



DRAFT MINUTES 35th Annual General Meeting
ANBG Theatrette 3pm 19 October 2023.

1. Opening and Welcome

The meeting was opened by the President, Neville Page at 3.00 pm with the agenda confirmed and an Acknowledgement to Country.

Neville confirmed that a quorum had been reached with 45 members of the Friends in attendance and thanked attendees for their interest in attending the AGM.

Guests included Peter Byron, A/g Branch Head/Executive Director of the ANBG and Helen McHugh Manager Visitor Experience and Friends Liaison Officer.

Attendees listed in Attachment A

0. Apologies

Neville read out the list of apologies at Attachment A

1. Acceptance of Minutes of 34th AGM held on 20 October 2022

No amendments were made to the draft minutes of 20 October 2022 which were placed on the Friends website prior to the meeting.

RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the 34th AGM of the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens Inc. held on 20 October 2022 be accepted as presented on the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens website.

Moved: M Bourke

Seconded: M Hermann

CARRIED

2. President's Report

The President's Report for 2022-2023 was placed on the Friends website before the meeting for Friends to view and circulated by eBulletin as a few copies a few copies were also available at the front desk.

Neville highlighted points of interest in the report



- Wide range of activities of friends
 - Project Group
 - Growing Friends
 - Botanic Art Group
 - Photographic Group
 - Thursday Talks
 - Plant Science Group flowers Fruit and foliage
 - Nature Journaling
 - Social Events and Activities
 - Outreach and members communications
- Membership remains strong – 2135 with household and group members 2,935
- Special mention of four innovations for the year
 - Plant Recognition Group – organises workshops on plant recognition with specialist equipment
 - Gardens Calendar - production taken over by Friends Photographic Group and for sale through Botanical Bookshop
 - School Photographic Competition resurrected - \$5,000 allocated for mainly prizes
 - Don Beer Memorial Scholarship – part of ANBG Scholarship program and Public Fund to finance scholarships for study and research into Australian native plants
- Many Friends members have been participating in
 - Gardens Volunteer Programme
 - Volunteer Guides
 - Horticultural volunteers
 - Seed Bank
 - Visitor Information centre
 - Library
 - Herbarium
- Gave his heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed over the past year

RESOLUTION

That the President's Report for 2022-2023 be accepted as presented on the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens website.

Moved: N Page

Seconded: L Beveridge

CARRIED

3. Treasurer's Report



Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens

The Treasurers Report for 2022-2023 was placed on the Friends website before the meeting for Friends to view. Rod King indicated that a few copies were also available at the front desk.

The Treasurers report highlighted points of interest included

- Public Fund Consolidated income for year was \$203,791
- Expenses and contribution to Gardens Project \$99,205 with net surplus of \$104,586
- Retained earnings at 30 June 2023 \$332,659 including \$131,343 for Public Fund
- Of the \$332,659 approximately \$190,000 has been committed
- Membership fees contributed \$106,758 compared with \$102,313 the year before. Activities resumed progressively following disruptions caused by Covid.
- Plant sales by Growing Friends totalled \$15,811 with propagation costs of \$947, a surplus of \$14,864.
- Botanic Art Group exhibitions realised sales of \$13,760, with net surplus of \$3,427.
- Botanic Art Group workshops had income \$2,450, with costs of \$1,000, a surplus of \$1,450.
- Booked walks earned attendance fees of \$2,940.
- The Photographic Group exhibition realised sales of \$8,279 with a net surplus of \$1,728.
- The Friends were granted \$20,000 from the ACT Government Events Fund to support the 2023 MegaFauna Project.
- Donations to the Friends Public Fund totalled \$29,271 including \$5,000 for the Don Beer Memorial Scholarship which was established during the year.
- Interest received on term deposits was \$2,370.
- The Friends' main operating expenses are newsletter printing and postage (\$16,782), internet fees and web hosting (\$11,338), membership costs mailouts (\$3,611), subscriptions and memberships (\$2,678) and insurance.
- Support for the Volunteer - \$5,184.

I'm pleased to report that the Friends continue to be in an excellent financial condition, which allows it to continue its work in support of the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

RESOLUTION

That the Treasurer's Report, including the audited financial statements for the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens and the Friends' Public Fund, for the financial year ended 30 June 2023 be accepted as presented on the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens website.



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Moved: R King

Seconded: G Bishop

CARRIED

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4. Report Mr Peter Byron A/g Branch Head Executive Director ANBG

Thanked Neville and the Council for the productive relationship in working together and the Friends for their support.

Peter presented the major events for 2023:

- Several months of record visitation with all months above long term average
- Record school numbers 19,795 – a 29% increase over previous record
- Plant Science Learning Hub to be launched later this year with support from Friends – nothing like this elsewhere in Australia
- Visitor experience
 - MEGAfauna – over 51,000 visitors in July with 1,200 after DARK over 5 nights. Thanks to Friends who assisted in getting a Grant
 - Dead Puppet Society *Diprotodons*
 - Botanica Spirits and Food Festival – new event in September with 1,300 attendees
- Volunteers
 - 190 active volunteers
 - New Volunteer Coordinator
 - Better Impact platform to aid volunteer rostering, communication and recruitment
 - October marks 12 months Greenhouse volunteers
 - Greenhouse Volunteers assist with manual insect pest control
 - Volunteer recognition ceremony on Tuesday 28th November to thank fantastic volunteers for their valuable work
- Ian Potter National conservatory
 - Getting along, looking at April / May 2024 for completion
 - Majority of plants in the greenhouse
 - Large trees in Qld awaiting removal to the completed conservatory
- Living Collections and Gardens developments
 - Public Infrastructure – Friends Shelter, Banksia Centre air conditioning
 - Bushfire suppression system upgrade
- Conservation and Nursery
 - Ongoing
 - New weather stations
 - Propagation
 - Collecting
 - Outreach
- Conservations Partnerships
 - Biosecurity (including mobile plant pest surveillance AirSampler)
 - Small Purple Tea (*Swainsona recta*)
 - Rare Blooms Project – Bushfire recovery, Omeo Storks-bill planted in gardens
 - Survive and Thrive bushfire recovery project



- o *Imlay Mallee* – garden holds last 3 remaining adult trees
- National Seed Bank
 - o Tropical Mountain Plant Science Project – Eureka prize nomination
 - o Survive and Thrive collecting trips – Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park
 - o Presentations & publications – Annual symposium of International Association for Vegetative Science; Ecological Society of Australia conference, numerous publications
- Cryptogam digitisation by Australian National Herbarium
 - o Creating digital copies of physical specimens
 - o Vascular collection completed Feb 23
 - o Scanning of Cryptogam collection began March 23
 - o Project entirely funded by CSIRO
- New Branch/Head Executive Director Rebecca Pirzl starts 30 October 2023

Questions from floor to Mr Bryon.

Q1: Could *Myrtle Rust* overwinter in Canberra

Response: Not likely as it was far too cold for it to survive

(There was a suggestion from the floor to have an article in *Fronds*. With further response that there was indeed going to be an article in the next *Fronds* issue)

Q 2: Is the canopy is rather thin in the Rainforest area.

Response There is no concern given that since the garden was initially planted in 1970's there has been in place a succession plan for regrowth

Q 3:. Any comments to make on the Visitors Centre which the Friends has contribute design and has allocated funds towards

Response The revamping of Visitors Centre to start in November and finish before Christmas 2023. Again many thanks to the Friends for their great work and support without which the ANBG wouldn't be able to do as much as it does.

5. Election of Office Bearers and Council members

The President handed over the chair of the meeting to Helen McHugh who had agreed to act as the Returning Officer.

Helen declared that there were 5 vacancies to be filled. - Three Executive members and two ordinary council members)



Appointments are for 2 years and information on each of the candidates was posted on the FANBG website prior to the meeting.

Dealing with the three Executive positions first, Peter indicated that the nominations were:

- Vice President: Linda Beveridge
- Treasurer: Rod King
- Secretary: none

As there was one nomination each for Vice President and Treasurer, Helen advised that they were duly elected.

She then called for nominations from the floor for the position of Secretary. As none was forthcoming, Helen indicated that Council would need to fill the vacancy later as a casual vacancy.

Turning to the two vacant positions of Ordinary Council Members, Helen said that the nominations were:

- Kerry Moir and
- Beth Tyerman.

The two ordinary Council nominations were duly elected.

Helen then handed back to Neville Page to chair the meeting. Neville thanked Peter and iterated that should anyone be interested in the vacancy as secretary to contact him.

6. Appointment of Auditor 2023-24

Neville Page said that Council has been satisfied with the work undertaken by MGI/Joyce Dickson over the past 7 years, noting their competence and their reasonable fees.

Our Constitution states we require an Auditor. With a new Treasurer it was felt that it would be important to maintain the firm to ensure minimal disruption.

While their appointment is a matter for Council after the AGM, Neville asked if anyone had any questions or comments.

There were none therefore Council will proceed with this matter at its next Council meeting in November 2023.

7. Award of Life Membership



Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens

The awarding of Life Membership is one of the highest accolades that can be given by Friends. With these two new awardees of Life Memberships, we now have 22 Life Members.

The 2023 Life Members are:

- Andy Rawlinson and
- Pam Rooney

The President congratulated Andy and Pam presenting them with framed certificates and a book voucher for the ANBG bookshop.

Each of their contributions to the FANBG is summarized at Attachment B.



L-R Andy Rawlinson, Pam Rooney Neville Page (President) Photographer B Moir

8. Any other business

After Neville canvassed the attendees for any other business one of the members Warwick Wright, on behalf of all attendees thanked Neville Page for putting in all the work he has and also to his wife Lesley for her support. A round of applause ensued.

There being no other business raised, the meeting was closed at 3.47pm.

The President invited attendees to move to the Dickson Room for refreshments.



Friends of the
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Attachment A

Attendees

Allum	Colin
Beveridge	Linda
Bishop	Glenys
Bourke	Max
Bridgland	Wanda
Byron	Peter
Cooke	Pam
Coutts	David
Curran	Lynne
Filsel	Wanda
Fitzgerald	John
Harland	Lesley
Henderson	Alan
Hermann	Maurice
Herrmann	Kristiane
Holtzapffel	Kath
Johnson	Fran
Johnson	Mike
Kelleher	Fleur
Kelly	Mitchell
King	Rod
Knowles	Joan
McHugh	Helen

Mitchell	John
Moir	Kerry
More	David
Nicholls	Marg
Page	Lesley
Page	Neville
Parker	Frances
Pettersson	Susan
Primrose	Ian
Rawlinson	Andy
Rawlinson	Miranda
Robertson	Catherine
Robertson	Masumi
Rooney	Pam
Serjeantson	Sue
Smalley	Simon
Stanton	Jenny
Stanton	Tony
Truswell	Elizabeth
Tyerman	Beth
Wegener	Ute
White	Susan



Attachment A (Cont)

Apologies

Ayliffe	Dennis
Ayliffe	Lynden
Barrow	Sue
Bettell	Andrew
Bettell	Beryl
Bolt	Magdalena
Bourke	Margaret
Campbell	Anne Campbell
Campbell	David
Cobbold	Christianna
Darvill	Max
Dyer	Sue
Dyer	Steve
Elliot	Helen
Gear	Amanda
Golding	Jean
Hadley Williams	Janet
Hewson	Cath

Hinton	Brad
Hinton	Katrina
Hutchinson	Judy
Jackman	Lesley
Jaireth	Hanna
Jennings	Pauline
Jones	Marion
King	Jacqui
Laird	Robert
More	Jill
Murray	David
Murray	Sue
Podger	Barbara
Smedley	Michael
Teather	David
Teather	Pauline
Weir	Brian
Wimmer	Brigitta



Attachment B - Life Members

**Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens
Life Membership**

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION:

1. The nominee shall have been a member of the Friends for at least ten (10) years, except in exceptional circumstances.
2. The nominee shall have contributed outstanding service to the Friends in at least two of the following:
 - 2a. to the Council, sub-committees or special interest groups,
 - 2b. to the management and administration of the Friends,
 - 2c. to partnership arrangements with the ANBG, e.g. Guides Program, major events, etc,
 - 2d. to the increased community awareness of the scientific, educational, conservation aesthetic and recreational function of the Gardens, and
 - 2e. any activities that have advanced the 'Purposes and Objectives' of the Friends.

LIFE MEMBER- PROFILES

(Alphabetic order by surname)

Content confirmed by each of the nominees.

Andy Rawlinson

Joined the Friends 25 June 2004: 19 years a Member.

Andy served as a Friends Council Member from 2009 to 2011.

He has been a Volunteer Guide since 2005 and is still guiding which includes rostered walks, special interest booked walks and Flora Explorer bus tours. He has also been involved in the training and mentoring of new guides.

Andy is an active provider of technical assistance to the Growing Friends, including with a major upgrade of the GF nursery in 2016. He provides ongoing technical help with other Friends activities.

Andy has contributed to the success of many Friends activities over a long period not only by directly engaging in them but also through his willingness to deal with associated technical matters and his commitment to providing ongoing support. In this way Andy has helped make it possible for other volunteers to productively and safely play their part.

His involvement with the Social Events and Activities has included The Summer Concerts, Breakfast With the Birds and currently Wake Up With The Birds.



Pam Rooney

Joined the Friends on 16 February, 2011: 12 years a Member.

Pam joined the Friends in February 2011. She was one of the first members of the Photographic Group and also a member of the first committee of the Group. She is still very active in the Photographic Group, not only regularly participating in the Group's exhibitions but also assisting Brenda Runnegar with the hanging of the exhibitions. Pam was also involved with the hanging of the 'Seeds from the Bank' art/photographic exhibition in 2020.

Pam has been an active Volunteer Guide for 10 years since undertaking training in 2013 and was on the committee that produced the Banksia Handbook for Volunteer Guides

She was a very important member of the '*Fron*s' team using her graphic design skills to do the layout for all editions from August 2016 until April 2022.

*****END*****

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