

Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens Council Meeting Minutes 13 April 2023				
Item	Topic	Information	Moved (M) Seconded (S)	Council
1	Approval of Agenda, Attendance & Apologies			
1.1	Agenda	Neville Page opened the meeting and sought any additions/changes to the agenda.		Noted
1.2	Attendance	Present: <u>Council:</u> Neville Page (President, Chair), Linda Beveridge (Vice President), Christianna Cobbold, Alan Henderson, Kerry Moir, Masumi Robertson, <u>Ex-officio:</u> Peter Byron (Acting Executive Director ANBG) <u>Invited:</u> Dr Zoe Knapp, Dr Lydia Guja, Barbara Podger, <u>Apologies:</u> Anne Holmes (Treasurer), Louise Maher (Secretary), Helen McHugh (ANBG Friends Liaison Officer), Anthony Whalen (Acting Executive Director ANBG on leave)		Noted
2	Minutes of Previous Meeting	The resolution for Item 5.7 in the minutes of 9 March 2023 was amended to read “That a fund be established within the Public Fund titled ‘The Don Beer Memorial Fund’ to be financed by donations from family of Don Beer as well as Friends’ members and the general public” RESOLUTION: that the minutes of the Council meeting of 9 March 2023 as amended be accepted.	M: Alan Henderson S: Linda Beveridge M: Neville Page S: Linda Beveridge	Passed
3	Matters arising from previous minutes			

3.1	ANBG Scholarship Programme	<p>Dr Lydia Guja and Dr Zoe Knapp talked to the paper on Friends of ANBG Student Scholarship that had been circulated.</p> <p>Overall, the paper was agreed, and during discussion it was noted that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Don Beer Scholarship maximum would also be \$7,500. • Student progress for multi-year scholarship would be assessed in relation to the university guidelines and the student’s main scholarship. • Examples of reports to Friends ANBG included those by Leah Dann, and Alex McLachlan at Thursday Talks, which were attended by members of Council. • A campaign for the scholarships would be included in <i>Fronds</i>, the Friends ANBG newsletter. • Applications for scholarships would be invited nationally • There would be donation facility for the Don Beer Memorial Fund on the Friends ANBG website. <p>Resolution: The Don Beer Memorial Fund be part of the ANBG Scholarship Program and be increased to \$7,500 per year.</p> <p>Resolution: the representative of Friends ANBG on the selection panel be Masumi Robertson</p>	<p>M: Christianna Cobbold S: Linda Beveridge</p> <p>M: Neville Page S: Alan Henderson</p>	<p>Passed</p> <p>Passed</p>
3.2	New Members Welcome and Walk, 26 March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linda provided a report on the enjoyable and successful event and thanked all voluntary and staff efforts for the event. • Forty-seven new members accepted the invitation, which is approximately 16% of the invitations (highest response rate to date), and 19 helpers who contributed voluntarily. • The cost was (rounded) \$423; within the budget allocated. • Twenty-nine (29) questionnaires were completed by new members, and offers to assist with SIGs have been referred to the relevant groups. • Useful responses about the Friends website and newsletter • Seventy nine percent (79%) of responses said they joined because of their interest in native plants. 		Noted

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive feedback included that they did not know before how many activities the Friends did. • An article about the event would be included in <i>Fronds</i> 		
4	General Business			
4.1	Resignation of Louise Maher as Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council was sorry to hear of Louise’s resignation as Secretary. • Louise will continue as member of the Friends ANBG Public Fund. • Neville said he would ask Louise if she could fill the casual vacancy of general member of Council until next AGM. • Councillors were invited to seek expressions of interest for the casual vacancy of Secretary. If the casual vacancy was not filled beforehand, an advertisement for it will be in the next Friends e-newsletter. <p>Resolution: Louise Maher’s resignation as Secretary of Friends ANBG Council be accepted.</p>	M. Masumi Robertson S: Linda Beveridge	Passed
4.2	Meeting botanic interests of Friends	<p>A progress report was provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The workgroup now comprises Linda Beveridge, Dr John Busby, Isobel Crawford, John FitzGerald, Neville Page, Dr Masumi Robertson. • Informal discussions have been held with a number of Friends who have expressed interest in this, and some ANBG and CSIRO staff. Neville has also had an informal discussion with Peter Byron. There will also be discussion with Anthony Whalen after he returns from leave. 		Noted
4.3	Delegate to AGM of Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (AAFBG)	<p>Friends ANBG is a member of the AAFBG, which is celebrating 30 years. Linda is current President of AAFBG.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGM of the AAFBG is scheduled for 11am 5 May • Celebratory activities include a day tour of Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne and Cruden Farm on Thursday 4 May 2023, and • Reception at 9am 5 May and guided walk of Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne after lunch. 		

		All Council members and other Friends ANBG were invited to attend, RESOLUTION: That Linda Beveridge be Friends of ANBG delegate to AGM of AAFBG	M: Neville Page S: Kerry Moir	
4.4	Australian Network for Plant Conservation (ANPC)	Linda circulated a report on ANPSC AGM, which provided access to the full President Report 2022 and the Finance Report 2022. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The President's Report included the many projects that the ANPC had been involved in and associated seminars and events. The ANPC has continued to receive significant project and grant funding which has kept the ANPC extremely active in the plant conservation sphere, as well as financially viable. 		Noted
5	Reports			
5.1	ANBG Acting Executive Director	Peter provided reports for items 5.1 to 5.3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Executive Director, Strategic Partnership & Australian National Botanic Gardens position, will be advertised about 20 April. The Director of National Parks position will also be advertised as the current contract for that position will expire soon. Recruitment for the position of Manager Visitor Experience is progressing. Helen McHugh continues to act in the position in the meantime. The ANBG is making a submission to the Senate inquiry into fostering significance of national capital. A copy of the submission will be provided to Council. Number of visitors in March 2023 was 44,515, of which 8,029 visited the Visitor Centre. This is a 3.9% increase compared to March 2022, and 11.93% decrease compared with pre-Covid March 2019 (50,547 visitors). Education had another record month with 2,528 students visiting in March. Heritage Festival activities include: Indigenous Plant Use Walks, 12, 19, 26 April 10am Traditional Weaving Workshop 13 April 10am Bush Annual Workshop, 19 April 10am and 1 pm Story time in the gardens 21 April, 10am Canberra Tree Week includes: 		Noted

		<p>Children's Art Competition Outdoor Exhibition, 19 April to 7 May Forest Therapy Walks, 6 May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) Celebrations, Plant-Challenge, at the Gardens 1 to 28 May 		
5.2	ANBG General Manager	See above		
5.3	ANBG Friends Liaison Officer	See above		
5.4	President's Report	Neville said that his activities are covered by other agenda items.		Noted
5.5	Treasurer's Report	<p>Anne reported included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the March report is on Google Drive. • Income in March was \$13,541, Expenditure in March as \$2,706, net surplus for march was \$10,835, current net surplus to year to date was \$79,852. • Both of the Term Deposits will mature next month and Council will be asked to decide on action at the next meeting. The maturity dates are shown on the Balance Sheet each month. <p>RESOLUTION: That the Treasurer's Report for February be accepted.</p>	<p>M: Neville Page S. Alan Henderson</p>	Passed
5.6	Project Committee	<p>Alan said that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the committee will be considering revised design for foyer of Visitor Centre on 19 April. • He hope a proposal will be presented to next Council meeting. 		Noted
5.7	Public Fund	<p>After discussion about the ANBG student scholarship programme:</p> <p>RESOLUTION: that the Public Fund, including the Don Beer Memorial Fund, be part of the ANBG Student Scholarship programme.</p>	<p>M. Neville Page S. Alan Henderson</p>	Passed by members of Public Fund present

5.8	IT strategy	<p>Christianna reported that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WordPress has been installed on a development site on our existing server which has been increased in size to accommodate this. The cost is an additional \$100 per year for the space. • The new designs are now being developed on the new website. • An invoice for phase one which was the initial design work for \$5000 has been paid in accordance with our agreement • The Style Guide project is proceeding with the revised logo, Website and <i>Fronds</i> fonts and colours all completed. The graphic designer is now working on the stationary, membership cards, parking permits etc. • The new Style Guide should be ready for presentation to the next Council meeting. 		Noted
6	Friends Groups			All reports were noted.
6.1	Photographic Group	Last meeting featured photos from the Birds on Farms project.	Steven Playford	
6.2	Botanic Art Group	<p>April-May exhibition is on show. Two works of art were selected by Anthony Whalen and Linda Beveridge for purchase by Friends ANBG for donation to the ANBG:</p> <p>1 Artist: Jacqui GILLILANDS Title: <i>Hakea lawrina</i> Cost: \$350</p> <p>2 Artist: Annette DAHLER Title: <i>Acacia leprosa</i> 'Scarlet Blaze' Cost: \$150</p>	Wendy Antoniak	
6.3	Flowers, Fruit and Foliage	Latest edition focussed on Banksia	Ben Walcott	

6.4	Growing Friends	Some “Wollemi pines” sold separately from the Plant Sale turned out not to be such pines. A refund is being offered.	Maurice Hermann	Passed
6.5	Plant Science Group	Next talk will be 17 April.	John Busby	
6.6	Thursday Talks	Rolling along very well.	Linda Beveridge	
6.7	Social Events and Activities	<p>A series of walks similar to last year are planned (Fungi, Cryptogams, Butterflies), and 2 weekends of Wake up with the Birds (WUWB) in September and October.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal that a small charge of \$5 be made for walks, such as Fungi, etc which would be donation to Friends ANBG. • A separate proposal for WUWB will be made at Council meeting in July. <p>Resolution:</p> <p>a. There be no remuneration to leaders of Friends walks unless specifically approved, and</p> <p>b. Friends walks be offered at a charge of \$5 per person.</p>	M: Christianna Cobbold S: Alan Henderson	
6.8	Nature Journaling	April meeting focussed on Banksia	Lesley Page	
6.9	Membership	<p>March Report on Google Drive.</p> <p>Current memberships 2,000</p> <p>Current members: 2,766</p>	Lesley Harland	
6.10	Volunteer Guides	<p>Report was circulated and focussed on professional development activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council subsidised 50% of registration costs for Guides’ attendance at the Melbourne Guides 2022 conference. Many commented on the value of attending the conference. One of the comments in the report was <i>After experiencing several guides’ presentations at the Melbourne Conference I gained new knowledge of important points. Planned structure of your walk is important to tell visitors at the start. With big groups avoid questions until the end and have an exciting story to finish. You can accept questions from visitors as you walk between stops.</i> 		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As with previous years, attending Thursday Talks and/or Plant Science meetings was mentioned by a number of Guides as a way of developing their knowledge. Other significant activities included themed rostered walks, individual research and collaboration with colleagues. 		
6.11	Communications	<p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Fronds</i>: April issue of <i>Fronds</i> has been circulated. Its cover features a rare high-country plant. Deadline for articles to be submitted for August issue is 15 June Broadcast email: Neville called for submissions by next Tuesday 	Barbara Podger Neville Page	
7	Other Business			
8	Next Meeting	Meeting closed at 3.35pm Next meeting: 11 May 2023	Neville Page	Noted

