



Annual General Meeting 2022

Presidents Report

There have been some highlights deserving of mention this year, not the least that there has been a return to near normal for most of us. My role as President didn't commence until August 2021 after AAFBG was unable to gain a President at the Annual General Meeting held in Adelaide. It's been a time of activity and meetings, and finally a Conference after a 4-year interlude.

To meet face to face at Eurobodalla must be the highlight for what I believe are the four most important things for our Association - communication, commitment, collaboration, and camaraderie.

To fulfil the objectives of AAFBG takes committed people and it takes communication. This year, once again, Anne Rawson has presented our Eucalypt magazine faultlessly. Nine Friends groups, as well as reports and individual articles, resulted in an informative and inspiring most recent edition. Special thanks to Anne who manages Eucalypt so well.

e-ucalypt also makes an impact. Over twenty four Friends groups contributed either once or more often throughout the past year, as well as other relevant information about grants or articles, and news from BGANZ, BGCI, and Garden Clubs Australia. Thanks go to Chantal de Vere, AAFBG Administration Officer for putting this together - initially fortnightly and more recently every three weeks. Chantal resigned in March, and thanks have been sent officially. We wish her the very best in her future endeavours.

AAFBG website is managed professionally by WordsWorth communicating. and they also provide valuable administrative assistance.

Zoom committee meetings are friendly and productive, with a lot of the emphasis this year being on the Conference, and general business introducing merchandise such as AAFBG Tea Towels, and our Postcards. Thanks, Elizabeth, for making these things happen. We also looked at the role of administration and suggested a small increase in total hours, a reduction in our e news - e-ucalypt, to every 3 weeks, as well as a new banner design to keep up with technology. We also discussed sponsorship, and if the year had been not quite so busy had hoped to develop a Sponsorship Prospectus and a list of potential sponsors who align with our values and approach.

Thanks to members who suggested Tasmania for garden visits and to Jon Baines Tours - Jon gave professional and personal service to AAFBG, and the tours were organised to run seamlessly, on time, and introduced participants to diverse, beautiful, and interesting botanical locations. Not to mention the meals, wine

tastings, and camaraderie. The tour gave us time to talk, to get to know each other, and learn about each Friends' group. The tours also generated very worthwhile income for AAFBG, and more are in the planning.

Sharing ideas, successes and challenges are vital to an Association that's principal role includes collaboration -through information sharing, watching out for and letting members know about potential funding opportunities, providing informative news, as well as advocating for members. Recently AAFBG sent letters of support to two members groups where the backing of AAFBG added strength to their stated objectives.

The Handbury Awards are not only recognition of the contribution of individual or Friends' member groups, the awards add to the reputation of Friends' groups and hopefully lead to acknowledgment from their Botanic Gardens management organisation, and local communities. Congratulations to this year's recipients.

I've enjoyed my role as President, and I was honoured to be asked and to be appointed to fill the casual vacancy. Thank you to all the committee members I've had the pleasure and privilege to work alongside since last August- Ahmed for financial matters, Bob, Elizabeth as Acting Secretary, Jill, Lynne, Merrill, Murray as Vice President, and Neville.

Lastly - congratulations and thank you to the Friends of Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens. All the time I've watched and seen the efforts by Lynne and the team working towards the conference, and demonstrating a lot about resilience and renewal. Inspiring!



Kate Heffernan
President AAFBG