

**Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens
Council Meeting 11 March 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 after the addition of a new item 4.2 Thursday Talks Online.	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> Megan Menz <u>Invited:</u> Barbara Podger, Tricia Morton <u>Apologies:</u> Max Bourke, Judy West, Peter Byron		Noted
2	Minutes of Previous Meeting	RESOLUTION: that the minutes of the Council meeting of 11 February 2021 be accepted.	M: Lynden Ayliffe S: Wendy Antoniak	Passed
3	Matters arising from previous minutes			
3.1	Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (AAFBG) - Handbury Award	Neville Page indicated that Handbury Award had been submitted by the deadline of 28 February 2021, nominating the Growing Friends for an award. A copy was included in the meeting papers.		Noted
4	General Business			
4.1	ANBG 10 year Management Plan input.	With a 3 March 2021 deadline, Neville Page collated the Friends' submission out of session with all Council members contributing. The submission covered 15 topics in all and a copy was included in the meeting papers.		Noted

4.2	Thursday Talks Online	<p>Neville Page said that feedback on his email about digital Thursday Talks showed that only 1 member of the Council was prepared to be on the steering committee. He had experimented and found it easy to record and upload on the internet. He said that he was happy to trial a short message for the Friends website eg a 10 minute interview with the Walcotts on <i>Flowers, Fruit and Foliage</i> before progressing to a whole hour. Linda Beveridge indicated that she was meeting people who will look at the equipment needed to deliver talks and suggested Education rangers may be prepared to help in their own time. She will report on these meetings after next Wednesday. Megan Menz wondered if the Education Rangers had the right skills and said that it would have to be on a voluntary basis. She emphasised that the ANBG did not want to be involved or meet any associated costs.</p> <p>There was lengthy discussion about recordings with some suggesting that recording one hour talks with visual presentations such as graphs and photographs etc might be difficult and not sustain viewer interest without significant editing. Others suggested shorter videos or ZOOM seminars or meetings that have been used by Guides. The discussion then focussed on the purpose of such initiatives and the consensus seemed to be that videos should focus on Friends' activities such as those of the various Groups. After discussing the purchase of a camera, Megan Menz offered to provide one for a trial before Friends committed to providing videos online.</p> <p>ACTION: Neville Page and Linda Beveridge to liaise with Friends Groups and develop a trial video for presentation at the next meeting.</p>		Noted
5	Reports			
5.1	ANBG Executive Director	<p>In Judy West's absence, Megan Menz reported that Jody Swirepik was now the Acting Director of National Parks and brings with her 25 years of experience in the public service. There is also a new Acting First Assistant Secretary, Jason Mundy.</p>		Noted
5.2	ANBG General Manager	<p>In Peter Byron's absence, Megan Menz reported that there had been 9 submissions on the ANBG Management Plan, including the Friends submission and one from the Guides. The focus is now on developing a timetable of information sessions and workshops.</p>		Noted

5.3	ANBG Friends Liaison	<p>Megan Menz reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February visitation was 40,915 up by 3,472 from last February • Check in CBR is now mandatory for visitors. Additional signage has been installed and staff trained on the back end registering of guests in the app. • The Gardens are in the process of developing two videos that will be featured on the Admin building video wall, web and social media. The first video is dedicated to the development of the Banksia Gardens and the other takes a behind the scenes look at our conservation work. • Current exhibition is 'A brush with porcelain' by the ACT Porcelain Artists Association. • Mega fauna - A winter event to increase visitation during the slow winter months. There will be 14 massive sculptures placed around the gardens in a trail that families can explore. • Plant sale scheduled for 27 March is awaiting ACT approval. • Music event is scheduled at the café for Saturday March 20. <p>Megan then raised the issue of <i>Summer Sounds</i> and whether Friends considered it worthwhile. Helen Elliot went on to add that if it was to continue, an application to ICON Water for sponsorship was needed by 31 April 2021. It was decided to discuss this in more detail at the April meeting.</p>		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>		Noted
5.5	Treasurer	<p>Financial statements February 2021 were shared on Google drive before the meeting. They showed membership was up from the same month in previous years and that the last payment was made on the Thermal Tolerance project. There is \$476,000 in the bank (\$367,300 Friends and \$108,700 Public Fund). A decision is expected on the East Core Precinct project next month and projections until June 2022 will be available then to assist with that decision. Alan Henderson asked that these projections be made available for the Projects Committee meeting on 25 March.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted</p>	<p>M: Helen Elliot S: David More</p>	Passed
5.6	IT Report including Administrative Database Evaluation Working Group	<p>David More provided a written report on Google drive, indicating that the TidyHQ membership system trial is now in progress, with 4 membership options similar to our current categories. Neville Page questioned why there was no concession for household members and asked if this was discriminatory? At present, it is</p>		Noted

		<p>cheaper to purchase a household membership than 2 single concessions. David urged Council members to use the trial membership system and said there would be opportunities to explore other systems/options in a future paper if necessary.</p> <p>David went on to say that a new modem had been purchased and that he was looking at systems to assist managing critiques and/or competitions for the Photographic Group that may be of interest to the Botanic Art Group. He hoped to develop a paper for the next meeting but warned the price may be high.</p>		
5.7	Project Committee	<p>Alan Henderson indicated the new electronic whiteboard in the room purchased with monies from Friends. He hoped that the next Projects Committee meeting on 25 March would be able to consider the East Core Precinct project costings against future projections so they can determine whether we need a fundraising campaign or not. There is some pressure to consider smaller projects.</p>		Noted
5.8	Public Fund	<p>Barbara Podger having left the meeting by this point, Neville Page spoke on her behalf and indicated that the Fund Trustees had met. At the meeting a question had been raised about funding the East Core Precinct project. The Register of Environmental Organisations sets out guidelines for funding that may limit the Fund's ability to fund this project. As funding must be directed to certain categories of works, it was agreed that advice should be sought on this matter to ensure tax deductibility is not lost.</p> <p>ACTION: Neville Page to write to Register to clarify eligibility of this project</p>		
5.9	Friends Reports	<p>a. Photographic Group - no report.</p> <p>b. Botanic Art Group (BAG) – Wendy Antoniak indicated the upcoming art exhibition opening on 3 April, with a preview for Friends in the afternoon of 2 April.</p> <p>ACTION: Lynden Ayliffe to organise selection of an art work (up to \$800) with Judy West and Linda Beveridge.</p> <p>c. Plant Science Group – no report</p> <p>d. Growing Friends –report of recent meeting on Google drive and Megan Menz indicated that the Group may be holding another small plant sale for staff and Friends.</p> <p>e. Thursday Talks (TT) – Linda Beveridge indicated that talks had resumed with up to 40 allowed in the theatrette. Prior booking is required and</p>		

		<p>numbers are increasing. The Thursday talks team has welcomed a new member, Emeritus Professor Patrick De Deckker who joins Linda Beveridge, Barbara Hamburger, Dr Liz Truswell Anthony Whalen. A list of speakers for coming months will be circulated shortly.</p> <p>f. Social Events—Tricia Morton provided a report on Google drive and highlighted that budgets for Wake-Up with the Birds and the Sundial Event planned for spring would be prepared for the June Meeting. She also mentioned a possible event proposed by John Blay <i>A Celebration of Wild Nature</i> later this year. A short discussion on fundraising followed, Council noting that events were usually run on a cost recovery basis and not as major fundraising events.</p> <p>g. Membership - report on Google drive showing new members and renewals for February 2021. Linda Beveridge then spoke about the Meet and Greet event planned for Saturday with 20 people registered to come. Guides had been organised and groups were providing speakers.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: That Council approve up to \$300 for catering at the Meet and Greet event for new members</p>	M: Linda Beveridge S: Alan Henderson	Passed
5.10	Volunteer Guides	Lesley King indicated that her report was shared on Google drive and that a face to face meeting of Guides will take place next week in the Telstra Tower with a maximum of 50 people. She drew attention to changes in Guides' key roles and noted that Guides had made a submission on the ANBG Management Plan. During the April school holidays, <i>Secrets of the Bush</i> family Flora tours are scheduled and feedback is being sought on the next Australian Guides Conferences - Melbourne in 2022 and Adelaide in 2024.		Noted
5.11	Communications	<i>Fronde</i> – April issue coming. Broadcast email – Wendy Antoniak indicated that items are due next Wednesday 17 March 2021.		Noted Noted
6	Other Business			Noted
7	Next Meeting	2pm, Thursday 8 April 2021 - Celia Rosser Room		Noted