) | \$11,403.35  | -56.6%   |
| \$0.00      | Cash on Hand                   | \$0.00       |          |
| \$0.00      | Less: Unpresented Cheques      | \$0.00       |          |
| \$0.00      | Less: Presented Cheques        | \$0.00       |          |
| -----       |                                | -----        |          |
| \$37,305.55 |                                | \$18,810.37  | -49.6%   |
|             | <b>Equity</b>                  |              |          |
| \$33,161.08 | Balance 1 July                 | \$37,305.55  | 12.5%    |
| \$4,174.47  | Profit / Loss                  | -\$18,495.18 | 543.1%   |
| -----       |                                | -----        |          |
| \$37,305.55 |                                | \$18,810.37  | -49.6%   |

#### Treasurer's Report

In my opinion the above balance sheet at 30 June 2026 and the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended are properly drawn up so as to present fairly the state of affairs of Plant Trust at 30 June 2026 and the results of operations for the year ended on that date.

Deborah Crellin, Treasurer

## *Explanatory Notes to accompany Financial Statements*

The expenditure outlined in the Profit & Loss Statement reflects deliberate investment in Plant Trust's operations and future capacity. Key areas of expenditure included administrative support, the production and publication of *Genus*, activities marking Plant Trust's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and the organisational rebuilding required to strengthen member services, communications and future program delivery.

During the financial year, Plant Trust transferred \$15,000 from its Term Deposit to its Business Transaction Account to meet these operating and event-related expenses. This transfer was a reallocation of existing funds to support short-term liquidity rather than additional income. The organisation retains a strong financial position and remains well placed to sustain this work while continuing to manage its resources prudently.



## Governance Statement

Plant Trust (GPCAA Inc.) is incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* and operates under rules of association adopted by the Members on 16 September 2010 and amended on 19 September 2013 and 4 March 2020.

Under these rules, the affairs of Plant Trust are managed by the Management Committee. The Management Committee's primary role is to ensure Plant Trust achieves its objectives of encouraging the conservation of garden plants and creating a greater community awareness of the value of garden plants through programs of registration, ongoing development and information, distribution and the promotion of reference collections of garden plants.

Plant Trust's operations depend on members' annual subscriptions, grants, sponsorship and the contribution of volunteers.

The Management Committee is elected each year at the Annual General Meeting. It comprises the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Administrative Officer, together with up to eight ordinary members. At least two ordinary members must be professional horticulturalists and at least two must hold a collection registered by the Association. The Management Committee meets at least six times each year, and financial members may inspect the minutes of these meetings at any time.

### Management Committee 2025-2026

|                               |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| President                     | Stephen Ryan       |
| Vice President                | Virginia Heywood   |
| Secretary                     | Dale Simpson       |
| Treasurer                     | Deborah Crellin    |
| Staff: Administrative Officer | Damian Nieuwesteeg |
| Ordinary Members              | Gillian Taylor     |
|                               | Wendy Forest       |
|                               | Don Journet        |
|                               | Steven Touzel      |
| Editor of Genus               | Damian Nieuwesteeg |

## Notes

**Nominations** – A nomination form for Officers and Committee Members is attached at Appendix 1 and must be lodged electronically by email to [contact@planttrust.org.au](mailto:contact@planttrust.org.au) by 5pm on Monday 19 October 2026.

**Proxies** – A financial member may appoint a proxy to vote on their behalf at the meeting by giving notice to the Administrative Officer, to be received no later than 48 hours before the meeting, using the form found at Appendix 2 of this document.

**Business** – No business other than that set out in this notice (agenda) may be conducted at the meeting.



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## *Appendix 1 | Nomination of Officers & Committee Members*

I, nominator 1 of 2, .....

And I, nominator 2 of 2 .....

being financial members of Plant Trust (GPCAA Inc.), nominate the following financial member to be elected to office at the Annual General Meeting of the Association to be held on Wednesday 21 October 2026, or any adjournment thereof.

Name of nominee: .....

Office designated:

- ☐ President
- ☐ Vice-President
- ☐ Secretary
- ☐ Treasurer
- ☐ Administrative Officer
- ☐ Ordinary Committee Member

Note that Article 20.2 of Plant Trust's Constitution provides that a candidate may only be nominated for one office, or as an ordinary member of the committee, prior to the annual general meeting.

If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the Committee, the candidates nominated shall be deemed to be elected and further nominations shall be received at the Annual General Meeting.

If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated shall be deemed to be elected. If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a ballot shall be held.

I, the nominee named above, consent to the above nomination.

Signed: .....

Dated: .....

*Please email this form to [contact@planttrust.org.au](mailto:contact@planttrust.org.au) by 5pm on Monday 19 October 2026*



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## Appendix 2 | Nomination of Proxy

I .....  
being a financial member of Plant Trust (GPCAA Inc.), hereby appoint

.....  
to be my proxy at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday 21 October 2026,  
or any adjournment thereof.

Signed .....

Dated: .....

Note—the person or organisation giving and receiving the proxy should be aware of the following:

- i. The proxy must be lodged with the Administrative Officer of the Association by email to [contact@planttrust.org.au](mailto:contact@planttrust.org.au) no later than 48 hours before the meeting is due to take place.
- ii. The proxy holder may be given instructions on how to vote on the appointing member's behalf on all or any of the issues raised.
- iii. The proxy holder may be given general authority to vote as they think fit on any issue raised.
- iv. The person appointing the proxy must advise the proxy holder that they have been appointed and provide clear instructions on any voting matters.
- v. Article 7.1 of Plant Trust's Constitution provides that each member or organisation shall be entitled to *one vote only* by proxy or by attending a meeting of the Association.
- vi. Members of the Committee of Management may be appointed as proxies.

*Please email this form to [contact@planttrust.org.au](mailto:contact@planttrust.org.au) by 5pm on Monday 19 October 2026*