

Minutes of Council meeting – Celia Rosser Room 2 pm 10 October 2024

1	Approval of Agenda, Attendance, Apologies		Responsibility	Moved (M) Seconded (S)	Outcome
1.1	Approval of agenda	Neville opened the meeting at 2.00 pm and sought any additions or changes to the agenda. There were no changes to the agenda.	Neville Page		
	Attendance	<p><u>Council</u>: Neville Page (President, Chair), Linda Beveridge (Vice President), Rod King (Treasurer), Beth Tyerman, Alan Henderson, Chris Mackay, Christianna Cobbold, Kerry Moir (acting minute secretary)</p> <p><u>Ex-officio</u>: Peter Byron (Director ANBG), Helen McHugh (ANBG Friends Liaison Officer)</p> <p><u>Invited</u>: Wanda Filsell</p> <p><u>Apologies</u>: Alan Henderson</p>			
	Neville expressed his thanks to the current and previous members of Council for their support and contributions to the activities of the ANBG during the past four years in which he has been President. He also expressed his appreciation to Peter Byron and other staff members for their support and cooperation over this time and highlighted some major achievements over that time.				
	2 Minutes of Previous Meeting				
2.1		RESOLUTION: That the minutes of 12 September 2024 be accepted	Neville Page	M: L Beveridge S: B Tyerman	Carried
2.2	Matters arising from the August minutes		Neville Page		
	Matters arising from the September minutes were covered elsewhere in the agenda				
3	General Business				
3.1	AGM	<p>The AGM is scheduled for 3pm on 24 October in the theatrette. Preparations include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The notice of Annual General Meeting was distributed on 2 October as an eBulletin, together with a notice of the resolution to amend the Constitution. A preliminary notice was included with Fronds, and placed on the website. 	Linda Beveridge		

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The draft agenda and other papers have been placed on the website. Nominations have not yet been received for the Secretary position, and nominations received so far for general member positions may not fill all vacancies. The Handbury Award, will be presented to Glenys Bishop by Judy West, Patron of Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens, after the President's Report. Rebecca Pirzl has agreed to be Returning Officer for the elections. Catering has been ordered for light refreshments after the AGM, which will be then followed by the Special Viewings for Friends of the Visitor Centre foyer display and the fogging-system in the Tasmanian section of the Rainforest Gully. 			
3.2	Volunteer recognition	RESOLUTION: That council approve two nominations for volunteer recognition.	Linda Beveridge	M: L Beveridge S: R King	Carried
4	Reports				
4.1	Director ANBG	<p>The Gardens will be closed all day on Monday 21 October due to security requirements for the Royal Visit. It was agreed that Neville will include this information in a Friends e-bulletin.</p> <p>Seedbank staff will be moving into the Crosbie Morrison building next week in preparation for the upgrading of the seedbank buildings. A fence will be erected around the site.</p> <p>Completion of the Conservatory has gone out to tender with submissions closing on 1 November. It is hoped a contract will be signed within a month.</p>	Peter Byron		
4.2	ANBG Friends Liaison Officer	<p>Helen's report is on the Google drive.</p> <p>Visitation has been very strong, especially education visits.</p> <p>The annual benchmarking survey which allows comparisons with other years and other botanic gardens is about to commence. The survey seeks inputs from visitors.</p> <p>Helen added that the new banners in the ANBG Visitor Centre area feature photographs provided by the Friends Photographic Group.</p>	Helen McHugh		

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4.3	President	Neville's report will be placed on the Google drive. His main activities have been in relation to preparing for the AGM.	Neville Page		
4.4	Treasurer	The balance sheet and income statement for 30 September 2024 and audited financial statements are on the Google drive. The auditor's report was unqualified. RESOLUTION: That the Treasurer's report be accepted	Rod King	M R King S L Beveridge	Carried
4.5		RESOLUTION: That National Australia Bank term deposit #3119 for an amount of \$134,268.49 be rolled over for 8 months to mature on 2 June 2025 at an interest rate of 4.75% per annum. RESOLUTION: When term deposit mature #0395 for an amount of \$55,211.72 matures on 31 October the principal plus interest be redeemed in full and paid into the operating account. \$20,000 of this then be transferred to the gift fund and new term deposit will be established with the remainder for 3 months.	Rod King	M N Page S L Beveridge M. R King S. C Mackay	Carried Carried
4.6	Project Committee	The Project Committee report has been placed on the Google Drive. Wanda presented the report in Alan's absence. The Committee has received proposals for 6 projects from the ANBG and is recommending that the Council support 2 of them at this time. The Committee will meet some time soon to consider the remaining proposals. RESOLUTION: 1. That the Gift Fund cover the acquisition of two easy to use high quality image projection microscopes, at a total cost up to \$25,000. 2. That Friends fund the acquisition and installation of bottle filling and bubbler water stations at the Crosbie Morrison lawn and amphitheatre, and the Banksia Garden, at a total cost of \$26,000. 3. That the contribution of the Gift Fund and Friends be appropriately acknowledged on the items acquired under recommendations 1 and 2 above. It was noted that the Plant Recognition Group will be involved in the selection of the image projection microscopes.	Wanda Filsell	M: L Beveridge S. R King	Carried

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		<p>Members of the Public Fund Management Committee, which is current until the new Constitution is accepted at the AGM, were present and endorsed the resolution about the Gift Fund acquisition.</p> <p>Neville mentioned that an updated cashflow forecast will be available to the Council and Committee.</p> <p>Wanda noted that the smart board in the Banksia Centre was not working and that the electronics needed to be upgraded before the new projection microscopes were installed. Helen advised that a technician was scheduled to come next week.</p> <p>Neville thanked the PC for its continuing work in considering and recommending projects.</p>	Neville Page		
4.7	IT Strategy	<p>The sub-committee report has been placed on the Google Drive. Christianna reported that discussions have continued with 2 potential providers for a new membership database. The main issue to be resolved is parking passes.</p> <p>Further work has been postponed until processing of membership renewals has been completed. Christianna Cobbold will no longer be a member of Council after the AGM but is willing to continue with this project in 2025.</p> <p>The report recommended that further work, including the of a trial database setup (that would include membership of SIGs), in Member Jungle, be pursued in 2025.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: That the IT strategy report be noted.</p>	Christianna Cobbold	M: C Cobbold S: L Beveridge	Carried
4.8	Website team	<p>The website team report has been placed on the Google Drive.</p> <p>Beth reported that she doesn't have the time, knowledge or confidence to manage the update of the Friends website, and has been seeking ideas from others as to the best way forward, particularly in relation to the WordPress training and upgrades.</p>	Beth Tyerman		

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		Beth asked that any Council members who will not be continuing as members please contact her so she can help with collection of any records that may not have been recorded as part of the Friends' records.			
4.9	Volunteer Guides	<p>Kerry reported that some Guides have felt overwhelmed with very large groups on their walks during busy times in spring.</p> <p>Guides are currently preparing 3 special walks for visitors.</p> <p>Firstly a cryptogam walk to be offered in conjunction with an ANBG exhibition featuring ferns, fungi, lichens, liverworts, moss, hornworts and algae from 5 – 25 November.</p> <p>Secondly a walk being promoted as part of the annual springOUT pride festival in November. Walks will be offered on 22, 23 and 24 November and will cover variations in flower and plant sexuality.</p> <p>The third walk that will be offered sometime in future is for visually impaired people.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the themed walk that had been planned for November was cancelled.</p> <p>Guides are looking forward to a twilight walk being led by Rangers later this month.</p>	Kerry Moir		
5	Friends Groups				
5.1	Botanic Art Group	No report			
5.2	Communication	25 October is the deadline for the December issue of <i>FronDs</i> . 5pm next Tuesday is the deadline for the next eBulletin.	Barbara Podger Neville Page		
5.3	Flowers Fruit and Foliage	Continues	Ben Walcott		

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5.4	Nature Journaling	Going well	Lesley Page		
5.5	Growing Friends	The spring plant sale will be held on Saturday 12 October. The minutes of the 7 September 2024 meeting have been placed on the Google drive.	Maurice Hermann		
5.6	Membership	The membership report has been included on the Google drive RESOLUTION: That the applicants listed in the Membership Report be accepted as Members	Lesley Harland	M. B Tyerman S. C. Cobbold	Carried
5.7	Photographic Group	The Illumination 2024 exhibition will be held in the Visitor Centre from 28 November to 15 December.	Phil Green		
5.8	Photographic Competition	Prizes were presented on 28 September in the theatrette. There were 15 prizes and 9 commendations. All entries have been displayed on the video wall of the foyer outside the theatrette. All first-prize-winners received plant for their school garden. These plants were kindly provided by the Growing Friends. Linda noted that the competition was a great success and thanked all volunteers and staff who supported it.	Linda Beveridge		
5.9	Plant Recognition Group	The next Plant Recognition Group's workshop will focus on some of the common eucalypts (family Myrtaceae) and wattles (family Fabaceae) found in the ACT and the Southern Tablelands of NSW. Sunday 17 November 2024, 9:30am-11:30, Celia Rosser Room.	John Busby		
5.10	Plant Science Group	The next Plant Science Group talk will be on Monday 14th October, 10.30am in the Theatrette on thermal tolerance and sensitivity of Australian plants, presented by Dr Pieter Arnold, Research Fellow, Division of Ecology and Evolution, Research School of Biology, ANU.	John Busby		
5.11	Social Events and Activities	The SEAC now has 6 members, but no convenor. A twilight walk for Friends is being arranged for 15 November. This is being offered by the Gardens at a significantly reduced rate as a benefit for Friends. Refreshments will be served in the Banksia building before the walk. On 19 November at 2.45 pm Shiona Mackie, an active volunteer at the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh will be giving a talk about the RBGE – its history, the	Kerry Moir		

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		current restoration and renovation of the glasshouse, and the scientific and conservation work that is currently underway.			
5.12	Thursday Talks	The program for Thursday Talks is on the Google drive and website.	Linda Beveridge		
6	Other Business				
7	Next Meeting		Neville Page		
	The next meeting of the FANBG Council will be 14 November 2024 commencing at 2pm in the Solander Room, Banksia Building.				

