

## Minutes of Council meeting – Celia Rosser Room 2 pm 12 September 2024

1	Approval of Agenda, Attendance, Apologies		Responsibility	Moved (M) Seconded (S)	Outcome
1.1	<p>Approval of agenda</p> <p>Attendance</p> <p>Conflicts of interest</p> <p>Resignation of Secretary</p>	<p>Neville opened the meeting at 2.00 pm and sought any additions or changes to the agenda. The item that had been listed as 5.13 on the Google Drive, Spring Wildflower Ramble, was moved to item 3.5.</p> <p><u>Council</u>: Neville Page (President, Chair), Linda Beveridge (Vice President), Rod King (Treasurer), Beth Tyerman, Alan Henderson, Kerry Moir</p> <p><u>Ex-officio</u>: Peter Byron (Director ANBG), Helen McHugh (ANBG Friends Liaison Officer)</p> <p><u>Invited</u>: Barbara Podger</p> <p><u>Apologies</u>: Chris Mackay, Christianna Cobbold</p> <p>Neville called for any conflicts of interest to the agenda. There were none reported.</p> <p>Marg Nicholls, resigned following the last meeting. Kerry Moir has agreed to take the minutes until the AGM and Barbara Podger has offered to help with arrangements for the AGM, if required.</p>	Neville Page		
2	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>				
2.1		<b>RESOLUTION:</b> That the minutes of 8 August 2024 be accepted	Neville Page	M: Alan Henderson; S: Linda Beveridge	Carried
2.2	<b>Matters arising from the August minutes</b>		Neville Page		

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		<p>Most matters arising from the August minutes were covered elsewhere in the agenda</p> <p>1. Black Mountain summit walk - Linda Beveridge reported that the event was very successful with a good number of visitors and assistance from five 5 volunteer guides and Dr Michael Doherty, a local plant ecologist.</p>			
<b>3</b>	<b>General Business</b>				
3.1	Volunteer Recognition	<p>The Volunteer recognition ceremony will be held on 26 November 2024. Neville has asked for nominations for recipients with the closing date at the end of September.</p> <p>Alan Henderson has agreed to present certificates on the day if the President is not available.</p>	Linda Beveridge		
3.2	AGM	<p>The AGM is scheduled for 3pm on 24 October in the theatrette.</p> <p>Documents relating to arrangements on the day were prepared by the previous secretary but names will need to be updated.</p> <p>Council Vacancies and elections - no nominations have been received at this time.</p> <p>The notice of Annual General Meeting will be distributed on 2 October as an eBulletin and will include a notice of the resolution to amend the Constitution. A preliminary notice was included with Fronds, and it will be placed on the website.</p>	Neville Page		
3.3	Constitutional amendments	<p><b>RESOLUTION:</b> That the draft Constitution September 2024 be agreed to.</p> <p>Draft amendments have been incorporated into the document on Google Drive, and talking points to introduce the amendments at the AGM have been prepared and are on the GoogleDrive</p> <p><b>Notice of Special Resolution to be presented at AGM:</b> "That the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens Incorporated adopt by Special Resolution the draft Constitution dated September 2024."</p>	Neville Page	M Neville Page S Linda Beveridge	Carried

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3.4	AAFBG	Linda provided a verbal report on the Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens conference held 24 & 25 August at Maroochydore and will provide a written report. AAFBG currently has no President or Secretary. Tony Stanton is ANBG representative and Treasurer	Linda Beveridge		
3.5	Spring Wildflower ramble	The 53 <sup>rd</sup> annual spring wildflower ramble will be held on Sat 12 October from 9.30 to 12. It is coordinated by Friends of Black Mountain with support from Friends of ANBG and other organisations. It is estimated that 80 to 100 people will attend.	Linda Beveridge		
<b>4</b>	<b>Reports</b>				
4.1	Director ANBG	<p><u>Royal visit:</u> King Charles and Queen Camilla will visit the ANBG as part of their visit to Australia between 18 and 23 October. This will be a tightly controlled media event and not open to the public.</p> <p><u>Seed bank:</u> Contracts have been signed for the upgrade of the National Seed Bank at the current site which will double the capacity of the Seed Bank. The cottage will be converted to upgraded lab and technical space. Two new staff accommodation buildings will be built on site and the current temporary buildings removed. During construction, Seed Bank staff will move to the Crosbie Morrison to continue to deliver core functions. This means that the Crosbie Morrison will be unavailable for venue hire from mid-October.</p> <p><u>Conservatory:</u> the tender for the new builder to complete the Conservatory is expected to go out next week.</p> <p><u>Banks statue:</u> a new head for the Joseph Banks statue is being produced but will take several months. It will be created from the original mold so will be a replica of the old one, but with more secure attachment to the plinth.</p>	Peter Byron		

		<p><u>Botanic Gardens Congress</u>: in August Peter attended the 8th Global Botanic Congress in Singapore. There were 900 delegates and Peter did three presentations on the Conservatory design; the Plant Science Learning Hub; and the volunteer programs including the “squishy vols”. All were well received.</p> <p><u>Parliament House expo</u>: On 11 Peter represented the ANBG at the Capital Region Showcase at Parliament House. The purpose of the event is to remind national leaders and their staff of the value of national cultural institutions. Peter highlighted the role of the Gardens in conservation of threatened species and education through the Plant Science learning Hub.</p> <p><u>Joe McAuliffe</u>: Joe who is currently Nursery Manager will be retiring later this year.</p>			
4.2	ANBG Friends Liaison Officer	<p>Report on Google drive</p> <p><u>Visitor numbers</u>: ANBG welcomed 42,272 visitors in August 2024, 7,775 visiting the Visitor Centre. This is a 3.62% increase compared to August 2023 (40,794), and a 12.98% increase compared pre-Covid-19, August 2019 (37,415 visitors). School visitation remained strong with 3061 students visiting in August which is 83% higher than the 5-year trend for the month of August.</p> <p><u>Explorer backpacks</u>: the five explorer backpacks for children that were funded by the Friends as a trial, will be tested in October. They will be loaned out from and returned to the Visitor Centre. A notice will be placed in the eBulletin.</p> <p><u>Visitor centre foyer exhibition</u>: the launch of this is on hold until the finishing touches have been made.</p> <p><u>Venue bookings</u>: venues can now be booked online, except for the Ellis Rowan and Celia Rosser rooms which need to be booked through the venue booking officer. Regular repeat bookings also need to be booked through the venue</p>	Helen McHugh		

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		<p>booking officer. Bookings are free for Friends events, and members receive a 20% discount for private events.</p> <p><u>Volunteer recognition:</u> Kathy Eyles will be the guest speaker, and Rebecca Pirzl will be the MC.</p> <p><u>Staffing:</u> A new science communication office Lara Sharp has commenced full time to replace Ellie who is on maternity leave. Morgan Watson is the new venue officer, and Inger Mueller is a new education ranger. Lydia Guja, National Seed Bank Manager, has left the Gardens to become an ecological consultant.</p> <p><u>Living collections and maintenance:</u> Spring planting is underway with approximately 1,800 new plants. Renovation of the Friends Lawn will commence on 16 September for about 6-8 weeks. Other work including rock wall repairs, path cleaning, mulching, weeding, and small scale landscape renovations is underway. Re-construction of the Otto Ruzicka shelter is complete.</p>			
4.3	President	<p>Neville's report is on the Google drive. He was involved in preparing the documents for the auditor, and working on the amendments to the Constitution.</p>	Neville Page		Neville Page
4.4	Treasurer	<p>Balance sheet and income statement for 31 August 2024 available on the Google drive. Documents have been submitted to the auditor on 9 August and the audited statements are expected in September. The Operating account Term Deposit with NAB will automatically Rollover on 2 October 2024. Within the following 5 days, the Treasurer and Executive will instigate any changes needed to optimize the interest rate and investment duration. There is currently no indication that the Operating Fund will need topping up from the Term Deposit in October.</p>	Rod King		

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		<p>A NAB debit card has been received. The Treasurer is the card holder and principal signatory with both the President and Secretary also listed as signatories. This account will allow periodical direct debit payments including: Adobe, Mailchimp, Telstra, Connecting Up, Elementor, Events Calendar. Other accounts can be added in future as necessary and as authorised. This will replace the past practice of payments being made from personal accounts and then reimbursed. A limit has been set on the account and it will be topped up as required by the Treasurer. The card will not be used for casual payments, which will be subject to the normal process.</p> <p><b>RESOLUTION:</b> That the Treasurer be authorised to make online payments on an ongoing basis using the Friends debit card to the following service providers: Adobe, Mailchimp, Telstra, Connecting Up, Elementor, and Events Calendar.</p> <p><b>RESOLUTION:</b> That the Treasurer’s Report be accepted.</p>	Rod King	M Neville Page S Rod King	Carried
			Rod King	M Rod King S Linda Beveridge	Carried
4.5	Project Committee	The Project Committee is waiting for submissions from the Gardens for suggested projects. Submissions are expected next week	Alan Henderson		
4.6	IT Strategy	No report	Christianna Cobbold		
4.7	Website team	Beth has fixed all the backend plugin issues for the new website and is about to get the web editing team involved again. She met with David More to discuss ways of simplifying Council information – potentially using a database similar to GuidesWeb instead of Google drive. This would be easier for people to use, and much easier to maintain. Easy-to-follow procedures would be produced to ensure records were captured easily in line with the archival policy.	Beth Tyerman		
4.8	Volunteer Guides	Kerry reported that themed rostered walks continue to be very successful with wattle walks being the latest offering.	Kerry Moir		

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		The period during Floriade will be very busy as in other years with the regular rostered walks and Flora tours and a number of booked walks, and Family Secrets Flora tours during the school holidays.			
<b>5</b>	<b>Friends Groups</b>				
5.1	Botanic Art Group	A \$200 fee was paid recently for a workshop speaker. The workshop was well supported.	Judy Hutchinson		
5.2	Communication	25 October is the deadline for the December issue of Fronds. 5pm next Tuesday is the deadline for the next eBulletin. The bird brochure has been reprinted at a cost of \$2681 5000 copies.	Barbara Podger Neville Page		
5.3	Flowers Fruit and Foliage	Continues	Ben Walcott		
5.4	Nature Journaling	Cancelled this month due to high winds	Lesley Page		
5.5	Growing Friends	A proposal has been received for stage 3 of the upgrade of propagation facilities <b>RESOLUTION:</b> That Council approve funding to Growing Friends of up to \$3200 for the Stage 3 components of the Propagation Facility Refurbishment as follows: 1. Purchase of a cooling system for the Igloo and possible drainage improvements 2. Purchase of new closed propagation bed	Maurice Hermann	M Neville Page, S Linda Beveridge	Carried
5.6	Membership	The membership report has been included on the Google drive <b>RESOLUTION:</b> That the applicants listed in the Membership Report be accepted as Members	Lesley Harland	M Linda Beveridge S Alan Handerson	Carried

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5.7	Photographic Group	<p>The Photographic Group has prepared amended procedures for inclusion in the updated manual B.</p> <p><b>RESOLUTION:</b> That the amended procedures prepared by the Photographic Group be endorsed for inclusion in the Friends manual.</p>	Phil Green	M Linda Beveridge S Neville Page	Carried
5.8	Photographic Competition	<p>Linda reported that the students photographic competition is underway after a break of 4 years. 205 entries have been received from 88 students from 17 schools and colleges. Judging has been done, with many thanks to a panel from the Photographic Group. Prizes will be presented at midday on 28 September, followed by refreshments. The ANBG has paid for outdoor resilient prints of the images and these will be exhibited in the Banksia Garden from 28 September until 27 October.</p> <p>Council members are invited to the presentations of prizes and/or certificates, and to visit the outdoor exhibition.</p>	Linda Beveridge		
5.9	Plant Recognition Group	<p>The next workshop by the Plant Recognition Group is planned for 2 - 4pm Thursday 17 October 2024. It will be led by Anna Monro on the topic of getting to know plant datasets.</p>	John Busby		
5.10	Plant Science Group	<p>The next PSG meeting will be on Monday 14 October at 10:30am. The speaker will be Dr Pieter Arnold, Research Fellow, Division of Ecology and Evolution, Research School of Biology, ANU, on the topic of Thermal tolerance and sensitivity of Australian plants.</p>	John Busby		
5.11	Social Events and Activities	<p>Barbara Podger and Kerry Moir have met with two prospective new members of SEAC and have begun planning for an event before Christmas. A notice asking for people to join the Committee will be placed in the eBulletin. Barbara and Kerry are able to continue on the Committee but neither is able to be the convenor.</p> <p>The Thursday Talks team is organising visits to the Walcott garden in October.</p>			



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5.12	Thursday Talks	The program for Thursday Talks is on the Google drive and website.	Linda Beveridge		
<b>6</b>	<b>Other Business</b> None				
<b>7</b>	Life Membership	In camera. Invited attendees and ex officio members left before this item was discussed.  Two nominations for life membership had been received and both approved unanimously	Neville Page		
<b>8</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>		Neville Page		
		The next meeting of the FANBG Council will be 10 October 2024 commencing 2pm in the Celia Rosser Room			

