



Giant plant sale and Easter fair



What a wonderful day at the Giant Plant Sale and Easter Fair, Saturday 26 March 2016.

The weather was kind, the crowds constant and lots of families enjoyed the gnome painting, jumping castle, second hand books, craft and cakes, Clyde River Farm berry ice-cream, sausage sizzle and the ever important plants on sale. There was something for everyone and even the Easter Bilby dropped in to hand out chocolate eggs and say hello to all.

Our annual Giant Plant Sale and Easter Fair is a major fund raising event for the Gardens and the Friends of ERBG. All monies raised this year will go toward the redevelopment of our Visitors Centre and Herbarium.

On behalf of the Friends of ERBG, I would especially like to thank the Gardens Manager, Michael Anlezark, and Sue Cogger, our Treasurer, for coordinating the day and all our volunteers who worked so hard to ensure the day was both fun and financially rewarding for the Gardens and visitors alike.



Hilarity broke out amongst the book sorters when trying to categorise Paul Barry's book about Alan Bond— is it business? True crime? Fantasy perhaps? A generous donation of 200 crime novels got us off to a great start and by the end of the day we'd sold 70–80% of all the books; around \$900 worth. A big thank you to Brian Cant for setting up the sorting system the previous week and to Judy Thomson and Brian for helping all day as well as delivering the surplus books to Rally for Recovery. My husband Peter gave 101% as usual.



Cake Stall Easter Bunnies, Joan, Robyn, Isabel and Jane

All the tasty and interestingly named cakes (particularly Lumberjack) sold, along with many jars of jam. Customers were all impressed by the large selection of cakes. We spruiked how 'healthy' the cakes, baked by home cooks with decades of experience, were. Where possible we told potential customers the ingredients which often meant 'browsers' became 'committed customers'. I'm sure we could have sold more Lumberjack cakes as we could all vouch for how delicious they are and packed with apple and date - must be good for you!

Gail



I would like to sincerely thank all those who contributed to make this fantastic event even more successful than last year's. Plant sales alone reached a whopping \$12,013.60 – over \$1000 more than last year! A fantastic contribution towards redeveloping our Visitor Centre and Wallace Herbarium.

On Easter Saturday at the Gardens it was impossible to not be incredibly proud of the efforts and enthusiasm of all involved. Together we presented to the community our wonderful garden filled with wholesome fun family activities and great bargains. In return our visitors spent up and had a great time.





Easter Saturday morning I opened one eye to check the weather, then wondered if we are having a party no one will attend. People might choose the Tilba Festival and the Four Winds instead and this Easter wasn't in school holidays. I could tick the weather off my list straight away and by 9.05 I knew the party was on. As I took cash for the plant sales I asked how people heard about the Plant Sale and Fair. The banner outside won hands down although there should've been a 'mum told me' category. The best response from several?*Oh we are locals and isn't this what you do on Easter Saturday?* Every business model puts repeat customers at the top of their list.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the day such a success. Not only were there people on stalls, but the place was jumping on Thursday when I dropped in and I have nothing but admiration for the people who pack up at the end of the day. Those of you who made donations to the cake, craft and book stalls helped us greatly. When costs were taken out we made \$3,492 from the various stalls and a \$200 donation from the Clyde River Farm berry ice-cream man. Your hard work and support proved worthwhile. Once again thank you all.

Sue Cogger

See you next Easter Saturday?

It was a fabulous experience and we were incredibly grateful to the many hard working and talented people who contributed such quality crafts to the stall. Thank you all so much and to the wonderful assistance of Robyn and Jo - hope we can exceed our terrific profit this year in 2017! Keep up the great work! Deborah

There was an overriding sense of community goodwill and joy with all people involved. Children were well-mannered and left little to clean up after painting statuettes. Diddy and Stewart obviously have a well-oiled machine setting up and managing the gnomes and all the nursery workers helping customers made finding plants fun and easy.

Chocolate wheel: this was the first time we ran this fund raiser, and whilst slow to sell the 50 tickets for each spin, raised more than expected. However, there was quite a bit of interest from the public, especially from the children. I had young ticket buyers spinning the wheel each time, and they all enjoyed the suspense of finding out if they had won a prize. A better location and more time to receive prize donations could make this a better prospect in the future.

Jumping Castle: once again the Jumping Castle proved to be popular with under 10s. There was a steady stream of happy jumpers. The children were well behaved and the only tears we had were from the little ones who didn't want to exit the castle.

Fran and Derek

The BBQ was very busy from go to whoa with 250 sausage in bread with sauce units sold. Given we went for 4 hours, this was about one a minute. The meaty steakettes sold 95 units or one every two minutes or so. 24 loaves of bread were accounted for as well as 8kg of sliced onions. Drinks proved not so popular this year.

Overall we had a great time feeding the milling throng. I must say that by the end of the lunch time charge, even my forensic accountant's brain couldn't add up the price of 2 sausages, one steakette and 3 drinks though.

Pete

While some parents left their children painting figurines, others got quite involved. Many parents commented on what a fantastic day they'd had, promising to come again. I think the best story for me was a young dad helping his son decorate an action figure. He told us how when he was growing up in Sydney a business that sold figurines also took group bookings where painting a figure was part of the activity. The business no longer operated and he was thrilled to share the experience, which he had so enjoyed as a boy, with his own son. They loved the finished product and I feel sure they'll both be back next year to add to their collection.

Gail

