



## **Secretary / Contact Person's Report 2011 Annual Meeting**

2011 has been in so successful many ways!

The profile of the Garden has steadily increased and 2011 is our most successful year to date for new memberships. Our current membership is 74. This is an increase of 28 members in just over 12 months. Increasing membership was a focus area for the S355 committee during 2011. The Committee is very proud of this achievement.

In addition to the strategies used by the Committee, the impact of Holroyd City Council's redevelopment of the Garden, including the installation of the new pathway in front of the garden, has meant that so many more people just drop in to see what we are doing. Most people are genuinely impressed with the productivity of the garden and the concept of what a community garden is.

The highlight of the year must have been the fantastic Easter Show win. What a great challenge and a fantastic project to start the year. It helped to focus our attention on an extremely positive activity and brought us together to work towards a common goal. What a great outcome and the local print media recognition we achieved for the Wentworthville Community Garden has been invaluable.

Following the Easter Show win, we hosted Holroyd City Council's Sustainability Workshops over three (3) Saturdays in May. This brought many new people to the Garden, some of whom have become members. Following this in June we hosted Green Thumb Day, another great partnership with Holroyd City Council's Environmental Team. Without the organisation and support of Brooke Littman and James Allsop from Council's Environmental Team these events would not have been possible.

The partnerships with Council have continued with the Garden being approached to host a project for senior Chinese local residents to learn how to grow vegetables. This project was dependent on funding from the Clubs for Holroyd program and was successful.

During 2011, one of the key features for me as the Secretary / Contact Person, is the communications that I have developed with officers from Holroyd City Council. My gratitude goes to Bert Leonard, Manager, Administrative Services for all of his support and expertise relating to Committee and Council matters. The other key links I have established are with the Media Unit and especially with Leesa Stephenson. She has been instrumental in publishing media releases about our Easter Show win, advertising our Open Day and arranging newspaper articles for the Garden. The other Council Officers who have assisted the Garden are Mark Alamangos from the sign shop. Without Mark's skills we would not have a sign that looks so great. Lloyd Davidson has assisted with advice about Public Liability Insurance especially for Open Day.

My sincere thanks go to Kevin Horne, my fellow committee member, for his guidance and assistance in navigating Council's departments to seek advice from the correct people.

The development of the newsletter has been a great initiative of the Committee to disseminate information to all members. Thanks to John Brinson and Brad Main for their commitment to this as it has been a more informal, effective and interesting way of getting Garden information and Committee decisions to members on a bi-monthly basis. Also thanks to Brad for the website he has established and updates with our latest achievements.

Our Open Day this year was also a great success. Thanks to Anne Brinson for leading the Open Day Planning Team to produce the most successful Open Day. Most thanks go to all the members who contributed their ideas, time, effort and resources to help make the 2011 Open Day a great event.

The achievements of the past year have culminated in our Acknowledgement and Dedication Ceremony today. We thank the Mayor for attending and for dedicating a plaque to commemorate the occasion.

I would also like to thank my fellow Committee members for their wisdom, dedication, knowledge and skills that they share to ensure the ongoing progress and development of the garden. We bring skills and knowledge from very diverse areas but have worked together to make decisions to benefit the Garden.

Our success as a community garden will always rely on the interest, participation and passion of our members. Be involved, make suggestions and stay passionate about this wonderful community garden.

*R. Main*

Robyn Main  
Secretary / Contact Person  
3 December 2011