



AAFBG AGM April 2021

Acting Secretary Report

It is hard to believe we are meeting face to face at last! thank you to Wayne Harvey and Friends of Waite Arboretum for hosting this day, we are very appreciative and looking forward to the day together.

Two AGM's within six months! I would like to commend your committee and AO Chantal deVere, for continued dedication to Friends of Botanic Gardens, as the workload grew so did their achievements.

A members survey has been produced and ready for circulation to you, the committee will look forward to your feedback and comments.

Support of the Eurobodalla Friends as they move forward with a very enticing conference 2022, it has been a windy road to this point and we greatly appreciate the founding work of Elizabeth Barraclough, and we look forward to attending what promises to be a very special event.

Another great edition of our much-appreciated Eucalypt Magazine thanks to Anne Rawson your editor, keep those articles coming. Hard copy remains a most valuable communication tool which sits on coffee tables and desks for multiple reference.

A lot of valuable work has gone into the preparation of a unique Tasmanian Tour of botanical experience and is now on offer, tour brochures available and online, selling rapidly it should provide a much-needed boost to AAFBG funds.

The number of Handbury Award recipients has increased highlighting the great work being achieved. It is a privilege to read of the achievements from our members and a great pleasure to have the opportunity for acknowledgement.

The Information Kit originally produced by our founding AAFBG committee has been reviewed once more, refreshing this document is a valuable exercise for committee and our Members, available on the

Friends and volunteers supporting each other by membership of your peak body AAFBG, a conduit for interaction and valuable information. The larger Gardens contribute an important mentor role. Memberships of AAFBG members are changing, some falling off and some growing. Appreciation and importance of the role of botanic gardens must be emphasised, communication a key ingredient.

Botanic Gardens Australia wide are diverse and scattered, not normally high on funding priority lists for administrative bodies, this highlights the importance of supporting bodies.

Grant funding endeavours are strengthened by membership numbers and supporting funds raised, we are continually aiming to raise our Members profiles across many networks to encourage growth of membership.

I encourage members to add emphasis of membership of your peak body, by adding the AAFBG logo to your publications and links to the AAFBG website www.friendsbotanicgardens.org

Spread the word.
Friendship through Botanic Gardens.

Elizabeth Gilfillan