

Treasurer's Report for the year ended 30 June 2020.

It is with pleasure that I present my fifth Treasurer's Report for the Friends.

The first 9 months of the financial year was business as usual but then, as we all know the COVID-19 virus hit and disrupted so many plans by so many people.

With the Gardens forced to close late March, a number of Friends planned events could not proceed – the half-yearly Growing Friends plant sale, always well patronised and a large income earner for the Friends, the “*Meet and Greet*” of new members, the Photographic Group's workshop and the Botanic Art Group exhibition in April. Let's not forget, our 30th Anniversary events were cancelled and Thursday Talks, always so popular, will not recommence this year.

The Income Statement on page 2 details the different ways we earn income. The sub-total of **Other Income** states only \$39,929 compared to \$61,750 the previous year, a decrease of 35% because of cancelled events due to COVID. Thankfully membership renewals remained strong, and this coupled with an increase of 252 new memberships resulted in a 9% increase in income from Membership Fees to \$94,305.

The Friends' volunteers should be proud that their tireless efforts have been rewarded with about \$191,000 in income for the year just a decrease of 8%. In the main, this income will be donated towards projects proposed by the Gardens. Thank you to the Project Committee for reviewing these proposals and tabling them to the Friends Council for discussion and decision.

Donations to the Gardens for 10 varied projects totalled \$239,353, more than double the previous year; a rewarding outcome.

It was pleasing to donate the second tranche of \$71,338 (of the Friends \$100,000 commitment) towards the new Banksia Garden, as well as \$7,645 for the hearing loop in the theatrette and \$52,143 towards the pollinator film and new video wall installed just outside the theatrette. The Public Fund is a registered charity and receives tax deductible donations from members and the general public. This year the Public Fund issued tax deductible receipts for \$25,916. As a result of these donations, the Public Fund could provide the Seed Bank exhibition with \$8,826 and \$2,350 towards interpretation signs in the Banksia Garden. The Public Fund committed other funding but unfortunately the projects were not finalised in time for 30 June.

The consolidated Balance Sheet at 30 June 2020 states total assets of \$414,324. It should be noted there is still a significant commitment to the new Conservatory and both Friends' Council and the Public Fund are always willing to consider new project proposals. 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.*”

The Friends' Financial Statements is consolidated and includes the Public Fund's assets of \$97,696. However, there is also separate Financial Statements for the Public Fund to provide transparency for our deductible gift recipient status and to assist in the various regulatory annual returns.

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 trustees and of course other members of the Friends for their continuing support and renewal of membership.

Helen Elliot, Volunteer Treasurer.