

FRIENDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS INC
Treasurer's Report for the year ended 30 June 2018

It is my pleasure to present the Treasurer's Report for the year ended 30 June 2018 for the Friends, including the Public Fund.

The Friends, with the assistance of its many volunteers, held its regular and popular events throughout the year, plus some new ones such as a Photographic Workshop. It must also be mentioned that over a number of years of planning the Guides organised the Australasian Botanic Gardens Volunteer Guides Conference which was held in Canberra last October. The dedication of the Guides in hosting this fully booked and successful Conference was rewarded with a profit of just over \$10,000.

The consolidated Income Statement shows the income generated by the Special Interest Groups such as Thursday Talks, the Growing Friends with their plant sales, Social Events (Summer Concerts and Wake up with the Birds), Booked Walks, as well as the Botanical Artists and Photographic Group who again held successful exhibitions.

The unexpected highlight of the year was the significant increase in membership applications and with renewals, concluded in membership receipts of \$97,421. This is an amazing result when compared to the average receipts over the past 5 years of just under \$70,000; the additional receipts allows the Friends to contribute more to the Gardens.

General operating expenditure was fairly much in line with previous years. To my mind the highpoint was Garden Support as \$293,000, including \$55,000 from the Public Fund, was donated to fund nine Garden projects, primarily the long awaited Paperbark Treehouse. In addition, due to a successful fundraising campaign by the Public Fund and as mentioned above, a significant increase in membership receipts, the Friends were also able to support a number of smaller, worthwhile projects including two new mobility scooters (\$8,298) and the final donation of \$12,826 towards an ex-situ threatened species conservation project.

The combined Balance Sheet at 30 June 2018 states total cash funds of \$473,411. As always, Friends Council, with the assistance of the Project Committee, looks to the future in assessing project applications. To this avail, Council has committed \$100,000 to fund the new Banksia Garden, as well as significant funding towards the interpretation displays and technology in the new Conservatory. Friends should be confident that the accounts are in a robust financial position which enable us to fund these very worthwhile additions to the Gardens, as well as the much appreciated smaller projects.

Donations to The Public Fund totalled \$34,952 a significant increase on the 10 year average of \$15,500. The Public Fund supported three projects totaling \$55,000 and now has total cash funds of \$85,840. The Public Fund has already committed \$28,000 for 2018-2019 mainly for seed bank equipment and an ex-situ *Macadamia jansenii* project.

It was an extremely busy 12 months and I thank the tireless efforts of all volunteers who make the Friends such a viable financial group to support the Gardens.

Helen Elliot, Treasurer