

Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens Council Meeting 11 February 2021 Minutes				
Item	Topic	Information	Moved (M) Seconded (S)	Council
1	Approval of Agenda, Attendance and Apologies			
1.1	Agenda	The President welcomed members to the first meeting in 2021 stating he hoped it was a better year. RESOLUTION: that the Agenda be adopted.	M: Neville Page S: Lynden Ayliffe	Adopted
1.2	Attendance and Apologies	Present <u>Council</u> : Neville Page (President, Chair), Linda Beveridge (Vice President), Helen Elliot (Treasurer), Lynden Ayliffe (Secretary), Wendy Antoniak, David More, Alan Henderson, Lesley King, Wanda Filsell <u>Ex officio</u> : Judy West, Peter Byron, Megan Menz <u>Invited</u> : Barbara Podger <u>Apologies</u> : Max Bourke		Noted
2	Minutes of Previous Meeting	RESOLUTION: that the minutes of the Council meeting of 10 December 2020 be accepted.	M: Lynden Ayliffe S: Helen Elliot	Passed
3	Matters arising from previous minutes			
3.1	Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC)	Wendy Antoniak (Public Officer) advised that the Annual Information Statement had been lodged and a copy was on the Google drive.		Noted
4	General Business			
4.1	MOU between National Parks Conservation Trust and ANBG Friends	A draft of this MOU was included in the papers for this meeting on Google drive. After a brief discussion about whether Friends should have a representative on the Trust's Finance Committee, it was agreed that there should be separation between the parties and the following resolution was passed: RESOLUTION: That Council agree to the President signing of the MOU.	M: Linda Beveridge S: Helen Elliot	Passed

4.2	ANBG 10 year Management Plan	<p>Judy West indicated that the current Plan expires in 2022 and outlined the process for input into the development of a new plan for 2022-2032. The cut off date for preliminary submissions is the 3 March 2021 with a draft to be available in November for further comment. After these comments are considered, the plan may be revised and begin the approval process. When approved, the Minister will table it in Parliament.</p> <p>Peter Byron said an audit of the current Plan was on the ANBG website and that the gardens hoped to reduce the number of goals and polices to refine and minimise any overlaps. Neville Page told Council that the auditors had contacted him and advised it was a technical audit not a performance audit. Peter Byron indicated that they had met a large percentage of their goals and listed some of the ANBG's achievements.</p> <p>Council then discussed some areas that would be important to Friends: profile of the Gardens, research and conservation, development and maintenance, communications (in particular science communications), indigenous culture, as well as a focus on climate change and fire. Lesley King indicated that the Guides were developing ideas and would like to feed these into a Friends' submission.</p> <p>Judy West indicated that indigenous matters were included in a Departmental review on "knowledge exchange".</p> <p>ACTION: The Executive to call for ideas from Council members and collate them into a draft submission for Council to consider out of session with the expectation a submission is made by 3 March.</p>		Noted
4.3	Update on MOU between Friends and ANBG	<p>This MOU has now been signed and executed.</p> <p>ACTION: David More to place on ANBG Friends' website</p>		Noted
5	Reports			
5.1	ANBG Executive Director	<p>Judy West indicated that that the Senior Executives with National Parks are all still acting until August with the current focus on Kakadu that may feature on <i>4 Corners</i> shortly. Financial sustainability analyses are also underway and infrastructure funding is high.</p> <p><i>Seeds for the Future</i> campaign for fitout of the Seed Bank will be an online auction coinciding with the release of a sketch plan of the new facility. A media event is expected towards the end of April with the Minister attending. This will be followed by a VIP event in the evening with canapés and drinks. Judy went on to say that the resumption of face-to-face staff awareness</p>		Noted

		meetings was much appreciated by staff and that visitor numbers are high.		
5.2	ANBG General Manager	<p>Peter Bryon indicated that 2021 will be a big year for staff with the management plan process and \$30m worth of capital works to deliver over the next two years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Conservatory</i> has gone out for tender but awaiting final pricings. Construction expected to start April 2021. • <i>The Seed Bank</i> design is progressing and should be available within 3 months. • <i>The Horticulture precinct</i> which includes the depot • <i>Stage 1 of the East Core Precinct</i> that will be out for tender next week, with work due to start in May and finish by July 2021. <p>ACTION: Peter Byron to prepare article for <i>Fronds</i></p> <p>Peter also mentioned the retirement of David Taylor and Frank Brookhouse and asked Friends to liaise only with Megan Menz to minimise intrusions on other staff members.</p> <p>When questioned Peter indicated that while numbers of people allowed in most facilities will remain the same, the theatrette might increase to 40 soon. Lesley King indicated that this would not help guides as they usually have 48 people attending their meetings.</p>		Noted
5.3	ANBG Friends Liaison	<p>Megan Menz reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANBG recorded 45,290 visitors in December resulting in approx. 384,000 for 2020, despite smoke, hail and COVID. • There have been a number of ticketed tours recently and <i>Enlighten</i> is coming with both night and day events. There will be storytelling in March and the Botanic Art Group exhibition in April. • Staff profiles are being put on social media. • ANBG has received delivery of 14 Mega fauna statues that will be set out as a trail in the July school holidays. • Staff have been working hard during the year dealing with smoke, hail and COVID as well as weed control and increased visitor numbers. 		Noted
5.4	President	<p>The President's report was uploaded on Google drive before the meeting outlining his activities since the last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meetings about MOU with National Parks Conservation Trust, and 		Noted

		<p>the Audit of ANBG Management Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • letters to significant donors to Public Fund and former Friends' Patron, Marlena Jeffery, expressing condolences at the passing of her husband, Major General Philip Michael Jeffery, AC, CVO, MC , former Governor General of Australia • emails to potential Public Fund Trustees re continuing membership; Anne Campbell re the Plant Science Group; Ken Ross re not allowing Navigator Aged Care Pilot access to our members; and Melanie Morson, Kuringai Council in response to request for Friends e-news. • telephone calls to Alan Ford re Friends joint sponsorship of seminar with ACT For Bees and Judy West re MOU with National Parks Conservation Trust. <p>Neville outlined the impact of European bees that compete with native bees. He also indicated that Executive had decided not to release members' details to other organisations that Council agreed. It was also agreed that only allowing our newsletter to be used for professional reasons by those who are not members of the Friends.</p>		
5.5	Treasurer	<p>Financial statements for December 2020 and January 2021 were shared on Google drive before the meeting. They showed membership was up from the same months in previous years and the Photographic Group exhibition raised \$2,163. With term deposits expiring it was agreed that:</p> <p>RESOLUTION: That term deposit 3119 for \$125,462 maturing on 10 February be rolled over with the accrued interest for 3 months.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: That the Balance Sheet and Income Statement prepared for December 2020 and January 2021 be accepted.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted</p>	<p>M: Helen Elliot S: Wendy Antoniak</p> <p>M: Helen Elliot S: Linda Beveridge</p> <p>M: Helen Elliot S: David More</p>	<p>Passed</p> <p>Passed</p> <p>Passed</p>

5.6	IT Report including Administrative Database Evaluation Working Group	<p>David More provided a written report on Google drives explaining that our current Wi-Fi needs are being met by a modem on loan from him. If Council wanted to use it, they would need a password, which was obtainable from him. It was agreed that David should purchase a new modem so that he could reclaim his.</p> <p>The trial of the membership system has started since the Stripe account has been established. This allows the use of membership categories. The Executive Officer from Perth's Kings Park who helped when Friends were canvassing systems will be visiting on the weekend to examine the database.</p>		Noted
5.7	Project Committee	<p>Alan Henderson explained that there was no formal report as the Committee was awaiting the outcome of the tender process for Stage 1 of the East Core Project. This will be crucial for funding Stage 2 without fundraising. It is anticipated that Council will be asked to decide on their contribution to Stage 2 at the April Council meeting.</p>		Noted
5.8	Public Fund	<p>Neville Page indicated that the Fund Trustees had not met since the last Council meeting but that he had canvassed potential appointees given most Trustees' terms were expiring. He indicated that all were happy to continue expect Barbara Podger who would be retiring in March after being Chair for several years. He proposed a new list of trustees that included only two new members, himself and Marg Nicholls – a former internal auditor for local government.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: that Council approves the appointment of the following persons to the membership of the Friends of ANBG Public Fund Board in March and June 2021 to replace retiring members:</p> <p>Neville Page (Chair) Jann Ollerenshaw (Secretary) * Louise Maher* Adrienne Nicotra* Helen Elliot* Marg Nicholls * continuing members</p>	<p>M: Alan Henderson S: Linda Beveridge</p>	Passed

		<p>Friends to a broader audience. Council agreed to defer a decision until more information was garnered.</p> <p>f. Social Events– In Tricia Morton’s absence, Barbara Podger indicated that in October 2021, the Committee would resurrect the sundial event that had to be cancelled in April 2020 due to COVID. Other events include Wake-up with the Birds and specialised walks such as the coming Butterfly Walk on 14 February. COVID is still curtailing events.</p> <p>g. Membership - report on Google drive showing new members and renewals for December 2020 and January 2021. Neville Page indicated the great work that the team puts in all year and asked Council to endorse the following</p> <p>ACTION: Neville to write to the membership team, expressing Council’s appreciation for their tireless work.</p> <p>Meet and Greet – Lesley King and Linda Beveridge are planning an event on Saturday 13 March 2021 for members who have joined since November 2020. It will be a similar format to the usual meet and greet which usually attracts up to 20% of invitees to learn more about the Gardens. Council members were also invited to come.</p>		
5.10	Volunteer Guides	<p>Lesley King indicated that her report was shared on Google drive and drew attention to the fact that daily walks were continuing. She thanked Megan Menz for her full support with this and the <i>Family Friendly Flora</i> trail. She indicated that the ANBG support a continuation of Family Friendly Flora tours during the school holidays. With Guide meetings continuing on Zoom, social lunches are being held to enable some face-to-face contact and boost morale. The Guide Conference to be held in Melbourne has been rescheduled to 2022.</p>		Noted
5.11	Communications	<p><i>Fronds</i> – Barbara Podger indicated the deadline for the April edition is 24 February 2021. It was suggested that ANBG provide an article on the forthcoming auction for the National Seed Bank Fitout.</p> <p>Broadcast email – Wendy Antoniak indicated that Items due next Thursday 18 February 2021.</p>		Noted Noted
6	Other Business			
6.1	AAFBG	<p>Lynden Ayliffe drew attention to the newsletter on Google drive and asked if any Council members wanted to nominate someone for the Handbury Award. Helen Elliot suggested the Growing Friends that Council supported.</p>		Noted

		<p>ACTION: Lynden and Helen to nominate Growing Friends for a Handbury Award.</p> <p>Wendy Antoniak then spoke about the 2022 Biennial Conference, <i>Thriving Together – Resilience and Renewal in a Changing World</i>, 29 April – 1 May, Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens. It was agreed that Neville Page would write to the Conference organisers offering assistance.</p> <p>ACTION: Neville Page to contact Eurobodalla Gardens to offer assistance including speaking at the Conference</p>		
7	Next Meeting	2pm, Thursday 11 March 2021 (venue to be advised)		Noted