

TAROONA NEIGHBOURHOOD GARDEN

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 9 APRIL 2024

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I would like to start my report by thanking the members of our Management Committee who give generously of their time and expertise, on a purely voluntary basis, and without whom the garden would not be the special place that it is. To Deirdre Brown, Margaret James, Christophe Marcant, David Coleman, Peter Lutz, Graeme Watt and Katja Phegan thank you all very much.

A particularly special thanks must go to our tireless Secretary, Deirdre. Her ability to keep track of the myriad of administrative tasks that comes with community based organisations is remarkable. Personally I would be lost without her skill.

Clearly the major activity in 2023 was the redevelopment of the central area and special thanks must go to Christophe for his leadership and technical skills along with the many committee folk and garden members who assisted with the myriad of tasks that led to what are remarkable community beds and the perfect location for the ever popular and highly successful monthly crop swaps. Thank you Katja for establishing and managing these events. They have certainly cemented themselves as a wonderful event in the Tarroona community calendar.

Thanks also to Kingborough Council for their invaluable support in developing the central area, all of which was provided at no cost. And let us not forget the amazingly comprehensive photo montage prepared by Peter showing the year's redevelopment work.

We should not forget the other major activity in 2023 – the design, manufacture and installation of the spectacular new gates. Thank you Graeme for leading this work.

Special thanks also to Peter for his professional work in arranging the long table lunch in June and the spring fair in October. They were both great community events.

In October we were fortunate to receive a grant of \$3800 from the Health Department to be used to increase the number of plots to cater for the ever growing wait list from families wishing to be part of our garden community. Following receipt of the grant, the committee agreed on a schedule of work for developing more plots with a combination of wooden and zincalume construction.

There will always be work to be done in the garden, in the individual plots, in the community spaces and perimeter areas. It continues to be an ongoing task to interest our members in assisting in this regard and inevitably it falls to members of the committee and a small group of supportive members who give of their time in keeping the grass mown, the garden beds repaired and maintained,

the edges trimmed, the compost prepared and the garbage bins put out each week. Thank you all. We can always use more help so please contact myself or Deirdre if you can spare just a few hours each month.

At the end of the day however, we can only do what we can do and what does not get done today gets done tomorrow or the next day or week or month.

Last, but by no means least I must pay a extra special thanks to our two retiring committee members – Margaret James and David Coleman. Margaret and David have been amongst our longest serving members and their corporate memory and commitment to the working of the garden will be sorely missed. We have been fortunate, at the same time, to welcome onto our committee Chantel Yates and I look forward to working with Chantel in the years ahead.

Michael Lynch
President