

President's Report 2022/2023

Good morning, I'm Jane Wilcox, President of the Friends of TMAG.

Today, I am pleased to present the President's report for the financial year 2022/2023.

Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to everyone here today for your attendance at the AGM. Thank you for continuing to support TMAG by attending the diverse range of talks and events we have been able to present this year. Your interest is what keeps us going.

What an amazing journey this year has been. We held five offsite events this year, a highlight of which was a rare opportunity to visit the collections and research facility at Rosny. Due to the generosity of the curators there, we were able to see some wonderful items which are not usually on display. Other highlights included attending a behind the scenes experience at the Playhouse Theatre whilst a play was in production. We also visited the Herbarium for a wonderful talk about its role and saw some of the botanical treasures housed there. Members of the team also led us on a popular botanical walk at the Waterworks.

Our floor talks this year continue to have good attendances. Some of our more popular presentations have taken us to remote islands to discover the joys of volunteering and being at one with nature and the elements whilst manning a lighthouse, and to the Antarctic peninsula to investigate the history of the Cape Adare pendant. Closer to home, we discovered how local timber was used so successfully in Tasmanian colonial furniture and we have learned about the fossils in our own back yards. Other talks made us aware of the plight of the eagle and its dangerous interaction with infrastructure, and the life of the delightful, endangered, 40 spotted pardalote.

A particular highlight to note was the viewing of the Catherine Mitchell embroidered table cover. Being so fragile, it is rarely on display, so it was a privilege indeed to see it in such close proximity. The committee is very thankful to TMAG and its curators for allowing our members exclusive access to such a beautiful item.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all our presenters. Thank you to TMAG staff who give their time so generously to talk about their roles and give us ideas for future events. Thanks to members who have willingly shared their interests and passions. We also thank the front of house staff here at TMAG for setting up for our events. They are unfailingly obliging and calm under pressure!

President's Report continued

One of our ongoing objectives is to help support TMAG by donating funds for needed items, and this year has been no exception. The Friends of TMAG has been able to donate approximately \$30,000 this financial year. Our treasurer will present details of the projects we have supported in his financial report.

All this could not have been achieved without our brilliant committee. Sadly, this year Noel Harper and Audrey Hutchison are laying down their roles. Both will be very much missed and I thank them for their dedicated service and commitment, Noel for more than 20 years and Audrey for four years.

Noel was our treasurer for many years and always made sure we did not spend more than we earned. He kept us on the financial straight and narrow. He also helped to arrange many events over the years and had an uncanny ability to track down wine bargains. Noel, we look forward to your continued involvement as a member of the Friends as you take a well-earned rest.

Audrey has been a valued member of the committee and has arranged some fantastic events over the four years of her association. Her attention to detail is exemplary. When the decision was made to record events for uploading to our website, Audrey did not hesitate to take on this role and successfully performed this task for many of our events. Audrey, all the best and we hope to see you when your new ventures allow.

In conclusion, our commitment in the coming year, will be to continue to engage with, explore and narrate wonderful Tasmanian stories. There will be new exhibitions to discover, floor talks and tours to ignite your passion and expand your horizons with the aim that your membership continues to reward you.

JANE WILCOX

President