

## Nursery Annual Report – for the AGM on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019

The 2018/2019 year has been challenging with damage to the shade house by high winds in April 2018, damage to the glasshouse by hail storms in January 2019 and unusually high temperatures in October 2018 requiring extra shade cloth to be installed over the glasshouse. Each time the volunteer staff were able to repair the damage minimising any danger to the native plants.

It has been a tremendous effort and I never cease to admire the skills, effort and dedication of our core group of nursery volunteers led by our chief propagator - Sue Nicol - whose experience and knowledge and almost daily visits to the Nursery kept everything under control. We wish her well in the few weeks as she undergoes some necessary surgery.

The lack of space has caused issues where we have had to refuse some larger plant orders but we have had the use of a small shade house owned by a long term customer in Blackheath for storage of some of the plants.

There are still the regular orders to fill – one of these being the NPWS Green Gully, Megalong valley re-vegetation project to which we have supplied plants for the past eleven years. We are still servicing existing long term customers, including BMCC bush care groups and have recently received another order from Barker College at Mt Victoria.

In spite of the setbacks we have had a bumper growing season and our sales stock has never looked better. We have also had continuing good sales at the monthly Blackheath and Lawson markets. Our plant sales over the year amount to approximately 6500 plants.

The Lawson Golf Course Masterplan project is proceeding with an updated draft plan available for public review and the ability to vote for the options proposed. The BMCS Native Plant Nursery is an option on the plan – to be located at the former Golf course club house. Further submissions to BMCC and Gazette articles are being initiated by the BMCS Management Committee in support of the proposed Nursery.

In the coming year there is plenty to look forward to with new orders, a new season and perhaps an additional Nursery site a possibility. I will not be nominating again for the position of Nursery Manager but we have a very able replacement for the job in Paul Irwin and I wish him well.

Hugh Brougham