

ATHEIST FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

Secretary's Report to the Annual General Meeting.

March 2015

Recording the minutes of meetings in the Foundation and maintaining those records, which is part of what a secretary does, has given me an insight into the huge volume of activity handled by the members of our Committee of Management and the other volunteers in AFA. Modest as individual Committee members are when they report to management meetings, it doesn't take much guesswork to realise how much energetic dedication goes into producing the facts, figures and results that are regularly placed before us.

There are also the volunteers who do wonderful work for the Foundation. I haven't had a chance to meet all of them, though I can appreciate what they do, because their efforts are acknowledged in reports to meetings and are essential to the results achieved.

Certainly, there has been an upwelling of activity by the Foundation over this twelve months. For a while I tended to wonder if there is an alternative to the word "miracle". After all, "miracle" usually implies that someone's absurd and invisible friend intervened to ensure their astounding success. It discounts the careful planning, guided energy and timely re-evaluation that goes into the making of good results. Just what is the word I am looking for to describe the wonderful but very real process, noticeable in the Foundation since 2008 and still continuing now?

Words like "achievement" imply a finished product. The process here is of a continuing nature, building towards a future we have yet to learn the potentials of and then, to learn the skills for realising those potentials. It seems I have to keep searching for that word.

Back to the known... Committee of Management members will give you the reports for their specific areas. What I have been able to bring together more generally from minutes and records, is how there is a conscious and open process of improving the way we do things. This especially involves AFA's policies and communications. There's quite a way to go yet. We're gaining on it and you are part of it. Everyone who joins us as a member, everyone who stays, everyone who puts their hand up to become more involved: you are all part of this process which is building and coming together so well.

Karen Joyce