

## WAMA: IN A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER CHAIRMAN'S 2020 AGM REPORT

The remarkable and resilient WAMA team, has managed to generate momentum and progress in many, some new, directions in what has been a year like no other.

Amidst the COVID environment, it has been a year of many highlights:

- The predator proof fence has been completed and the enclosed area is well on the way to vermin free status.
- The WAMA Online Art Gallery was introduced and Merle Hathaway curated WAMA's first online exhibition, "Nature Nurturing Art".
- Pete Marshall curated the "Inspiration Wild: Foundation Artists 6 Years On" online exhibition.
- The online exhibitions have been extremely successful and both have been extended into next year.
- WAMA was the proud recipient of the Mann Collection and the Mann Bequest.
- WAMA conducted an outstanding The Biggest Science Experiment project which was partly funded by the Northern Grampians Shire Community Grant Program and received recognition from the Federal Minister for Education.
- Planting of the Native Grasslands project in collaboration with Jallukar Landcare took place.
- Propagation and landscape design activities commenced for the WAMA Grampians Endemic Garden.
- Tract completed the landscape master plan of the WAMA site.
- The DCT made significant progress with MVS Architects on the development of a "fit for purpose" building and gallery design.
- Mike Makatron was commissioned to paint murals on the temporary huts at the entrance to the WAMA site.
- WAMA registered to implement a Reconciliation Action Plan.
- The "volunteer core" conducted numerous working bees and the site is looking great.
- John Tiddy published a book titled "Birds of WAMA" utilising many of the beautiful photographs he has taken at the site.
- WAMA's first flora survey is taking place as we meet. This will provide a firm foundation for recording changes that arise post the erection of the PPF.
- WAMA's number of supporters from far and wide continued to grow with 1,500 Facebook followers, almost 400 Instagram followers and over 5,000 on our database for news and updates.

Mike Stevens resigned as a Director to pursue career opportunities in South Australia. Congratulations Mike. Mike will be sadly missed at Board level, however has pledged to continue with close involvement.

Neil Marriot has stepped down from leading the Flora team after a tremendous commitment of more than 10 years. Neil has made many major contributions to WAMA. Neil's knowledge, enthusiasm and passion as a team leader will be sadly missed, but Neil's commitment to continue working as part of WAMA's Grampians Endemic Garden implementation team is highly appreciated.

The annual fundraiser in Dunkeld could not be held due to COVID restrictions, but plans are in place to hold the 2021 event on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Hold the date.

On behalf of the Board, I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to all volunteers, staff, donors and supporters.

Greg Lewin AM  
Chairman  
WAMA Foundation Ltd