

<b>Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens Council Meeting 8 December 2022 Minutes</b>				
<b>Item</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Information</b>	<b>Moved (M) Seconded (S)</b>	<b>Council</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Approval of Agenda, Attendance &amp; Apologies</b>			
1.1	Agenda	Neville Page opened the meeting and sought any additions/changes to the agenda. The agenda was accepted. Neville welcomed Acting-Executive Director Anthony Whalen and it was agreed that due to Anthony's time constraints, his report and discussion regarding the future of the Botanic Resource Centre would be dealt with first.		Noted
1.2	Attendance	Present <u>Council</u> : Neville Page (President, Chair), Christianna Cobbold, Alan Henderson, Louise Maher, Kerry Moir, Masumi Robertson <u>Ex-officio</u> : Anthony Whalen and Megan Donaldson <u>Invited</u> : Wanda Filsell <u>Apologies</u> : Linda Beveridge (Vice President), Anne Holmes (Treasurer), Julia Nicholls (Secretary), Peter Byron (ANBG General Manager) and Megan Menz (ANBG Friends Liaison Officer)		Noted
1.3	Council Secretary position	Neville Page said that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Julia Nicholls had kindly agreed to be secretary but may not be able to continue due to illness</li> <li>• If a new secretary cannot be found the secretary's duties may have to be rotated</li> </ul> <p>Louise Maher agreed to take minutes for this meeting. Megan Donaldson booked monthly council meetings in the Celia Rosser room for Feb-Dec 2023, except for July which is booked for the Dickson Room</p>		Noted

2	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>	<b>RESOLUTION: that the minutes of the Council meeting of 10 November, with changes to Item 1.5, be accepted.</b>	<b>M: Christianna Cobbold</b> <b>S: Alan Henderson</b>	Passed
3	<b>Matters arising from previous minutes</b>	None		
4	<b>General Business</b>			
4.1	Grant from ACT Events 2023	Neville Page said that the ACT Government had agreed to provide a \$20,000 grant towards staging the Dead Puppet Society event as part of MEGAFauna and advised Council of the process regarding the Deed of Grant that he'll be signing. Thanked Megan Menz for her work on this.		Noted
5	<b>Reports</b>			
5.1	Acting Executive Director	<p>Anthony Whalen reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction work on the new conservatory is continuing and scheduled to be completed late April/early May 2023, depending on weather. The ANBG is now deciding on plants and working through logistics</li> <li>• The ANBG is working with the preferred tenderer for the new Seed Bank and is close to signing a contract with the builders</li> <li>• Visitation is back to pre-Covid numbers and increasingly strong</li> <li>• Heads of Botanic Gardens met and discussed the Seeds for Hope fund-raising campaign</li> <li>• VIP visits to the Gardens included a South Korean Parks delegation, the departmental secretary, Alicia Payne, Federal MP for Canberra, and Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs</li> </ul>		Noted

5.2 and 5.3	ANBG General Manager and Friends Liaison Officer	<p>Megan Donaldson said that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were 41,605 visitors in November, a 32% increase on November 2021</li> <li>• There were a record number of education visits for the second month in a row: 2,950 students in November (up 40% on November 2021 and 3% higher than October 2022)</li> <li>• She attended the Chief Minister’s Industry Awards as the ANBG was a finalist in one of the awards</li> <li>• The Friends photographic exhibition is currently on show</li> <li>• Upcoming activities include Snakes Alive and Sunset Cinema</li> </ul>		Noted
5.4	President’s Report	Neville Page referred to his report on Google drive. He that he had recently taken a council member of the Friends of the Royal Edinburgh Botanic Gardens on a tour of the Gardens and had attended the Friends photographic exhibition.		Noted
5.5	Treasurer’s Report	<p>Neville Page said the Treasurer’s report was on Google drive.</p> <p>Neville then proposed:  <b>RESOLUTION: That the Treasurer’s Report for November 2022 be accepted.</b></p>	<p><b>M: Christianna Cobbold</b></p> <p><b>S: Alan Henderson</b></p>	Passed

5.6	Project Committee	Alan Henderson said the Gardens will bring forward a final proposal for the foyer of the Visitors Centre and, in due course he will ask the Treasurer to update the forward projections.		Noted
5.7	Public Fund	Neville Page said there was nothing to report.		Noted
5.8	IT Strategy	<p>Christianna Cobbold referred to her paper, and its attachments, on Google drive. She reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive discussions have reinforced the need to fix the website (redevelop/update) as it will soon be unsupported The style guide also needs updating</li> <li>• The cost is expected to be around \$15,000</li> <li>• The membership database also needs updating but this could be addressed when the other work is underway</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOLUTION: That the 6 recommendations of the IT report be accepted with a change to Recommendation 3 to approve expenditure at Christianna's discretion of up to \$15,000</b></p>	<p><b>M: Christianna Cobbold</b></p> <p><b>S: Kerry Moir</b></p>	Passed
5.9	Botanic Resource Centre	<p>Neville Page referred to the Linda Beveridge's paper on Google drive which strongly supports the BRC staying in its current location and asked Anthony Whalen to respond. Anthony:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reported that he'd recently met with Friends to discuss repurposing the room for urgent additional staff accommodation</li> <li>• Noted that it's an important space for the public but not a heavily used resource</li> <li>• Discussed the possibility of the collection being packed and stored at the CSIRO Discovery Centre (with arrangements to be made for Friends</li> </ul>		

		<p>to use it as CSIRO associate visitors) and perhaps being returned at some time to the Gardens but not within the next decade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirmed the collection is a shared resource of the ANBG and CSIRO</li> <li>• Agreed on the importance of maintaining the BRC's reference books and activities</li> </ul> <p>Neville suggested a compromise: that the collection be packed up and stored for 6 months while a decision is made about its future and that the ANBG undertake not to dispose of the collection.</p> <p><b>RESOLUTION: That the Friends Council requests the ANBG to store assets of the Botanic Resource Centre for a period not exceeding 6 months during which time discussion will take place regarding the permanent future of the collection.</b></p>	<p><b>M: Christianna Cobbold</b></p> <p><b>S: Kerry Moir</b></p>	Passed
<b>6</b>	<b>Friends Groups</b>			All reports were noted.
6.1	Photographic Group	Neville Page said the current exhibition is selling well.		
6.2	Botanic Art Group	Nothing to report.		
6.3	Flowers, Fruit and Foliage	Nothing to report.		
6.4	Growing Friends	Minutes of the last 3 meetings were on Google drive.		
6.5	Plant Science Group	Talks have been held regularly.		
6.6	Thursday Talks	Have been well attended.		
6.7	Social Events and Activities	Christianna Cobbold said two butterfly walks would be held on 22 January and had been advertised in the December edition of <i>Fronde</i> .		

6.8	Nature Journaling	Neville Page said a gathering had taken place on 5 December.		
6.9	Membership	Report on Google drive.		
6.10	Volunteer Guides	Kerry Moir said that the Gardens are seeing the benefit of the recruitment and training of new guides. The December and January rosters are well supported and filling up. Guides work every day except Christmas Day.		
6.11	Communications	<i>Fronde</i> – Neville Page said the December edition was now out. Broadcast email – Wanda Filsell asked for input as soon as possible and no later than COB Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> . Neville said that he would be looking after the Mailchimp process this time. Council to consider responsibility for coordinating the broadcast email at its February meeting.		
<b>7</b>	<b>Other Business</b>	Christianna Cobbold asked about badges for new Council members and a photograph of the new Council. Neville Page said that was being organised and also that the November volunteer recognition ceremony had been a success and offered to provide names of recipients for the Broadcast email.		Noted
<b>8</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>	Meeting concluded at 3:45pm Next meeting to be held at 2pm on 9 February 2023 in the Celia Rosser Room		Noted