

FRIENDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS INC

Treasurer's Report for the year ended 30 June 2016

It is my pleasure to present my first Treasurer's Report for the Friends.

At the outset, I would like to thank the previous Treasurer, Marion Jones and her two assistants, Kim Liston and Lisa Wilmot, for leaving the accounting records in good order. It was a relatively easy task to comprehend the Friends' financial position and to continue the processes that Marion had put in place.

In the previous reporting year to June 2015, the basis of accounting changed from accrual to cash basis; the cash method accounts for income when it is received and for expenses when paid out of our bank account. In particular, Membership Fees are now fully credited in the year of receipt rather than allocating to Income in Advance for any Friends who may have paid a 2 or 5 year membership. This is the reason that there appears a large decline in the Membership Fee income from \$119,718 in 2015 to \$72,240 this reporting year, as \$46,000 of advanced income was brought to account in 2015. Approximately \$70,000 is more reflective of our annual Membership Fees.

Once again, there has been a steady increase in income from many of the events such as Thursday Talks, Breakfast with the Birds, Summer Concerts and the plant sales conducted by the Growing Friends. Volunteers work tirelessly to make the events both successful and enjoyable, and it is pleasing that their efforts are well rewarded with strong income being generated for the Friends. The Art Exhibition and Botanical Art Workshops were again well patronised, as were the Booked Walks and Enlighten Luminous Botanicus.

Expenditure was much less than last year, primarily due to lower Garden Support as Council was mindful of the substantial amount expected for the public art project, the Treehouse Gazebo. The timeframe for payment for the Treehouse Gazebo is yet unknown. However, even with this expense, Council still intends to contribute to other, but smaller projects to assist the Gardens.

The Balance Sheet at 30 June 2016 states accumulated funds of \$450,245, representing an increase of \$76,871, consistent with the previous year. Council is confident that the accounts are in a robust financial position to enable us to meet the aims of the Friends in the foreseeable future.

Donations to The Public Fund totalled \$15,595. The Aboriginal Plant Use Trail Signage was the only project funded, for \$10,665. The Balance Sheet states accumulated funds of \$77,705, part of which has also been reserved for the Treehouse Gazebo.

Helen Elliot
Treasurer