

Chairman's Report

Presented to Gould League stakeholders by Blair Odom, Chairman of the Board of Directors, at the AGM (FY2018/2019) held at 8:00 PM via phone conference on Thursday 28 November 2019.

FY 2018/2019 has seen more change and growth for Gould League, with eyes cast to the future in the hopes that the organisation will continue to strengthen under new leadership. We have continued to run numerous excursions for a wide variety of Victorian schools from our three sites in Cheltenham, Toolangi and Ricketts Point, helping to foster a sense of love for the environment and hoping to inspire students to want to take on a duty of care toward it. In addition, we have continued to welcome new Members to the organisation and provide resources from our online bookshop to help people discover our unique flora and fauna and to learn to lead a more sustainable life.

In April 2019, Anne-Maree McInerney took over as our General Manager and immediately began to identify areas for improvement in a way that capitalised on the strengths and experiences of the team around her. Anne-Maree has worked closely with sessional staff to gain their insights and expertise in order to improve programs and focus on building a more efficient organisation. The results have been overwhelmingly positive as we look to continue to improve the way Gould League operates. Anne-Maree's enthusiasm for creating positive change is infectious. Always working with a more viable Gould League in mind, she has become intimately familiar with every part of the organisation in the hopes of improving our long-term financial health.

Through her essential role as Administration and Volunteer Coordinator, Alix Ayton has continued to ensure programs are booked, staffed and organised efficiently, which has meant that teachers and students are able to access our programs more easily throughout the year. She has worked closely with Anne-Maree and has contributed to identifying ways Gould League can continue to improve. We are extremely grateful for her ongoing contribution and leadership.

Former Acting Operations Manager, Elizabeth Odom, has continued to support Gould League enthusiastically on a weekly basis in a volunteer capacity since her departure, and the Board of Directors assists whenever called upon.

Everything Gould League have done this year continues to be in pursuit of our over-arching goal of working actively to create positive and effective sustainability education experiences for schools and to strengthen relationships with community members across Victoria. I look forward to continuing to work with the entire dedicated and passionate team over the coming year to help the organisation strengthen our legacy as a caretaker of our magnificent Australian environment and to improve upon Gould League's position as an excursion destination of choice in the Melbourne area.

Thank you to all the students and teachers for their visits and enthusiasm, as well as to our general members for their continuing support and love of Gould League.

Blair Odom
Chairman