



CATCHING UP WITH FRIENDS – 2017

New committee

At the AGM on 8th March Val Schier was re-elected as President, Lee Ross as vice-president, Coralie Stuart as Treasurer and Odette Aspinall as a general member. We welcomed new general members, Sarah Warne, Lorraine Smith, Del van Mielo and Judy Chappell and were delighted when Megan Lilly put her hand up to be Secretary. We said goodbye and thanked Linda Rawson and Andrew Smart who shared the secretarial role in 2016. David Rentz continues as our Patron.

Can you help? We are looking for garden guides and shop volunteers

Illness and departure have thinned the ranks of our volunteer guides and we need to recruit several people who are willing to be rostered on for 1 – 2 hours on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis to show small groups around. Detailed knowledge of horticulture is not a pre-requisite. Rather, we need people who are passionate about the gardens or particular plants, trees and flowers and are prepared to share their enthusiasm with others. Please have think about whether you could join Colin and the other garden guides.

Del van Mielo does a great job of rostering volunteers for morning or afternoon sessions in the shop giving advice and assistance to visitors and it would be great to have extra people for her to call on. Del also sources and purchases items for the Friends' shop and any help with this would be appreciated.

From the treasurer

Our finances have grown considerably and we had over \$140,000 in the bank at the end of May. Over \$28,000 of that will go to Council for our contribution to the Tropical Herb and Spice Garden and sensory walk leaving us a tidy sum to allocate to projects which will enhance the gardens.

Projects in 2017

The native bee hive has been installed and interpretive signage is being finalized for the balcony wall of Friends' House where a colony of native bees has nested for 30 years. \$45,000 has been allocated to build a new 9-metre long arbour in the Flecker Gardens over which a jade vine will be grown, replacing the much-loved jade vine that was removed when the old toilet block was pulled down. This is expected to be completed before September. Suggestions from members, friends and the general public for initiatives and projects are welcome.

A reminder to renew your membership

The membership fee is \$15 and we would love renewals and new members. Bank transfer to: BSB 633 000, Acct no. 122886849; drop it into Friends' House or post to: PO Box 223, Cairns, 4870.