

## **President's Report to the Annual General Meeting of Cittaslow Goolwa Inc**

The year 2018 – 2019 has seen the continual growth and development of Cittaslow Goolwa in so many respects. The consistent increase in membership – now numbering more than 240 members – is testament not only to the ongoing relevance of the goals and objectives of Cittaslow but also the recognition of its practical contribution to improving the social, economic and cultural life of the community and caring for our region's heritage and environment.

On behalf of the Management Committee I am pleased to report that once again the achievements of Cittaslow Goolwa are numerous, representing countless opportunities for residents, businesses, organisations and visitors alike to participate in interesting, useful and informative events and activities. Early in 2019 we developed a map showing the varied pursuits in which volunteers are involved and the different sites where they occur. It brought home to all of us the broad range of initiatives we currently undertake and has been a useful tool to explain to others what Cittaslow is about and how it operates. As part of the annual reporting this time we have created a slide show to summarise our endeavours through images, believing this to be an effective way of capturing the breadth of the activity while staying true to Cittaslow principles of conserving natural resources.

It is important to remember that literally everything that is achieved by Cittaslow is due to the commitment and energy of the dozens of members who volunteer their time, experience and expertise. As our membership grows in number the scope and complexity of the program also expands and the demand for volunteers increases. For many of us it is this generosity of spirit and willingness to work hard together that first attracted us to Cittaslow; and I for one have not been disappointed. I still marvel at the scale of responsibilities that members are prepared to take on, whether it is working up front at public events or behind the scenes in the gardens and parks, schools, kitchens, offices or workshops. Regardless of the role you have I am confident that every one of you is doing it because you think it is important to be part of improving life in our community. And this means that every one of you is deserving of our gratitude and mutual respect. In such a large and diverse association as Cittaslow there will inevitably be times of disagreement about priorities and strategies, however, it must remain our aim to work out our differences democratically and cooperatively. In other words: we are all in this together. The Management Committee of which I am part has been concerned to support this approach through policies and procedures which foster a congenial and collaborative environment within which we can all contribute constructively.

It remains for me to say thank you to all of you for all of your efforts over the past year. I wish to express my personal gratitude to the members of the Management Committee who have been such a strong team this year. There have been great times and challenging – or at least interesting – times, but I have appreciated the support you have given me in my first year as President and value most highly the friendships we have forged.

To those members who have just retired – Julie Low, Antonio Trimboli and Scott Woodsmith – we acknowledge your enormous contributions and hope that you remain actively involved in Cittaslow one way or another.

I commend to you the Annual Report to members comprising the Financial Statement, Cittaslow Goolwa Highlights 2018-2019 (Slide Show) and Summary of Activities. We look forward to another year of hard work, good company, and meaningful outcomes for the community.

Christine Putland