

Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens Council Meeting 11 August 2022 Minutes				
Item	Topic	Information	Moved (M) Seconded (S)	Council
1	Approval of Agenda, Attendance & Apologies			
1.1	Welcome to Beth Tyerman	Neville Page welcomed Beth Tyerman who had agreed to fill the casual vacancy created by the resignation of David More until the October AGM. Beth brought experience from her years as a Friend, Guide and Website team member.		Noted
1.2	Agenda	Neville Page opened the meeting and sought any additions/changes to the agenda. The agenda was accepted with the addition of items 3.2 and 6.1.		Noted
1.3	Attendance and Apologies	Present <u>Council</u> : Neville Page (President, Chair), Linda Beveridge (Vice President), Anne Holmes (Treasurer), Wanda Filsell, Alan Henderson, Lesley King and Beth Tyerman <u>Ex-officio</u> : Judy West, Peter Byron and Megan Menz <u>Invited</u> : Wendy Antoniak, Christianna Cobbold and Barbara Podger <u>Apologies</u> : Lynden Ayliffe and Kerry Moir		Noted
2	Minutes of Previous Meeting	RESOLUTION: that the minutes of the Council meeting of 14 July 2022 be accepted.	M: Neville Page S: Linda Beveridge	Passed
3	Matters arising from previous minutes			
3.1	IT Strategy	Neville Page said David More had arranged for him to access the database, which he now realised is a good system and perhaps could be enhanced rather than replaced. The list of IT activities that David had undertaken was on Google drive, and Neville had asked David to indicate which ones he would be interested in retaining. Once that was known, activities could be allocated to other volunteers.		Noted

3.2	Thursday Talks	Linda Beveridge said the full program for the rest of the year was finalised. She had spoken to Don Beer's family who were happy for the Friends to hold an annual talk in his honour in October for 5 years. Judy West will give the first talk on 20 October.		Noted
4	General Business			
4.1	Life Membership	Neville Page said that six suggestions for life memberships had been received. Information about these individuals will be gathered and considered at the next Executive Meeting prior to consideration at the September Council meeting.		Noted
4.2	Volunteer Recognition	Neville Page said the ANBG was planning to hold its annual awards ceremony in late November. He had sent emails to Council members and Convenors of the Special Interest Groups asking for suggestions by the end of August. The suggestions will be brought to the September Council meeting which will give sufficient time for certificates to be printed for November.		Noted
4.3	Special Interest Groups	Neville Page said that Linda Beveridge had prepared a list of contacts for each of the Friends sub-committees and Special Interest Groups. He was prepared to be the IT Coordination contact but only as an interim measure. Some minor changes were made to the list, and Linda agreed to add information about membership of each sub-committee and group.		Noted
5	Reports			
5.1	ANBG Executive Director	Judy West said that machinery of government issues were still being resolved, and she had invited the new Secretary, Mr David Fredericks, to the Gardens. Judy said that a number of staff would be going to the Global Botanic Gardens Congress in Melbourne in late September. She and Peter Byron would give presentations, Megan Menz was preparing a paper, and Judy was trying to organise a social event for all the Australian participants. Judy then said that she would like the two small scholarships she proposed last meeting to be dealt with separately from the proposed annual scheme, and would arrange for papers to go to the Project Committee. She understood the issues associated with the original scholarship scheme so circulated a new proposal in which Council and the Public Fund each		Noted

		<p>contributed \$7,500/pa to a separate scholarship with funding starting in consecutive years. To attract high quality candidates, it was important that only those with existing university scholarships should be eligible for the proposed supplementary scholarship. Ideally the scheme should be open to Honours, Masters and PhD students, and it was proposed that the first payment would be made in February 2023.</p> <p>Neville Page said there was no disagreement about the concept or philosophy but it was necessary to put into place the proper authority to support the payments. His preference was not to have an open-ended commitment. After discussion about timing, Alan Henderson undertook to prepare a new resolution based on Judy's proposal. It would be circulated for out-of-session approval by both Council and the Public Fund Management Committee, with approvals to be completed within 2 weeks if possible.</p>		
5.2	ANBG General Manager	<p>Peter Byron said that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the tender for the Northern precinct work closed that day so construction work should start soon • the Conservatory construction is going well and provided it doesn't rain much more should be completed around March next year • he will be working on Christmas Island in September and October with Megan Menz acting in his position and Megan Donaldson acting in Megan Menz's position. 		Noted
5.3	ANBG Friends Liaison Officer	<p>Megan Menz said that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • during July 47,400 people visited the Gardens ie 25% higher than in July 2021 and of those 11,000 went to the Visitor Centre • around 1200 people came to 'MEGAFauna after Dark' • 1,141 students came in July which is the highest number since records began in 2007 • 255 school students participated in the self-guided MEGAFauna tours; several local preschool and school holiday car groups also visited • the current exhibition in the Visitors Centre was <i>Gardens Near and Far</i>, and the next one was <i>Fired Earth: Inspired by Nature</i> 		Noted

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Guides were running various themed walks talks by PhD students followed by walks in the Garden were planned for National Science Week. <p>Linda Beveridge said the two special talks that had been arranged to coincide with MEGAFauna were very successful.</p>		
5.4	President's Report	<p>Neville Page said his report was on Google drive. He referred to the scam in which messages supposedly from him were received by various people in the Friends. David More has been able to track the scam back to Russia.</p> <p>Linda Beveridge said that some messages had also been sent out supposedly under her name.</p>		Noted
5.5	Treasurer's Report	<p>Anne Holmes said that the Balance Sheet and Income Statement as at 31 July were on Google drive, together with the financial projections to the end of November 2022.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: That the Treasurer's Report for July 2022 be accepted.</p> <p>Given the earlier discussion about the two small scholarships proposed by Judy West at the July meeting, Anne proposed:</p> <p>RESOLUTION: That, in view of upcoming project payments to the ANBG, partially withdraw \$4,000 from Term Deposit #72 902 3119 and rollover the balance of \$106,158.15 (plus accrued interest \$20.05) for a new term deposit of 3 months. Partial withdrawal to be deposited in the Operating account BSB: 082 902 Account: 17 654 4896.</p>	<p>M: Anne Holmes S: Linda Beveridge</p> <p>M: Anne Holmes S: Linda Beveridge</p>	<p>Passed</p> <p>Passed</p>
5.6	Project Committee	<p>Peter Byron advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Trigger design concept for the Visitor Centre foyer should be received next week the initial allocation of money for Iconic Plants would be used for plantings leading up to the Ian Potter Conservatory instead of at the Gardens entrance, and Craig Cosgrove would prepare the project proposal form. <p>On this basis, Alan Henderson proposed that the Project Committee could aim to meet in September to discuss the above proposals, plus the two proposals that Judy West raised at the July meeting ie funding for:</p>		Noted

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an honours student already working in the Seed Bank • a Living Collections staff member to go on exchange to another Garden. <p>Anne Holmes undertook to update the financial projections at the end of August for the Project Committee meeting once end of month banking details were available and processed.</p>		
5.7	Public Fund	<p>Neville Page said that Marg Nicholls on the Management Committee had advised that she would resign with effect from the October AGM. The question of whether to replace her would be considered closer to that time.</p> <p>He also said that there will be an out-of-session meeting to deal with the term deposit that matures this month, and the proposed scholarship program.</p>		Noted
5.8	Friends Groups	<p>a. Photographic Group – Neville Page referred to the current competition and the November-December exhibition planned by the Group.</p> <p>b. Botanic Art Group – Wendy Antoniak said that she was now the point of contact for the Group and, while there are convenors for each session, there is no formal committee. She outlined the Group’s activities including producing some artwork for the Ian Potter Conservatory, and assisting with the development of a teaching aid for the Education Rangers. Monthly meetings had been suspended because of COVID but they hope to resume in September. The Group appreciated the support they received from the Friends and the ANBG.</p> <p>c. Flowers, Fruit and Foliage (FFF) – continuing unchanged.</p> <p>d. Growing Friends (GF) – Wanda Filsell said that arrangements for the 27 August plant sale are going well.</p> <p>e. Plant Science Group – the monthly talks are going well.</p> <p>f. Thursday Talks (TT) – Linda Beveridge said the program for 2023 was being developed with talks already scheduled for February and March.</p> <p>g. Social Events and Activities – Christianna Cobbold said two walks were planned for September, and discussions were taking place about holding a bird walk in October.</p> <p>h. Nature Journaling – despite the weather, a session was held on 1 August.</p> <p>i. Membership – report on Google drive shows that membership is now 1989 with 2904 members.</p>		All reports Noted

		Neville Page said he is taking a box of membership brochures home so that he can affix stickers relating to the change in benefits for households and groups.		
5.9	Volunteer Guides	<p>Lesley referred to her report on Google Drive. She said that 9 of the newly recruited guides had now qualified as guides (2 more than last month) and some had led walks during the last month. Beth Tyerman is collecting details about the number of guides who wished to attend the Australasian Botanic Gardens Guides' Conference in Melbourne in October; currently the number is 18.</p> <p>Lesley also said Guides have reverted to ZOOM meetings because of COVID issues and sought reimbursement for her ZOOM subscription – around \$23/month.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: that Council approve reimbursement for Lesley King for 2 months of ZOOM subscription.</p> <p>Lesley also said that the themed walks are successful and bring people into the Gardens who otherwise may not come.</p>	<p>M: Lesley King S: Linda Beveridge</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Passed</p>
5.10	Communications	<p><i>Fronde</i> – Barbara Podger said the August edition is out but some people seem to be receiving it much later than others. She thanked Council for paying for Sharon Abraham's subscription for 'InDesign' to help with production of <i>Fronde</i>.</p> <p>Broadcast email – Wanda Filsell asked for input by COB 16 August. She also raised the issue of how best to update the mailing list, and whether something could be included in the renewal letters asking members to advise of change of email address. Neville Page undertook to talk with the Membership team and write a note for the next edition of <i>Fronde</i>.</p>		<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
6	Other Business			
6.1	Summit Walks	Linda Beveridge said the two Black Mountain Summit Walks on 23 July were fully booked and our share of \$37.50 was received in donations.		Noted
7	Next Meeting	2pm on 8 September 2022 in the Celia Rosser Room		Noted