

AAFBG SECRETARY'S REPORT 2017-2018

Changing times.

We are all fully aware the world is changing rapidly and so our Gardens and needs are also evolving, your Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens is also keeping up with the pace.

As secretary it is a real privilege to be in close contact with our Members and discussing joys and woes, the importance of collaboration is highly valued. The value of conferences emphasised, the opportunity to be inspired and meet like minds is invaluable.

Your Association supports and Advocates for you.

Please inform us when you are applying for financial assistance and when lobbying Administrative bodies.

Friends are supporters of our Gardens, and remain autonomous. Administrative bodies are unable to seek funding without community support. Send us news of your financial endeavour and your Association will support you.

It is increasingly difficult to “get the word around” people are in email overload ! to alleviate this the AAFBG started the E-ucalypt News, some members are not able to send on to their Members for this reason, we would like to encourage all to distribute. We would also be grateful if Members could mention and enter the logo of their Peak Body AAFBG on their individual websites, with the link.

The Eucalypt Newsletter is your AAFBG communicator; please send in your articles to our Editor Anne Rawson, for inclusion.

Two new Members, welcome to Pangarinda in South Australia who are represented here at the conference by Julie and John Barrie and to Hunter Region Botanic Garden, Heatherbrae, NSW. You will no doubt hear more about these Gardens from your Association in near future.

Farewell to Lisa, my thanks to Lisa Tuck who has been in the Administrative seat for two years and has been a tremendous support. Welcome back Ro, we are enjoying working together again.

Having a passion and interest in Botanic Gardens takes us to many places. Last year I had the joy of visiting some European Gardens and on to Geneva for the Botanic Gardens Conservation International Congress a stimulating and educational experience.

Quote from the Director of the Botanical Garden of Geneva,

Dr Pierre-Andre Loizeau, "It is a remarkable opportunity to bring concerned people together, to take stock of the state of the world of plants, to implement the appropriate measures, to pursue fundamental studies, to raise societal awareness, and to reflect on our next steps. As privileged observers of Nature we have a responsibility to inform society as a whole about the threats to our environment and to propose measures to preserve it. If Botanical Gardens were to disappear, what would society lack"?

Ask ourselves this question.

The Foundation and Friends of the RBG Sydney has a new CEO, Melissa Ellis. Sydney has expressed interest in Hosting the 2019 AGM, we will look forward to planning together.

Sincere thanks to Friends of Benalla and Riverine Parkland for hosting this Conference it has been a pleasure to work with Robyn, Betty, Pat and their Team and to learn more of this region and its Botanical Garden.

My thanks to Dennis for his wise leadership of your Peak Body.

As supporters of your Botanical Gardens: Congratulations ! Keep up your wonderful work.

Elizabeth Gilfillan.