

FRIENDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS INC

Treasurer's Report for the year ended 30 June 2022

I am pleased to present my first Treasurer's Report for the Friends of the ANBG Inc.

Once again the Friends' activities were hampered by Covid-19 restrictions but the dedication of our Special Interest Groups and Volunteers meant that many events were still held, generating welcome income and celebrating some milestones along the way.

With the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, several of the Friends' normal annual events were either cancelled, postponed or were severely restricted such as the ever-popular Thursday Talks program, the Growing Friends public plant sales and the '*Meet and Greet*' of new members (held 20 March 2022 and well attended).

Thursday Talks were again affected by Covid-19 with seating capacity of the theatre restricted to a maximum of 40 attendees for July to 12 August 2021, and the COVID-19 lock-down came into effect on the evening of 12 August 2021 until about 20 October 2021. Restrictions on seating capacity were lifted in the last quarter of the financial year. Thursday Talks took place on 25 weeks in 2021-22 (compared with 44 weeks in usual years), although still managed to raise \$350 in donations from over 900 attendees. Thank you to the perseverance of the Thursday Talk committee and their eminent presenters.

Historically, the Growing Friends plant sales are one of our largest revenue raising events, if not the largest, and this year still managed to raise \$6,916 for the Friends. Thank you to Sue Waterworth and Sue Lee who co-ordinate the sales along with a dedicated team, including Maurice Hermann the convenor of Growing Friends.

The Photographic Group's exhibition in November-December 2021 raised \$1,573 (excluding prizes as prizes were donated) for the Friends with photographers exhibiting their work for sale.

The Botanic Art Group held one (1) exhibition and one (1) workshop during the financial year with total income raised for the Friends of \$6,801 (excluding workshop cost as donated). Both the Photographic and Botanical Art exhibitions take many, many months to organise, assemble and present the works of art for sale. The Friends are fully appreciative of the group members and of those who volunteer daily at these exhibitions.

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Booked Walks, over the year have been co-ordinated by Pam Cooke (a Guide and part of the Membership team), Sally Stobo, Harley Dadswell and Andrew Bettell, and were also impacted by the restrictions but still generated \$1,095 in income, slightly down on last year.

Page 2 of the Financial Statements (consolidated) details the different ways the Friends earn income. The sub-total of \$174,789 just over a 10% decrease on the previous year, needs to be tempered by the related expenses of 178% increase in expenses of \$409,465 on Page 3.

Also stated on page 2 is the Membership Fees which at \$102,313 was a slight increase over the previous year. Membership remains constant, Individual and Concession memberships have slightly decreased with Household memberships increasing. Members are taking out extended-term memberships rather than one (1) year memberships with 2- and 5- year memberships significantly higher and 1-year lower than in 2020-21, a trend since 2018.

Thank you to all the members who renewed their membership and to all the people who became new members in the 12 months to 30 June 2022. With the uncertainty of Covid and people re- assessing their lifestyle, it is not surprising that people want to get out to enjoy nature and to appreciate the beautiful offerings of the Gardens.

All Friends 'volunteers should be proud that their tireless efforts have been rewarded with over \$174,789 in income for the year. In the main, the income will be donated towards projects proposed by the Gardens. Thank you to the Friends 'Project Committee for appraising these proposals and tabling them to both the Friends Council and the Public Fund committee for discussion and decision.

Donations to the Gardens for five (5) varied projects plus donated artworks totalled \$344,680, including:

1. Conservation Video \$9,090
2. East Core Precinct, which included Friends Lawn (launched on 27 April 2022), proving to be a popular part of the gardens \$315,000
3. Metallic Bee Signage \$1,040
4. Visitor Exhibition Centre (Design) \$15,000
5. Final payment towards the project titled *Banksia Interps* \$3,950

The Friends and Public Fund have project commitments this coming financial year to 30 June 2023 of almost \$124,500, for both projects in

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progress and projects in their final stages of proposal. There is often a time lag from Friends Council and Public Fund management committee approving funds to projects, those projects then being completed, and donation support being called upon by the ANBG administration. It is certainly an exciting time with so many projects being managed by the ANBG administration with some participation from the Friends. In progress projects and projects in their final stages of proposal include:

1. PhD Scholarship - research on Norfolk Island (final payment) \$2,000
2. Honours student scholarship \$4,000
3. Iconic plants leading toward new Conservatory, formerly to be planted at front gate (pending proposal finalisation) \$27,500
4. Assistance: ANBG Horticulturist exchange with WA Kings Park & Botanic Garden (pending proposal finalisation) \$3,500
5. Online education resource development \$50,000
6. National Seed Bank – Cryostorage equipment \$20,000
7. How do I survive in the Red Centre (pending revised proposal finalisation) \$10,000
8. Research Scholarship \$7,500

The Friends Public Fund is a registered charity established in 2004 to receive tax deductible donations from members and others. This year the Public Fund issued tax deductible receipts for \$32,512 an increase of 12.5% over the previous year. Note that 199 donations were receipted, slightly lower than in the previous year, however it is pleasing to see the awareness of the Public Fund. During the year, the Public Fund made the final payment towards the *Banksia Interps* project (\$3,950), the Conservation Video (\$9,090), and contributed towards the East Core Precinct project (\$30,000).

The consolidated Balance Sheet (page 4) for 30 June 2022 states total assets of \$228,073. It should be noted that the significant drop in total assets is due to the completion of the new East Core Precinct development on the lawns outside the Pollen Café. Both the Friends 'Council and the Public Fund are always willing to consider new project proposals.

There are two (2) sets of Financial Statements. One set is the consolidated statements of the Friends accounts, and includes the Public Fund's accounts and assets of \$100,896. There is also a separate set of Financial Statements for the Public Fund to provide transparency for our deductible gift recipient status and to assist in the various regulatory annual returns.

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Council is confident that the accounts are in a robust financial position to continue our work, as per our Constitution, *for the purpose of supporting the Gardens.*"

In conclusion, thank you to all the volunteers who work so tirelessly to generate income and profile the dedicated work of the Friends. Thanks also to the Garden management and staff who are very collegiate, Council members, Public Fund management committee and of course all the members of the Friends for their continuing support and renewal of membership.

Anne Holmes
Volunteer Treasurer