

Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens Council Meeting 10 June 2021 Minutes				
Item	Topic	Information	Moved (M) Seconded (S)	Council
1	Approval of Agenda, Attendance and Apologies			
1.1	Agenda	RESOLUTION: that the agenda be adopted	M: Neville Page S: Linda Beveridge	Adopted
1.2	Attendance and Apologies	Present <u>Council</u> : Neville Page (President, Chair), Linda Beveridge (Vice President), Helen Elliot (Treasurer), Wanda Filsell (Acting Secretary), Alan Henderson, Lesley King, David More <u>Ex officio</u> : Judy West, Peter Byron, Megan Menz <u>Invited</u> : Tricia Morton, Jann Ollerenshaw (Secretary of the Public Fund Management Committee) and Marg Nicholls (member of the Public Fund Management Committee) <u>Apologies</u> : Wendy Antoniak, Lynden Ayliffe, Max Bourke		Noted
2	Minutes of Previous Meeting	RESOLUTION: that the minutes of the Council meeting of 13 May 2021 be accepted.	M: Neville Page S: Helen Elliot	Passed
3	Matters arising from previous minutes			
3.1	Friends' Groups meeting with ANBG staff	Neville Page said that the Special Events and Activities Group had suggested to Council in May that Gardens staff and representatives from the different Friends Groups meet regularly to coordinate activities.		

		Megan Menz said it is considered a good idea, and proposed that each 6 months the Convenor of each group would meet with relevant ANBG staff. Neville will advise each Convenor, and then Megan and Neville will find a suitable date for the first meeting.		Noted
4	General Business			
4.1	ANBG Management Plan	<p>Peter Byron gave a presentation about the new management plan. He said the aim was to avoid duplication, look at more strategic actions and ensure that Performance Indicators were more measurable. The current 9 goals had been reduced to 4 goals which covered: (1) Science and Research, (2) Collections and Knowledge Management, (3) Education and Appreciation, and (4) Business Management. The Friends fitted into goal (3). The new goals had been workshopped with staff who now have a lot of ownership of the process.</p> <p>He intends to update Council before November when a draft will be released for public comment for 30 days. After the Minister has cleared the draft Plan, it will go to Parliament for clearance and hopefully be released in May 2022.</p> <p>Judy West said that the new plan would more concisely reference partnerships in one section, and similarly the Gardens' national leadership and international role, instead of having scattered references throughout the text.</p>		Noted
4.2	FANBG Council Priorities, 2020-21 Review and 2021-22 Strategic Plan	Neville Page said that Council was required to do a review of the Strategic Plan and examine current priorities. He asked that members look at the relevant papers and prepare for a discussion at the July Council meeting.		Noted
4.3	Nature Journaling and Field Sketching Group	<p>Neville Page referred to the paper on Google Drive. He then referred to an item in the May newsletter seeking expressions of interest in establishing a Nature Journaling and Field Sketching Group. This elicited a response from 12 interested people, and 6 of them met on 7 June and were keen to start. It was agreed that they would meet once a month at a different part of the Gardens. Neville suggested that the Group be added as a Schedule 2 Activity, as permitted under the Constitution, and added that his wife, Lesley Page, was willing to be the Convenor.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: That the Friends establish a Nature Journaling and Field Sketching Group as a Schedule 2 activity, and that Lesley Page be appointed as Convenor.</p>	M: Neville Page S: Linda	Passed

		<p>It was then decided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesley Page would write an article for the next edition of <i>Fronds</i> • Neville would write to Peter Byron about adding the Group to the MOU between the ANBG and the Friends, and would also talk with Megan Menz about the COVID safety plan template. <p>David More reminded Council that, once it was established, a chapter about the Group should be added to the Friends' policy and procedures manual.</p>	Beveridge	
4.4	Video Recording Group	Neville Page said that he had written an item in the May newsletter seeking expressions of interest in establishing a video recording group. There had only been one response so there is obviously little interest at this stage in establishing such a group.		Noted
5	Reports			
5.1	ANBG Executive Director	<p>Judy West referred to two consultancies being undertaken across Parks Australia generally (Ernst & Young and PricewaterhouseCoopers) and the Special Advisory Group looking into management of the 3 major National Parks.</p> <p>The ANBG is also working with Museums Victoria on two Bush Blitz projects. The <i>RV Investigator</i> will be undertaking a research expedition from Darwin to Christmas Island and then down the west coast to Fremantle, and another expedition in the Northern Territory particularly the Gulf of Carpentaria, Groote Eylandt and neighbouring islands. The 3 schools on Groote Eylandt will be engaged to help, and the expedition planners are trying to get permission to use a helicopter to access the adjacent smaller islands.</p> <p>Judy West said that the on-line auction for the <i>Seed Bank</i> had worked well, and that the money raised covered almost all of the specialised equipment needed. The media coverage about the Minister launching the design of the <i>Seed Bank</i> and the involvement of Costa Georgiadis had no doubt helped.</p> <p>She mentioned other current Parks projects such as the new management plan</p>		Noted

		also said that the two paintings selected from the recent Botanic Art Group exhibition were presented to Judy West at the 3 June Thursday Talks.		
5.5	Treasurer	<p>Financial statements for May 2021 were provided on Google Drive before the meeting. The \$10,000 payment for the Norfolk Island PhD research scholarship has been made and the balance of \$2,000 will be paid on completion of the thesis. Memberships are slowing down as is usual at this time of year - there are now 2,906 members. Alan Henderson commented that this represented a 9% increase over the last 11 months.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: The Treasurer's report be accepted.</p>	M: Helen Elliot S: Alan Henderson	Passed
5.6	IT Report including Administrative Database Evaluation Working Group	David More said that work is progressing slowly and he will report further at the next Council meeting.		Noted
5.7	Public Fund	See Items 6 and 7		
5.8	Friends Groups	<p>a. Photographic Group – no report</p> <p>b. Botanic Art Group (BAG) – Neville Page mentioned the presentation of two paintings to the Gardens (see Item 5.4). Jann Ollerenshaw said that, in a recent meeting with Sabrina Sonntag, BAG had been asked to prepare line drawings for ID cards to be used by visitors to the Conservatory. So far 23 people have volunteered to prepare the 30 cards required and there will be a meeting later this month to discuss the plants to be used on the cards.</p> <p>c. Videos: Flowers, Fruit and Foliage – Neville Page said that the latest video was filmed in the rain which caused some problems. Peter Byron had been approached about putting a link to the video on the ANBG website and this was to be arranged.</p> <p>d. Growing Friends – draft minutes of the 5 June meeting were on Google Drive. Neville said that the Group was considering another plant sale later in the year. David More said the Group had around 1200 plants and was offering them to Friends, friends of Friends and Gardens staff. He and Maurice Hermann were going to discuss an article for the broadcast email.</p> <p>e. Thursday Talks (TT) – Linda Beveridge said that many sessions were fully booked. Despite the booking arrangement, sometimes there was a “no show”</p>		<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

		<p>but there were usually others waiting nearby on the off chance of getting a seat. Neville said that he had talked to Peter Byron about the possibility of increasing capacity in the Theatrette but it was not feasible in the foreseeable future.</p> <p>f. Social Events – a report from Tricia Morton was provided on Google Drive before the meeting. Tricia said approval of funding was needed now so that work could proceed on the two proposals. In relation to <i>Wake up with the Birds 2021</i>, the activity was scheduled over 3 weekends but an extra session could be added if there was demand. This was usually a money-making event though that was not the reason for holding the event.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: that the budget for <i>Wake up with the Birds</i> be accepted.</p> <p>In relation to <i>Telling the Time by the Sun</i>, Tricia said that the reduced seating capacity in the Theatrette impacted the budget which meant the event may or may not break even. The Australian Garden History Society (joint event partner) was concerned about the finances, and had offered to cover all costs thereby accepting any loss or profit. Helen Elliot suggested accepting the proposed budget and sorting out the details later.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: that the budget for <i>Telling the Time by the Sun</i> be accepted.</p> <p>g. Membership – the report on Google Drive showed 9 new members and 2 renewals for June 2021, making a total of 2007 memberships and 2906 members.</p>	<p>M: Helen Elliot S: Lesley King</p> <p>M: David More S: Alan Henderson</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Passed</p> <p>Passed</p> <p>Noted</p>
5.9	Volunteer Guides	<p>Lesley King said that of the 73 guides on the books, 23 had not done any tours this calendar year. Of those 23, 19 were still attending meetings or other behind the scenes activities. She estimated that 11 would return to guiding later this year. This means that around 61 guides are active which is the minimum number required each month. Lesley has prepared a proposal for Megan Donaldson suggesting that a recruitment drive be held early next year with the aim of those new guides being ready for Spring 2022. She sought Council endorsement for this proposal.</p>		<p>Endorsed</p>

5.10	Communications	<i>Fronds</i> – Neville Page said that the deadline for articles was 18 June for articles. Broadcast email –Neville said the deadline for contributions is 16 June.		Noted Noted
		At this stage the meeting became a joint meeting of the Friends Council and the Public Fund Management Committee (PFMC).		
6	Project Committee	<p>Alan Henderson referred to the report on Google Drive, in particular the savings that have been identified by the existing contractor undertaking both Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the East Core Precinct Redevelopment. He reminded members that Council had agreed in May to support the project with a contribution of \$235,000, providing that the Public Fund’s in principle commitment of \$30,000 towards the project be agreed and passed as a firm commitment by the PFMC.</p> <p>Jann Ollerenshaw pointed out that any money committed from the Public Fund must meet the REO guidelines. It was agreed that Neville Page’s letter (as both President of Friends and Chairman of the Public Fund Management Committee) would need to specify the nature of works for which the \$30,000 could be used.</p> <p>The following two resolutions were then discussed by Council:</p> <p>RESOLUTION: (a) Agree, subject to the Public Fund Management Committee confirming their commitment, that the President confirm in writing support of \$235,000 (Friends) plus \$30,000 (Public Fund) for the East Core Precinct Redevelopment project in 2021-22, with the details of instalment payments to be settled by the President and Treasurer, in consultation with the General Manager.</p> <p>This was agreed pending confirmation of the \$30,000 commitment from the Public Fund. (The Public Fund Management Committee confirmed the commitment at its meeting later on 10 June.)</p> <p>(b) Note, regarding recognition, Project Committee will report to Council on the ANBG suggestion to establish a Friends’ Lawn.</p>		Noted Noted

7	Other Business	<p>There was discussion about the 2020-21 FANBG Project Forecast report on Google Drive.</p> <p>Alan Henderson said that Louise Maher is the designated Public Fund representative for the <i>Online Education Resource Development Project</i> but is not always available. He queried whether there was an alternative person, and Megan Menz undertook to talk with Megan Donaldson about this. Megan then said that while considerable work had already been done, the project had stalled temporarily as relevant staff had left. Megan asked the Treasurer if the \$50,000 commitment in the Public Fund could be moved to the 2021-22 financial year, and Helen Elliot agreed.</p> <p>After further discussion, it was agreed by the Treasurer that the following forward commitments would also be changed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$55,000 for <i>Iconic Plants</i> to move from 2021-22: \$27,500 to 2022-23 and the balance of \$27,500 to 2023-24 • \$1,000 for the <i>Metallic Carpenter Bee signage</i> to move to 2021-22 • \$2,000 for the balance of the <i>Norfolk Island PhD Research Scholarship</i> to move to 2021-22 • <u>Public Fund</u>: \$10,000 for the <i>Video on ANBG Conservation Activities</i> and the balance of \$5,700 for the <i>Banksia Garden Interpretation Video</i> to move to 2021-22. 		Noted
8	Next Meeting	2pm, Thursday 8 July 2021 - Celia Rosser Room		Noted

