



CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

WAMA Foundation - 2017 AGM

The WAMA Project continues to gather both momentum and definition due to the tireless efforts of our dedicated volunteers.

Government support remains elusive, however, recent discussions with Regional Development Victoria have shaped an aligned way forward which should result in a clear “go, no-go” outcome, with respect to Government support, in the course of 2018.

In the Region, tremendous momentum has been built. Activities include clearing of the fence line on the WAMA site in readiness for the erection of a fully approved vermin proof fence, education activities, active merchandise sales and a very successful “profitable profiling” campaign in the region.

The Art Advisory Council is building on the “off-site” exhibitions held over the last two years at Grannes, near Stawell, whilst actively planning a major Melbourne profiling exhibition in 2018, to coincide with continued Regional activities.

The Fauna Advisory Council has been established and steps are well advanced to enable hardening of endangered species on the WAMA site

In collaboration with Jallukar Landcare, the Australian Plant Society and Greening Australia, the Native Grasslands Project is well underway, collecting and propagating seeds to restore grasslands on the WAMA site. WAMA has been listed on the BGANZ “Care for the Rare” program for endangered plant species.

The Board has endorsed a pilot education program, working with local schools over the next two terms to develop and test WAMA’s educational programs. The outreach component has been extremely well received and nature play days well attended.

WAMA now has, in collaboration with Museum Victoria, an active citizen science project, with many WAMA volunteers posting, unique and exquisite images of plants and animals from the region and the WAMA site.

The WAMA Newsletter continues to be issued quarterly and provides a great update on what is happening in and around WAMA. The WAMA supporter’s database now totals over 4000 and Facebook page has over 800 followers.

Around \$200,000 has been generated in the last financial year through fundraising activities and donations.

In closing, thank you all for your commitment and support in 2017. Let us make 2018 a break-through year for WAMA!

Greg Lewin AM
Chairman
WAMA Foundation Pty Ltd