

Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens Council Meeting 10 March 2022, Dickson Room 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 amendment.		Noted
1.2	Attendance and Apologies	Present <u>Council</u> : Neville Page (President, Chair), Linda Beveridge (Vice President), Lynden Ayliffe (Secretary), Helen Elliot (Treasurer), Wanda Filsell, Lesley King, Kerry Moir <u>Apologies</u> : David More, Alan Henderson, Judy West, Peter Byron, Megan Menz, Barbara Podger and Christianna Cobbold		Noted
2	Minutes of Previous Meeting	RESOLUTION: that the minutes of the Council meeting of 10 February 2022 be accepted.	M: Lynden Ayliffe S: Wanda Filsell	Passed
3	Matters arising from previous minutes			
3.1	Communications Strategy (scoping study/membership)	Kerry Moir indicated that the working group had developed a draft questionnaire for the upcoming <i>Meet and Greet</i> . There was some discussion about the survey that Council acknowledged was not representative of Friends per se but should assist in the development of the Strategy. Although some concerns were raised about surveys in general and whether it would proceed to a larger survey, Council agreed		

		to proceed with the questionnaire that was not seen as a trial. Kerry indicated that the Group would garner further feedback through workshops. RESOLUTION: that Kerry Moir finalise the questionnaire for handout at the <i>Meet and Greet</i>	M: Neville Page S: Lesley King	Passed
4	General Business			
4.1	Membership fees and benefits	Helen Elliot indicated that membership fees were last increased in 2013 and since that time inflation has increased by 18%. She also indicated that our fees were lower than other institutions in Canberra where parking was not provided free of charge. She suggested that the fees be increased by \$10 for both individuals and groups, and that only 1 or 3-year subscriptions made available. This would be more in line with other local institutions and mean the end 5-year subscriptions. It was agreed that the fee schedule be subject to further consultation with the IT and membership teams. Lynden Ayliffe also pointed out that the benefits should also be considered as individuals and groups have varying numbers of parking permits. ACTION: Helen Elliot to liaise with the IT and Membership teams, especially in relation to the proposed membership online facility.		Noted
4.2	Co-opting a new Council member to act as treasurer for Council and Public Fund	Neville Page indicated that the position had been advertised in the E-newsletter and there had been 2 expressions of interest. Although Neville had approached Marg Nicholls to gauge her interest beforehand, she was not interested. Both candidates that expressed interest had follow up discussions with Helen Elliot and Neville Page, and one candidate was happy for the other candidate to be appointed if he/she was keen. Neville went on the say that Anne Holmes, a relatively new member; with project management skills and experience, indicated she would be happy to accept the position if offered and had met with Helen and himself to look at the systems and ascertain the true extent of the work. As a qualified		

		<p>accountant Neville said he would assist Anne and recommended that she be appointed until the next AGM in accordance with the Constitution.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: that Council appoint Anne Holmes to the casual vacancy of Treasurer from COB 31 March 2022.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: that Council appoint Anne Holmes to the Public Fund management Committee from COB 31 March 2022</p> <p>ACTION: Neville Page to advise Anne Holmes</p>	<p>M: Neville Page S: Linda Beveridge</p> <p>M: Neville Page S: Linda Beveridge</p>	<p>Passed</p> <p>Passed</p>
5	Reports			
5.1	ANBG/ Friends Liaison	Neville Page indicated that Megan Menz had provided a report on Google drive.		Noted
5.2	President's Report	<p>Neville Page indicated that his activities were detailed in his report on Google drive. He indicated that he would not be continuing as an Ordinary Committee member of the Management Committee of the Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (AAFBG) and would not be attending its biennial conference in April/May at Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens, Batemans Bay. As Linda Beveridge would be attending, he suggested she be nominated as our voting member at the Conference. Council agreed and then discussed representation on the AAFBG Committee that has included the ANBG Friends for many years. It was agreed that expressions of interest in this role would be sought in the E-newsletter. It involves several meetings per year via phone/Zoom.</p> <p>Neville then went on to talk about a generous donation of \$1500 to the Public Fund from Garth Mansfield. Garth has donated proceeds of his book of the Goodwin Village gardens to the Friends.</p>		Noted
5.3	Treasurer's Report	Helen Elliot indicated that her report was on Google Drive and that memberships were still being processed.	M; Helen Elliot	Passed

		<p>RESOLUTION: That the Treasurer's Report for February 2022 be accepted</p> <p>Neville Page said that this was Helen's final meeting and he wished to thank her for the excellent job that she has done both as Treasurer and as a Council member.</p>	S: Linda Beveridge	
5.4	IT Report	<p>David More's report on Google Drive was superseded by an email before the meeting indicating that while Paid Memberships Pro comes close to requirements, there is still a gap. To remedy the situation would be complex and costly, and training and maintaining it would become a burden. He recommended that Council do not proceed and recommend that Stuart Ramshaw should seek a refund. After discussing it Council decided that Helen Elliot would work with David and the IT and Membership Team to see if it could be adjusted. Terminating Stuart's services and suggesting a refund was not considered feasible until all avenues have been explored.</p> <p>Council then indicated that David should not bear any costs and noted the following resolution that had been passed out of session: <i>That Council proceed with the limited trial of a WordPress test site with the PaidMembershipsPro add-on at a cost of \$440 for developer fees to CanberraNet and approximately \$420 for the add-on (ie US\$297).</i></p> <p>ACTION: Neville Page to contact David More about these matters.</p>		Noted
5.5	Project Committee	<p>Council noted the project planning report provided by Megan Menz on Google drive.</p>		Noted
5.6	Public Fund	<p>Neville Page indicated that the Management Committee had met on 25 February and had agreed to fund the two projects that Council had recommended to them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How do I survive the Red Centre ● Seed Production Area in Section 189c. <p>Both projects will receive \$10,000. He also indicated that the term deposit had been rolled over.</p>		Noted

		Kerry Moir will seek a representative amongst the guides for the “How do I Survive the Red Centre” project.		
5.7	Friends Reports	<p>a. Photographic Group - Neville advised that Stephen Playford had been elected its new Convenor.</p> <p>b. Botanic Art Group –The group is having its annual exhibition in April/May.</p> <p>c. Flowers, Fruit and Foliage (FFF) – video recording on hold.</p> <p>d. Growing Friends (GF) – Neville Page indicated that he had received an email from Maurice Hermann cancelling the Group’s April plant sale.</p> <p>e. Plant Science Group – Linda Beveridge indicated that a late report was provided on Google drive nominating the new committee. The Group intends to hold talks every second Monday of the month except public holidays. The Botanic Resource Centre is now open and a proposal for its upgrade is being prepared.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: That Council endorse the new Committee</p> <p>f. Thursday Talks (TT) – A late paper sought \$600 funding to purchase 12 vouchers from the Botanical Bookshop worth \$50 each. After some discussion on the merits of the proposal, Council agreed it was a good idea to thank speakers in this way.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: That council approve the purchase of vouchers</p> <p>g. Social Events – Neville indicated that Tricia Morton had resigned due to ill health and that Christianna Cobbold had been nominated as Convenor. He recognised Tricia’s contribution over many years and recorded his thanks.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: That Council endorse Christianna Cobbold as the Committee’s Convenor</p> <p>ACTION: Neville Page to write to Tricia expressing gratitude for her work over many years.</p> <p>h. Nature Journaling and Field Sketching – Neville Page indicated that the Group now numbers 50 plus and up to 25 attend each session in accordance with the Group’s COVID plan.</p>	<p>M: Linda Beveridge S: Kerry Moir</p> <p>M: Linda Beveridge S: Helen Elliot</p> <p>M: Linda Beveridge S; Kerry Moir</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Passed</p> <p>Passed</p> <p>Passed</p>

		<p>ACTION: Neville undertook to ask if numbers attending still needed to be limited due to COVID.</p> <p>i. Membership and Meet and Greet – Membership report provided on Google drive. Up to 52 people have now registered for the <i>Meet and Greet</i> event for the new Members and increased funding is required</p> <p>RESOLUTION: That Council approve up to \$1000 for the event.</p>	<p>M: Linda Beveridge S: Helen Elliot</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Passed</p>
5.8	Volunteer Guides	<p>Lesley King reminded Council of her report on Google drive and advised that the ANBG had received 24 applications for Guide training. Ideally 20 would flow through the interview stage and proceed to training. Lesley King then sought Council approval to purchase new uniforms for these Guides from a new supplier, which Council readily agreed. Embroidery on jackets would also be included. Council then considered funding new shirts for people who had been Guides for over 5 years. Lesley King indicated that she would canvas any interest in this and bring a separate proposal back to Council.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: That Council approve up to \$2000 for new uniforms.</p> <p>Lesley indicated that booked walks and tours are popular this month. Large groups are also requesting to participate in free guided walks and this poses a challenge. Guides have therefore requested changes to the marketing of such walks.</p>	<p>M: Lesley King S: Lynden Ayliffe</p>	<p>Passed</p>
5.9	Communications	<p><i>FronDS</i> – April issue coming shortly. Broadcast email – copy to Wanda Filsell by 16 March 2022</p>		Noted
6	Other Business			
6.1	Launch of the Friends' Lawn	<p>ANBG intend to hold the launch in April depending on when Jody Swirepik PSM (Director Parks Australia) was available – either the first or last week of April. Invitations would be sent to Council members, Group convenors and representatives of the construction firms involved. It will be held outdoors.</p>		Noted
6.2	Grant application for Mega Fauna Event	<p>ANBG has asked Council to consider applying for an ACT Government grant to fund the hire of roving large-scale puppets for this year's Mega</p>		

		<p>Fauna event worth \$60,000. A question was raised about the Mega Fauna animals purchased last year and it was considered likely that the roving puppets would be an adjunct.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: that Council apply for the grant</p> <p>ACTION: Neville Page to pursue grant application</p>	<p>M: Neville Page S: Lynden Ayliffe</p>	<p>Passed</p>
7	Next Meeting	2pm, on Thursday 14 April 2022 (venue to be advised)		Noted

