

# New Brighton Community Gardens

## Chairperson's Report Trust AGM 2016/17

In reviewing the past year(reading through our Trust's Minutes), I am amazed that for a modest local community garden enterprise(that is open to the public just 22 hours a week), just how much activity, volunteer numbers and positive vibe that is generated. All this on a modest, increasingly hard to meet budget.

This is achieved in no small part due to the collective skills and dedication of our much valued Garden Manager Catherine O'Neill and very able Administrator Joyce Bailey.

Appreciation also, for the contribution of our regular volunteers (average 10 per day), who help keep the gardens sparkling. At its core, is the fact that people want to come and be part of our Gardens for whatever reason and in whatever capacity, but in no small part because of the welcoming, positive atmosphere created by the leadership. Without this, nothing of significance would happen. Appreciation also for our eclectic mix of Trustees whose range of skills and participation help keep the Gardens going. Two Trustees have moved off the Trust this past year Diane Trower and Linda Rose. We welcome two new Trustees John Livesey, and Ayse Allon-Wohlleben. Thanks also to Heather Davies, the CCC Community Development Advisor for Burwood Pegasus, for her positive advice and support.

Of course, underpinning everything positive about our Gardens is a financial reality which enables us to do what we do. We are grateful to our sponsors, namely:

CCC Strengthening Communities, Lotteries, Rata Foundation, COGS, TTCF, Thank you Charity, Rotary, CCC Neighbourhood fund, Mainland Foundation, Tindall(United Way).

The pot of money we have relied on seems to be shrinking. We are \$5000.00 in deficit over the last year, and with expenses around \$500.00/\$6000/00 per month, sourcing this is an increasing challenge. A reality check is to remember that there are 27000 not for profit organizations in NZ that we are competing with for funding. Joyce does her very best, but our trust needs to support her and do some lateral thinking about fund raising. This suggests a sub committee form to address this. Whilst there is no need to panic, I would suggest that if there is no progress in increased funding in the next 6 months, we shall need to develop a contingency plan in order to ensure we live within our means. We cannot bury our heads in the sand.

All in all, the years has been less dramatic than last, but nevertheless sold and satisfying (apart from the earning signals of our deficit). Our continuing highlight has been the Propagating Young Gardeners Programme over the winter months, with 50 pupils (although double that would like to be on the programme). We now look at our Open Day next month which is always a very busy, but positive time for working together to make it a success.

This is my final report and I wish the new Chairperson all the best. In time, we all move on. Relinquishment is something we all must learn. It's right that the younger generation take their place.

They Say "its best to go when they want you to stay than stay when they want you to go". A maxim I thoroughly agree with.

Thank you for your support and all the best for the future.

David Pierce.