

## **Friends of the Geelong Botanic Gardens Treasurers Report 2017/2018**

The full audited annual reports are tabled at this meeting and are also available to members from the Friends' office – these are reports for the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens and also for the Gift Fund which is administered by the Friends.

### **Financial Management**

- • Davidsons continues to provide professional accounting advice and lodge IAS and PAYG returns when necessary.
- • Financial records are maintained by administration staff – many thanks to our staff.
- • Annual audit is completed by the Audit department of Davidsons.

### **Payroll**

- • Regional Payroll is the payroll manager for the Friends.

### **Gift Fund**

- • The Gift Fund is a separate business entity to the Friends and is reported separately.
- • Many members have again taken the opportunity to make a 'tax deductible donation' to the Gift Fund – thank you for these contributions. During Membership renewals in June-July 2018, \$1,925 has been donated to the Gift Fund – sincere thanks to members who have taken this opportunity to make a donation at this time

Treasurers report on the finances of an enterprise and its health – or otherwise.

Ours is a Not-for Profit organization which works to promote and assist that Jewel of Geelong, the GBG.

We raise funds to be spent on projects suggested by our Director of Gardens, Annette Zeally. We make this money from our Nursery sales and Guides donations, plus profit from Botanical Art classes. For some special projects we use the Gift fund.

We raise awareness of the gardens through our website and various forms of publicity.

We reward our members with opportunities to view other gardens, public and private, and present some wonderful speakers on a range of gardening topics, making sure that costs are kept to a minimum and fully covered in any charge made. (Treasurer speaking!)

The plants we sell are raised from seed or propagated from cuttings by our volunteer nursery staff and reflect the plants visitors see in the GBG. They are then nursed to maturity ready for sale. Sales take place every Wednesday morning and at the triennial plant sale weekends.

We do not buy in plants for sale, the largest running expense of the nursery is Potting mix and other plant raising/protecting items.

This year, at the suggestion of the Director, we have put money into updating our rather outdated and rundown nursery facilities and that process is now almost completed.

With the help of an \$8,000 grant from the COGGG plus an extra \$5,000 of our money we now have a proper greenhouse, our working area is protected and the plants set out on tables in positions which reflect their individual needs.

In accordance with the rules of the Gift fund we have given \$5,000 to the Gardens Education fund, plus another \$700 to the Furphy Tank restoration project.

We managed to make a profit of \$1,365.36 and will be working next year to increase this while maintaining our links to the community of Geelong.

This year we set up a special finance committee to investigate all aspects of fund-raising and community awareness and make recommendations to the Friends Committee. All areas of the Friends – the Rose Garden, Guides, Perennial Border, Library, Botanical Art and the Nursery were asked to submit a proposed budget for consideration and these were discussed and included in our overall Budget for next year.

I give my most grateful thanks to Judy Fyfe for her enormous bank of knowledge, unstinting and generous help and to Tracey for her calm and patient guidance, and especially to Sally for her record keeping and having the patience and persistence (with Judy's help) to conquer MYOB, our accounting package.

Ro Richards

FGBG Treasurer