

Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens Council Meeting 14 July 2022 Minutes				
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. The agenda was accepted without comment.		Noted
1.2	Attendance and Apologies	Present <u>Council</u> : Neville Page (President, Chair), Linda Beveridge (Vice President), Lynden Ayliffe (Secretary), Anne Holmes (Treasurer), Wanda Filsell, and Lesley King <u>Ex-officio</u> : Judy West and Peter Byron <u>Invited</u> : Christianna Cobbold <u>Apologies</u> : Alan Henderson, Kerry Moir, Megan Menz, and Barbara Podger		Noted
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting	RESOLUTION: that the minutes of the Council meeting of 9 June 2022 be accepted with one amendment to the Resolution at Item 5.7: That at the upcoming AGM, Council propose to appoint MGI Joyce/Dickson to carry out the 2022-23 audit.	M: Lynden Ayliffe S: Linda Beveridge	Passed
3	Matters arising from previous minutes			
3.1	IT Strategy	Neville Page indicated that he had spoken to David More since his resignation and obtained key documents relating to Friends' IT systems, including the membership database operating manual. David has also provided a summary of IT activities that is now on Google drive. Neville urged Council members to consider possible volunteers who might take over individual IT tasks and lessen our reliance on David. Neville went on say that Executive had decided to print stickers for the		Noted

		membership brochure showing the change in membership benefits for households and groups. These will be attached to brochures in August. Linda Beveridge then noted that volunteer groups should be added to the membership database when it is upgraded.		
3.2	Co-option of new Council member	As there was no response to Council's call for a new Council member, Neville Page approached Beth Tyerman who has valuable IT skills and is happy to join Council until new elections are undertaken at the AGM. RESOLUTION: That Council appoint Beth Tyerman as a Council member to fill a casual vacancy until the 2022 Annual General Meeting.	M: Neville Page S: Linda Beveridge	Passed
4	General Business			
4.1	Constitutional changes	Lynden Ayliffe indicated that the paper on Google Drive highlighted the changes proposed to the Friends' Constitution. These accorded with the discussion paper circulated earlier this year on the website except for the definition of a member – the word 'nominated' was no longer required given recent changes to members' benefits. The major changes to the Constitution are the provisions allowing proxy voting. This and other proposed changes were unanimously supported in the comments received. After thanking the Committee that helped with the review of the Constitution (Wanda Filsell, Jan Ollerenshaw and David More), Lynden proposed the following resolutions: Resolution 1: That Council endorse the revised draft Constitution at Attachment 2. Resolution 2: That Council agree to the following motion for the 20 October 2022 AGM: <i>That the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens Inc. adopt by Special Resolution the revised draft Constitution dated July 2022.</i> Resolution 3: That Council agree a short article should be included in the July broadcast email and on the front page of our website which:	M: Lynden Ayliffe S: Linda Beveridge M: Lynden Ayliffe S: Linda Beveridge M: Lynden Ayliffe S: Linda	Passed Passed

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outlines the result of the consultation process and the legislative requirements, and • states that, on 14 July, Council endorsed the revised draft Constitution and proposed a Special Resolution to be put to the Friends at the 2022 AGM. 	Beveridge	Passed
4.2	2022 Annual General Meeting	Neville Page reminded Council members of the upcoming AGM in October where many of the terms of their membership would expire. Only Linda Beveridge and Kerry Moir would be continuing. He urged members to consider whether they were interested in continuing, and indicated that he would be seeking re-election if there were no other contenders. Lynden Ayliffe drew attention to the proposed notice and agenda for the AGM, and nomination form for Council. She asked Council to bring a plate for the drinks and nibbles that would follow the meeting. SEAC would organise the drinks including non-alcoholic beverages.		Noted
4.3	Life Membership	Neville Page indicated that suggestions for life memberships had been sought from Council and groups by the end of the month. To date a number of names had been proffered which is pleasing. Executive will consider these along any other names brought forward at the next meeting.		Noted
4.4	Volunteer Recognition	<p>Neville Page spoke about the different types of volunteers covered in the Memorandum of Understanding and said that Council will be recognising those on Schedule 2, leaving the ANBG to consider Schedule 1. Nominations will be sought from Council and groups before going to Executive and then Council for agreement. There was then some discussion about who would qualify. The ANBG was planning to hold the awards ceremony in late November.</p> <p>As volunteer recognition cannot be given posthumously, Linda Beveridge then proposed that Don Beer's contribution to the Gardens could be recognised by an annual talk in his honour in October. She will talk to his family about this.</p>		Noted

4.5	Schools Photographic Competition	Lynden Ayliffe explained that the Competition would not be held this year as there had been difficulties with introducing online entry and the deadline set for the exhibition space.		Noted
5	Reports			
5.1	ANBG Executive Director	Judy West outlined the new arrangements within the portfolio following the election. While funding was set for the first part of the year, it is not yet clear what will be in place after the October Budget. Staffing issues also needed to be resolved: which staff go to which agency and a new enterprise agreement needed to be negotiated before staff can be transferred.		Noted
5.2	ANBG General Manager	<p>Peter Byron said that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the tender for the Northern precinct works should be resolved soon with works starting in September and completed by December. • the Conservatory is half completed and should be completed in March next year with a launch in April 2023. • the Mega Fauna events have been very successful, particularly the night tours. • the ANBG Management Plan was signed off before the Caretaker Period and will be tabled in July for the required disallowance period. <p>Peter also showed a video with representations of the new Seed Bank and Horticultural Centre. He will be working on Christmas Island during September and October with Megan Menz acting.</p>		Noted
5.3	ANBG Friends Liaison Officer	Covered in 5.2 but Judy West added her thanks to volunteers who helped with the Mega Fauna event.		Noted
5.4	President's Report	Neville Page indicated that his report was on Google drive. He and Anne Holmes had talked with Helen Elliot, who had done a fantastic job as Treasurer, and finalised the handover process. He had also attended an excellent talk by the Photographic Group. The Group was planning to hold its next meeting at Tidbinbilla and all requisite permissions for offsite		Noted

		gatherings have been sought. Reference was made to Tricia Morton, who recently passed away, and it was agreed that Linda Beveridge would send a letter of condolence.		
5.5	Treasurer's Report	<p>Anne Holmes thanked Helen Elliot for all her assistance over the past few months and indicated that she had placed the Balance and Income Statements on Google drive. Records have been prepared for the Auditor and she and Neville Page will meet with them soon. Projections for 2022-23 were also on Google drive.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: That the Treasurer's Report for June 2022 be accepted.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: That Council resolve to elect under ss40-160 of the <i>A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999</i> to treat the following eligible fundraising events as input taxed for the financial year ending 30 June 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Botanic Art Group Exhibitions • The Photographic Group Exhibitions • Growing Friends' Plant Sales, and • Thursday Talks. 	<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>Judy West canvassed the idea of two "scholarships": one to support an honours student already working in the Seed Bank and another to help a nursery/horticulturist person go on exchange to Kings Park. Since there was general support among Council, Judy will develop both these proposals for Project Committee consideration.</p> <p>Judy also said that discussions have started with the ANU Centre for Public Awareness and Science (CPAS) about joining their masters program, and the ANBG will put a proposal forward to CPAS for next year.</p>		Noted
5.7	Public Fund	Neville Page said that there was nothing to report, as the Management Committee had not met recently.		Noted

5.8	Friends Groups	<p>a. Photographic Group – the Group met on 24 June (also see item 5.4)</p> <p>b. Botanic Art Group – this month’s activities were cancelled in view of COVID numbers, and an exhibition with Korean artists is planned for 2023.</p> <p>c. Flowers, Fruit and Foliage (FFF) – continuing unchanged.</p> <p>d. Growing Friends (GF) – planning for the 27 August plant sale is well underway, and all members have been encouraged to wear masks.</p> <p>e. Plant Science Group – the talks are going well and the August talk will be about a visit to Kakadu by ANBG staff.</p> <p>f. Thursday Talks (TT) – Linda Beveridge said the list of talks for August -November were on Google drive, talks were being scheduled for 2023, and attendee numbers were now similar to pre-COVID times.</p> <p>g. Social Events and Activities – Bushland Walks are planned for September and Butterfly Talks are proposed for January.</p> <p>h. Nature Journaling – the group didn’t meet on 4 July because of bad weather.</p> <p>i. Membership – there are 1990 current memberships, resulting in 2908 members , with 15 new members and 5 renewals in June.</p>		All reports Noted
5.9	Volunteer Guides	<p>Lesley King said that Tricia Morton will be sorely missed as she did a lot of ‘behind the scenes’ work.</p> <p>Lesley then referred to her report on Google Drive and said that 7 of the newly recruited guides had now qualified as guides. There was some discussion about the Australasian Botanic Gardens Guides’ Conference in Melbourne in October. Registration is \$420/person and perhaps 30 guides may wish to attend. Council confirmed that it would subsidise attendance ie \$210 per guide for those guides who submit a registration receipt. Recipients will be asked to refund the subsidy if they do not attend and receive a refund of conference fees.</p> <p>Lesley also said that Kerry Moir will take on the role of Guides Convenor from the end of September.</p>		Noted

5.10	Communications	<i>Fronds</i> - the August edition will be out soon. Broadcast email – copy to Wanda Filsell by COB 20 July		Noted
6	Other Business			
6.1	Summit Walk	Linda Beveridge said two Black Mountain summit walks were scheduled for Saturday 23 July. These walks were for Friends of the ANBG and Friends of Black Mountain.		Noted
7	Next Meeting	2pm on 11 August 2022 in the Celia Rosser Room		Noted