



# HORTICULTURAL THERAPY SOCIETY OF NSW INC (CULTIVATE NSW)

## ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19





## A message from the President

It is with great delight that I present the Annual Report for the Horticultural Therapy Society of NSW Inc for the financial year 2018-19.

At the AGM in December 2018 as the new incoming President, I put forward three key goals that we as a committee wanted to work on for the rest of the year.

The goals were to:

- 1) implement an integrated online membership management system.
- 2) improve and enhance our education and training offerings and opportunities for members to connect.
- 3) Develop our own and support members' projects and create a mentorship program.

A full report on our achievements for each goal can be found in the 'Year in Review.'

We have had a very successful year and I would like to thank Toni Salter, the immediate past President for her four years at the helm that laid the groundwork for where we are today.

I would also like to thank our very hard-working committee, Jan, Kath, Phil, Bryn, Jacquie and Eleanor and our wonderful Executive Officer, Erin Poga for their ongoing support, passion and commitment to Cultivate NSW.

Cultivate wouldn't be where it is without our members, subscribers and our very generous and supportive sponsors, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Outhouse Design, Vegepod, Adam Robinson Design and Urban & Rural Design.

On behalf of the committee, thank you everyone for your support and we look forward to seeing you very soon at some of the very exciting initiatives planned for the coming year.

Warmest regards,

*Joanne*

Joanne Aquilina,  
President, HTS of NSW Inc/Cultivate NSW

## 1.0 The Year in Review

We commenced the year with Toni Salter at the helm together with Joanne Aquilina, Phil Pettitt, Craig Foyle, Barry Quine and Eleanor Dennis. We started the year with a presentation by Steven Wells who has implemented TH practices and gardens at the Austin Hospital in Melbourne. Steven is also the current President of Therapeutic Horticulture Australia and we took the opportunity to discuss the plans for the national body and how we might collaborate in the initial stages whilst working on a potential merger strategy.

Much of the time between July and December leading up to the AGM last year was taken up with internal discussions about the possible merger of Cultivate with THA, hence the lateness of the AGM. After lengthy consideration and much discussion, it was decided that the timing was not right for the merger. A statement to this effect was issued at the AGM.

At the AGM, three committee members retired, Toni Salter, Barry Quine and Craig Foyle. Toni had been President for four years and had provided a strong platform from which we could continue to grow Cultivate and the industry. I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all our members, to thank Toni, Barry and Craig for their passion and dedication to Cultivate NSW.

The new committee comprised Joanne Aquilina as President, Eleanor Dennis VP and Secretary and committee members, Philip Pettitt, Jacquie Dredge, Bryn Hutchinson, Adam Robinson, Remus Avramides. Erin Poga continued in her role as Executive Officer. Unfortunately, Adam and Remus had to resign for work reasons and they were replaced by Kath Temple and Jan Cantrell, both from TAFE NSW. I would like to thank Adam and Remus for their input during their tenure. Bios can be found in the members' section of the website.

The current committee has only had 6 months of this reporting period (2018-19) to enact our goals. However that hasn't had a huge impact on our progress as you will see in the following status update.

Our goal for membership was to implement

*'A new online membership management system that will simplify a lot of the office processes and make it easier for you to renew your membership, receive information, engage with other members; development of 'members only' benefits – project resources, links to other organisations, online resources and library; a member directory; revamped web site; mentor program; community engagement opportunities; engage regional and remote NSW virtually via technology in the initial stages and hopefully develop a program of face-to-face meeting/workshops around the state.'*

Although the launch of the new system happened on August 1 in the 2019-20 financial year, most of the development work happened in the first six months of this year. The new website is the 'front face' of the integrated membership management system which has replaced many manual processes and third-party applications such as Mail Chimp and TryBooking. If you haven't engaged with the new site, I urge you to do so and to discover the benefits of the members' area including exclusive access to the members' directory, project directory and the resources section. You can also renew your membership through the site. We have also become an affiliate member of the American Therapeutic Horticulture Association which gives members full access to the wonderful ATHA journal.

We are working on the engagement opportunities for regional and remote areas in NSW and beyond through the use of technology and I hope to report on progress at the next AGM. One step in that direction has been the 'almost weekly' email newsletter to keep all members and subscribers up to date and to alert everyone to training and education opportunities as well as events. Another step has been to identify regional coordinators and we are in discussion with several regional and interstate members and hope to be able to announce details very soon.

Our second goal was centred on Events/Education and Training and we were aiming to hold

***'4 main themed meetings/events per year; regular hands-on learning workshops to be held at the Telopea Centre; supporting other community events that provide opportunities for members to be involved in a variety of ways for example, as guest presenters to community groups or manning a Cultivate stand and support for the National Conference.'***

We participated in, supported and promoted several community events involving our members including – the Tomato Festival at the Royal Botanic Gardens together with Community Greening, Collectors' Plant Fair, Panania Free Rangers Harvest Festival and a Pocket City Farms panel. We also hosted talks by Steven Wells and his work at the Austin Hospital and the progress towards a national TH organisation and Nanthini Elamgovan from Singapore National Parks who gave a wonderful presentation on Singapore's approach to S&TH through the creation of a city that rises from the green is green first, city second.

As part of the Collectors' Plant Fair we were delighted to promote a new TH book, 'Nature Heals', written by Virginia Field, Karen Gray and Kerryn Coombs-Valeontis. It was wonderful to support Virginia, Karen and Kerryn, all of whom have an association with Cultivate either as members or supporters.

We have also started to plan and execute our education/training program commencing with an Introduction to Therapeutic Horticulture workshop which was held on May 31<sup>st</sup>, facilitated by our

immediate past President Toni Salter. The course sold out in three days and we had a waiting list. A second course was scheduled for August.

Reports from all of our events can be found at [www.cultivatensw.org.au](http://www.cultivatensw.org.au)

We have also agreed to set up a Scholarship Fund, with the first scholarship to be named in honour of Jeanette Penklis, a former Committee member of Cultivate and a passionate exponent of S&TH who sadly passed away in May after a long battle with cancer. A tribute to Jeanette can be found at [www.cultivatensw.org.au](http://www.cultivatensw.org.au)

Jan Cantrell and Kath Temple, will be leading the development of our Education and Training strategy and resultant programs, during the next financial year. This will be an exciting period for Cultivate NSW. As part of the strategy we will be looking at appointing regional coordinators who will work with and have the full support of the committee, as the contact person for a specific regional area.

The third and final aspect of our program was to develop a range of projects.

***‘This is a new area and yet to be fully articulated but we are thinking along the lines of assisting members and non-members to promote their projects, provide mentors, call for volunteers, post jobs for project employees. We are also considering starting our own small projects that will provide further engagement opportunities for members. Stay-tuned!! as this is an exciting development and opportunity for members and the wider community.’***

We haven't progressed far with the projects goal during this term but now that the new website is operational and we will have regional coordinators in place, we aim to move this goal forward during the next term.

We have however, started developing partnerships with various organisations by way of preparation.

We have also improved our social media interactions with postings on FB and Instagram. It has been very successful attracting people to events and signing up as new members.

As you can see, we haven't been idle and if re-elected, we will continue to grow and develop what has been started in the past six months. We would also encourage anyone who wants to help in any way to either stand for the committee, or if your time is limited, please feel free to contact Erin ([info@cultivatensw.org.au](mailto:info@cultivatensw.org.au)) and let us know how you would like to help out.

## 2.0 Committee Members

Role	1.7.2019 – 12.12.2019	12.12.2019 – 30.6.2019
President	Toni Salter (retired)	Joanne Aquilina
Vice President	Joanne Aquilina	Eleanor Dennis
Secretary	Eleanor Dennis	Eleanor Dennis
Acting Treasurer	Eleanor Dennis	Eleanor Dennis
Executive Officer	Erin Poga	Erin Poga
Public Officer	Eleanor Dennis	Eleanor Dennis
Committee member	Phil Pettitt	Phil Pettitt
Committee member	Craig Foyle (retired)	Remus Avramides (Resigned March 2019)
Committee member	Barry Quine (retired)	Bryn Hutchinson
Committee member		Jacquie Dredge
Committee member		Adam Robinson (resigned February 2019)
Committee member		Jan Cantrell from April 2019
Committee member		Kath Temple from April 2019

## 3.0 Membership Report

Membership continues to grow and the exciting aspect is that we are retaining members.

The following table describes the number and makeup of our members. We are attracting members from across Australia and New Zealand as well as NSW and from a wide diversity of interest and professional groups.

We also have 609 subscribers to our mailing list who also represent a diverse range of interests.

With regard to Therapeutic Horticulture Australia, we are in ongoing discussions and we participate in the Events and Training Committee and Jo and Eleanor have semi-regular calls with Steven and Tara, President and VP respectively. Nothing has changed with regard to merging as we don't believe it is in the interests of our members at this point in their development. We are maintaining contact as we believe there should be a viable national professional body.

Member type	As at 30.6.18	As at 30.6.19
Total members	69	82
Renewing members		53
New members		29
Member type by category		Number as at 30.6.19
Patron		1
Life Member		3
Individual Member		58
Concession/Student		14
Corporate Sponsor		6
Total		82

## 4.0 Financial Report

### 4.1 Report for Community Solutions One Account.

<b>Income</b>	<b>\$'s</b>
Cash at hand	11,858.63
Events	4,146.28
Membership	2,197.00
Corporate Sponsorship	2,020.00
Over payment returned	500.00
Donations	50.00
Interest	14.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,785.93</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$'s</b>
Executive Officer <sup>1</sup>	3187.50
Events	3682.25
Web hosting/security upgrade <sup>2</sup>	381.00
Insurance	114.51
Club Express set up and monthly subscription <sup>3</sup>	280.45
Donations <sup>4</sup>	200.00
Training/Professional Development <sup>5</sup>	297.00
Printing/Stationery/Phone/ACNC reporting	15.00
Refunds	35.00
Subscriptions	90.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>8282.71</b>
<b>PROFIT/(LOSS)</b>	<b>12,503.22</b>

### 4.2 Report for Business Cash Reserve Account

<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>13,471.37</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Interest received	58.25
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2019</b>	<b>13,529.62</b>

**Total cash at hand – total of both accounts**

**26,032.84**

**Notes to be read in conjunction with the above results.**

**Note 1: Executive Officer**

The total of \$3187.50 has been apportioned as follows:

1. General membership duties	\$2550.00
2. Club Express set up (20.25 hrs)	\$607.50
3. Paypal set up (1 hr)	\$30.00

**Note 2:** These costs should be reduced in 2019-20 financial year as we have converted to ClubExpress and pay a monthly subscription for all services. That said, costs will be dependent on the \$US/AUD exchange rate as ClubExpress is a US service.

**Note 3:** Payment to ClubExpress for setup and two months subscription.

**Note 4:** Donation to Austin Hospital on behalf of Steven Wells.

**Note 5:** Professional Development – Governance training for board members – Bryn Hutchinson, Jan Cantrell, Eleanor Dennis.

In the previous financial year we had absorbed transaction fees incurred for online event bookings with TryBooking. In this financial year, we included the transaction fees in the per unit ticket prices at cost recovery. The change to ClubExpress includes an integrated event booking system which we expect will reduce, if not remove, extra transaction costs.

Eleanor Dennis, Secy/acting Treasurer/Public Officer

15<sup>th</sup> August 2019

