

Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens Council Meeting 9 June 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 with minor changes to the order.		Noted
1.2	Attendance and Apologies	Present <u>Council</u> : Neville Page (President, Chair), Linda Beveridge (Vice President), Wanda Filsell, Alan Henderson, Lesley King and Kerry Moir <u>Ex-officio</u> : Judy West and Megan Donaldson <u>Invited</u> : Christianna Cobbold and Lesley Harland <u>Apologies</u> : Lynden Ayliffe, Anne Holmes, Peter Byron, Megan Menz and Barbara Podger		Noted
2	Minutes of Previous Meeting	RESOLUTION: that the minutes of the Council meeting of 12 May 2022 be accepted.	M: Linda Beveridge S: Alan Henderson	Passed
3	Matters arising from previous minutes	None		
4	General Business			
4.1	Membership fees and benefits	Wanda Filsell said the paper on Google Drive looked at changes to membership arrangements as we move towards a new on-line system. There were constraints since it was not possible to change the fees and terms of membership in the existing database. Timing was also an issue:		

members should be consulted on any significant changes and there wasn't much time to do so before the new membership year started. The team therefore recommended a staged approach starting with simplifying the benefits relating to households and groups. This could be announced in *Fronde*.

Lesley Harland said the existing database was developed specifically for Friends, was terrific but maintenance was an issue and no commercial one fitted our existing categories or benefits. Neville Page said that Council greatly appreciated the work that Lesley did.

It was agreed that further changes would be considered next year while work on development of a new database proceeded, and in the meantime:

RESOLUTION 1: That member benefits for Household Members and Group Members be varied with effect from 30 October 2022 as follows:

(a) Household Members – 4 membership cards be reduced to 2 membership cards

(b) Group Members – 3 membership cards be reduced to 2 membership cards and 3 parking permits be reduced to 2 parking permits.

RESOLUTION 2: That with effect from 30 October 2022, membership fees be as follows:

Category	1 year	2 year	5 year
Individual standard	\$50	\$90	\$200
Individual concession	\$45	\$80	\$175
Household	\$65	\$120	\$265
Group	\$65	\$120	\$265

M: Linda Beveridge
S: Alan Henderson

Passed

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Passed

		This information would be included in the August <i>Fronds</i> , but make it clear that existing benefits for households and groups would be preserved until membership was renewed. The costs/benefits of attaching a sticker to the existing membership brochure, rather than reprinting it, were also discussed. It was agreed that the Executive would consider this matter.		
4.2	Resignation of David More and co-option of new Council members	Neville Page said it was unfortunate that David had to resign because of family commitments. This meant there was a casual vacancy and it would be good if a person with IT background could be found. It was decided that the vacancy should be advertised in the next broadcast email. RESOLUTION: That the President write to David More expressing appreciation for his very significant contribution over the years to the Friends and the ANBG.	M: Lesley King S: Alan Henderson	Passed
4.3	Communications Strategy	Kerry Moir said the paper on Google Drive incorporates comments made at the workshop on 3 June, and notes from that workshop had also been circulated. She acknowledged David More's contribution to the document. Different survey tools were being considered but there were limitations associated with the free tools. She will explore options with the IT Team but there may not be much progress as she will be away for the next 3 months. RESOLUTION: That Council endorses the activities outlined in the paper 'Friends of the ANBG Communication review and strategy development.'	M: Kerry Moir S: Alan Henderson	Passed
4.4	2022 Annual General Meeting	RESOLUTION: That the 2022 AGM of Friends of the ANBG be convened from 3-5 pm on 20 October at the ANBG Theatre. It was agreed that drinks and nibbles would be provided, with arrangements to be sorted out closer to the meeting, and details included in <i>Fronds</i> .	M: Linda Beveridge S: Lesley King	Passed
5	Reports			

5.1 and 5.2	ANBG Executive Director and ANBG General Manager	<p>Judy West apologised for not being able to attend the last few meetings because of work pressures. Under the new MOG arrangements, ANBG came under the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. She said that being in the Environment and Water ministry would probably not lead to many changes for Parks Australia or the ANBG.</p> <p>Judy was pleased that the new Minister, the Hon Tanya Plibersek, had visited the Gardens the previous day and seemed very interested. She also said that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the tender for the Café lease has already been advertised, and tenders for the northern precinct and Seed Bank are likely to go out next week • they are trying to keep staff who may be affected by the MOG changes • since the Budget wasn't finalised before the election, work is underway to develop a case for additional funding in the October budget. 		Noted
5.3	ANBG Friends Liaison Officer	<p>Megan Donaldson said that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • staff were busy with the MEGAfauna events coming up in July • the segment on Gardening Australia when Janine was talking to Costa about the Banksia Garden, and her radio interview, were big success stories • work is underway on the new roof for the Ellis Rowan Building • she has completed an audit of seats and furniture in the Gardens, and will be working with tradespersons to fix those in need of repair • <i>Storytime</i> is a booked event now • the special walks during Reconciliation Week focusing on indigenous plants were very popular • all staff have been involved in the new guide training sessions - they have been a great success since the group is very collegiate 		Noted

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • other projects were underway and progress has being made on two contracts: the new cleaning one takes effect on 1 July and a new administrative person will be sought soon. 		
5.4	Projects Committee	<p>Alan Henderson said:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • he had recently recruited Lynne Curran, an ex-Treasury colleague, to the Committee • Sharon Abrahams and David Coutts were our representatives on the Visitor Centre exhibition space design project. Trigger Design has now presented options which are being considered. Costings prepared some years ago were around \$40,000 whereas some of the current options are over \$100,000. • Anne Holmes' financial projections suggest there is not a lot of money for new projects, especially if the exhibition space design proceeds. • the Projects Committee was planning to meet in August once the end of year financial statements and Budget outcomes were available. With the Budget now coming down in October, this meeting could be held in November instead. The Committee had also been planning to call for ideas for projects from Friends in June but again this could be deferred. • he had been working with Wanda Filsell increasingly on these matters since he has less time to devote to Project Committee matters. <p>Judy West said that the Gardens had money left this financial year and would know early August more about funding for the next 5 months. She advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discussions have been held with ANU about a masters program which could involve funding for a graduate in the 22/23 financial year • progress was being made on the PhD research scholarship with funding perhaps starting in the 2023 calendar year, and into the next 2 years 		Noted

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> she was not sure whether the iconic large plants display at the Gardens entrance was still proceeding but will check with Peter Byron. 		
5.5	President's Report	Neville Page said there wasn't much to report since he had been away in SA most of the last month. The highlight of that trip had been a visit to the Arid Lands Botanic Garden in Port Augusta.		Noted
5.6	Treasurer's Report	<p>Neville Page referred to the Treasurer's May report on Google Drive. He said that the BAG Exhibition had raised \$19,994 which meant the Friends profit, after paying artists etc, was \$5,388.03.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: That the Treasurer's Report for May 2022 be accepted.</p> <p>ACTION: Neville said that after the end of the financial year he would arrange a meeting involving Anne Holmes, Helen Elliot, the auditor and himself.</p>	<p>M: Neville Page S: Linda Beveridge</p>	Passed
5.7	Audit rotation	<p>Neville Page said that at the last two AGMs questions had been asked about the procedure for rotating the auditor. He outlined the various acts and guidelines that we need to comply with, and said there was nothing that required us to rotate our auditor. The Friends are considered to be a small association so we are not required to have an audit but could use a reviewer. The current firm does both our accounts and the audit, their fee is reasonable and it would be disruptive to change auditor when we have just changed our Treasurer.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: That Council appoint MGI Joyce/Dickson to carry out the 2022-23 audit.</p>	<p>M: Neville Page S: Alan Henderson</p>	Passed
5.8	IT Report	With David More's resignation there was no report.		
5.9	Public Fund	Neville Page said the Management Committee had passed an out-of-session resolution regarding the Term deposit. It had been rolled over for 3 months on the basis that interest rates may increase when it matures in August.		Noted

5.10	Friends Groups	<p>a. Photographic Group – no report.</p> <p>a. Botanic Art Group – congratulations were given on the successful exhibition.</p> <p>b. Flowers, Fruit and Foliage (FFF) – continuing unchanged</p> <p>c. Growing Friends (GF) – planning progressing for 27 August plant sale</p> <p>d. Plant Science Group –visits to the Nursery were planned for 14 June and 21 June, and a talk on 11 July.</p> <p>e. Thursday Talks (TT) – Linda Beveridge said the talks were going well and likewise the on-line donation scheme. Two special talks were being arranged on 1 and 12 July to coincide with the MEGAfauna events.</p> <p>f. Social Events and Activities – Christianna said that the broadcast email appeal had only led to 1 person volunteering to help with events but no-one to help on the Committee. This means there is no capacity to arrange and run the Wake up with the Birds events this year.</p> <p>g. Nature Journaling – the group didn’t meet on 6 June because of bad weather.</p> <p>h. Membership - Membership report provided on Google Drive. It was noted that current memberships are 1977 and there are 2885 members.</p>		<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
5.11	Volunteer Guides	<p>Lesley King referred to her report on Google Drive. She said that the 23 new recruits had completed the classroom component and were now being paired with 23 guides to complete their training. Badges were ordered, and uniforms have been billed. Registration had not yet opened for the Australian Guides Conference in Melbourne and at this stage only 25 guides may be going.</p> <p>Lesley also said the themed rostered walks were continuing to attract good numbers. Her second term as Convenor finishes this year; 1 person has volunteered so the handover will take place in September. There is still a vacancy for the Booked Walks Coordinator.</p>		<p>Noted</p>

5.12	Communications	<i>Fronds</i> - the deadline for the August edition is 27 June. Broadcast email – copy to Wanda Filsell by COB 15 June 2022.		Noted
6	Other Business	<p>Alan Henderson suggested there may be a need for an IT Convenor quite separate from a new Council member. After talk about IT support mechanisms, and the need for more information about our current systems, Neville Page said he would call relevant people together.</p> <p>ACTION: Neville Page to arrange a meeting with the IT Team and others to develop an IT strategy.</p> <p>Linda Beveridge asked whether it was still planned to hold a special general meeting (SGM) to discuss the proposed changes to the Constitution. Wanda Filsell said that the intention had been to bring the changes to a SGM or an AGM depending on timing. The changes had already been canvassed with Friends – through the broadcast email and on the Website – and only positive feedback had been received. The next step was to bring to the July Council meeting a draft resolution for the October AGM.</p>		Noted
7	Next Meeting	2pm on 14 July 2022 in the Celia Rosser Room		Noted

