

Rejuvenating the historic Royal Botanic Gardens Kew - with Richard Barley MBE



Richard is recognised as an outstanding horticulturalist with over 40 years of dedication to horticulture. He joined the Royal Botanic Garden in Melbourne in 1980. Richard studied for a degree in Applied Science (Horticulture) at Burnley College in the late 1980s. Later he became Director of Melbourne Gardens for the RBGM (now RBGV). In 2010 he was appointed CEO of Open Gardens Australia. Richard moved to the UK when appointed as the Director of Horticulture for The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew in 2013, with responsibility for overseeing the management of the garden and arboretum, display glasshouses, nurseries and the School of Horticulture. This role evolved to Executive Director of Gardens (which included: Learning programmes, outreach, volunteers, and the Wakehurst Site). Richard was awarded an MBE by King Charles for services to the profession of Horticulture in the UK.

Richard's presentation covers some of the improvement projects at Kew that he had responsibility for. These projects include the restoration of the Temperate House development of the Great Broad Walk Borders, the Children's Garden and the Agius Evolution Garden. Richard returned to Australia in 2025 and is now a Horticultural and Garden Management Consultant.

Peek behind the curtain into the process of the design and development of the magic that is Kew. Discover where a career in horticulture might lead you. Be inspired by Richard's experiences and his passion and vision for the role of horticulture in future our planet's sustainability.

Everyone is welcome. Free event. Supper provided.

Meeting raffle \$1/ticket (cash only).

When: 7.30pm Wednesday 10 June 2026

Where: Botanica Springs Community Centre
249 Clarkes RD, Brookfield VIC 3338

Phone: John Bentley 9743 3819
(please leave message if unattended)

Email: friends@fmbg.org.au

Media: fmbg.org.au and Facebook, Instagram, X



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