



## **FGBG TREASURERS REPORT 2022-2023**

I am pleased to present the Treasurers report for the 2022-23 financial year for the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens.

There has been a pleasing change from last year's deficit of over twenty-seven thousand dollars to a profit of \$9589.91 this financial year.

Nursery sales have increased since the decline of covid lockdowns and we have three weekend Nursery sales planned during September and October.

Sales of the Friends 2023 calendar diary resulted in a pleasing profit of over 4000 dollars.

Grants for the year included \$35000 for the restoration of the Traill Fountain. Due to structural issues for this project requiring a detailed and costly engineering report which is currently being undertaken the project has been seriously delayed. It was expected that some of the projected costs may have to be financed from the gift fund. However, the city has now become involved in the management of the restoration and possible funding

A grant has been received for the Wadawurrung project in partnership with the Gardens. This involves labelling of plants used by and important to, indigenous local peoples

Botanical Art classes are still operating successfully with our four Tutors Amanda A, Amanda B, John and Craig. This contributes to our income partially from the student fees.

Membership has increased since the covid peak with an increase in receipts from walks and talks with the guides

The city has imposed considerable changes to the Friends Licence for the use of the building premises via the gardens administration causing a great deal of stress for the Friends Committee. One which falls in my portfolio is that we now have to pay an annual rental fee of \$1100 for the use of the building facilities which in previous years was a 'peppercorn' fee of \$15. Also, the Licence for our use of the Friends Nursery has now being charged \$440 per annum.

This year's Profit and Loss Statements are available to view from our office and our documents are currently being audited by our accountants, Davidsons and a report will also be available from the office in the near future.

### **GIFT FUND**

From the gift fund the Friends have purchased several bench style seats which have been installed in the refurbished conservatory.

The Committee has also approved the request for the restoration of the pond in the fernery which has yet to be commenced.

Also approved is the restoration of the Traill Fountain in conjunction with a partial grant from Heritage Victoria. Due to compulsory structural inspections required Structural Engineers have been engaged and the City has also become involved in this project also with a delay in commencement this financial year.

It was anticipated that considerable funding would be required from the Gift Fund for these projects consequently expenditure has not been as expected because of these delays.

In conclusion I would like to thank our office staff Tracey and Sally for their very competent support. Also, Judy Fyfe for helping me undertake Treasurers duties.

Barrie Satchell, Treasurer