

Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens Council Meeting 13 May 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: Lesley King	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, Wanda Filsell, Alan Henderson, Lesley King, David More <u>Ex officio</u> : Judy West, Peter Byron <u>Invited</u> : Barbara Podger <u>Apologies</u> : Max Bourke, Tricia Morton, Megan Menz		Noted
2	Minutes of Previous Meeting	RESOLUTION: that the minutes of the Council meeting of 8 April 2021 be accepted.	M: Lynden Ayliffe S: Linda Beveridge	Passed
3	Matters arising from previous minutes	Covered elsewhere in the meeting.		
4	General Business	None raised.		
5	Reports			
5.1	ANBG Executive Director	In Judy West's absence at that stage of the meeting, Peter Byron reported that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seed Bank: Minister launched the design that morning; tenders would be sought in October; and work should commence early next year, finishing in 		Noted



		<p>12 months. The on-line auction for the Seed Bank fitout started on 12 May.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Core Redevelopment: starts on 17 May with changed foot traffic required for 3 months. The main path will be diverted around the back of the Café and signage will be installed shortly. • Conservatory: will start later this month with completion hopefully around October 2022. <p>Peter showed images of the new Seed Bank and Conservatory designs and indicated that a new visitors brochure was being developed to reflect the new access arrangements. The brochure should be available in a couple of weeks.</p> <p>In response to a question about opening the tracks in the Eastern Mallee, Peter advised that funds are not yet available for the repairs and maintenance required.</p> <p>On the new management plan, it was agreed that time would be provided for discussion at the June Council meeting.</p> <p>Judy West then arrived following an interview with the <i>Canberra Times</i>. She discussed how the on-line auction for the Seed Bank worked. She also explained that the more specialised equipment being auctioned would enable work on a greater range of plants (such as ferns and fungi) and facilitate better conservation outcomes. Costa Georgiadis had been appointed as <i>Champion of the Seed Bank</i> and was very generous with his time over the last couple of days. He would be back with the <i>Gardening Australia</i> team in a few weeks. The Friends' sponsorship for research would go towards PhD scholarship for a seed biologist.</p> <p>Judy then outlined new senior staffing arrangements following David Taylor's departure, with the creation of a Conservation Manager to augment the current managers of Horticulture/ Asset Management and Business Development.</p>		
5.2	ANBG General Manager	See above		



5.3	ANBG Friends Liaison	<p>In Megan Menz's absence, Peter Byron reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April visitation was the highest April on record at 52,900 • work is proceeding on the Megafauna event which will run 26 June to 25 July • school tours are popular with 3900 students in the last 2 months • in relation to funds committed by the Friends, the Online Education Resource development project is taking longer than expected but the microscopes for the Banksia Centre have been ordered. 		Noted
5.4	President	<p>The President's report was uploaded on Google drive outlining his activities since the last meeting. Neville Page said there was less activity than usual since he was away for some of the time on a field trip to Mungo National Park.</p>		Noted
5.5	Treasurer	<p>Financial statements for April 2021 were provided on Google drive before the meeting. Helen Elliot said that Membership fees were over \$100,000 for the year to date – the first time to her knowledge and the first of three milestones. The other milestones are 2,000 memberships and almost 3,000 members. Helen also reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Growing Friends plant sale to staff and Friends raised \$712 which means that nearly \$8000 has been raised in the last 4 sales – a good return on the \$1000 or so spent on pots, fertiliser etc. • the Botanical Art exhibition raised a total of \$4,687 for Friends from the 20% commission on artists' sales, the raffle and book sales (the 2019 edition of <i>More Than Just a Pretty Plant.</i>) • the third tranche of the Norfolk Island PhD research project is nearly finalised with a payment request for \$10,000. • term deposit 3119 for \$125,000 is maturing and some will be required for upcoming expenses. <p>RESOLUTION: \$115,000 of term deposit 3119 maturing on 11 May 2021 be rolled over for 6 months, and that the balance of that deposit with the accrued interest be used for upcoming expenses.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: The Treasurer's report be accepted.</p>	<p>M: Helen Elliot S: Linda Beveridge</p> <p>M: Helen Elliot S: Wendy Antoniak</p>	<p>Passed</p> <p>Passed</p>



5.6	IT Report including Administrative Database Evaluation Working Group	David More said his paper on Google drive was basically background and work is still going on but slowly. Progress is being made in relation to on-line application forms and on-line renewals. Wendy Antoniak said the point of sale system used for the Botanic Art exhibition worked well and thanked David for it.		Noted
5.7	Project Committee	Alan Henderson referred to the report on Google drive which contained the Treasurer's revised forward projections. Contributing \$235,000 towards Stage 2 of the East Core Precinct Redevelopment would still leave a reasonable surplus, particularly if memberships continue to rise. Judy West asked about the Public Fund in-principle commitment of \$20,000 towards the fit out of the National Seed Bank and Helen Elliot assured her that the commitment was still included in the projections. RESOLUTION: that Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Note that the Treasurer's latest projections show a Friends surplus for other projects of \$274,615 by June 2022. b) Note that the ANBG staff do not currently have the capacity to manage additional small projects. c) Agree to support the 2nd stage of the East Core Precinct Redevelopment project with a contribution at this time of \$235,000, subject to the Public Fund confirming its in principle commitment of \$30,000 toward the project. 	M: Alan Henderson S: Linda Beveridge	Passed
5.8	Public Fund	Neville Page said the management committee normally meets in May but didn't because of the secretary's absence. However a meeting is planned for 10 June, immediately after the Council meeting		Noted
5.9	Friends Reports	a. Photographic Group – a paper concerning the Schools Photographic Exhibition was on Google Drive. The revised guidelines were not yet available but the only real change would be the requirement for each photograph to be provided digitally as well as in print form. RESOLUTION: That Council approve funding of \$3415 for the Competition prize money. b. Botanic Art Group (BAG) – Wendy Antoniak reported that the <i>From the Desert to the Sea</i> exhibition was very successful. Next year the exhibition	M: Lynden Ayliffe S: Helen Elliot	Passed Noted



		<p>would focus on plants actually grown in the Gardens, and the focus the following year would be the high country. A joint exhibition with Korean artists had been planned for 2022 but is now on hold due to COVID restrictions. The Group has welcomed new members and run free botanic art courses for Friends. There has also been some preliminary discussion about BAG providing interpretation for the Conservatory.</p> <p>c. Videos: Flowers, Fruit and Foliage – Neville Page said progress was being made particularly in handling the technology, reducing the production time from 10 hours to five. The fourth episode was now online. The third episode attracted 157 views and it is hoped the fourth will get up to 500. He is planning to continue with the FFF videos but questioned the feasibility of expanding the scope to other activities without those who could do the work. He is happy to receive any suggestions and would be calling for help through the E-newsletter.</p> <p>d. Growing Friends – the report of the 1 May meeting was on Google drive. The photo of the Handbury Award presentation would be included in the next issue of <i>Fronde</i>.</p> <p>e. Thursday Talks (TT) – Linda Beveridge said that the Talks were going well and the audience reception was good. The Theatre capacity is currently 40 – usually there are 36 to 38 attendees, although it has reached capacity a few times. A small team continues to look at digitization.</p> <p>f. Social Events– Tricia Morton provided a report on Google drive before the meeting. Barbara Podger said that the idea of having quarterly meetings, which brought together all the different Friends groups and ANBG staff, was to better coordinate activities and lead to better outcomes. Neville Page suggested that the proposals in the report be considered by the Executive who would then report back to Council.</p> <p>g. Membership – the report on Google drive showing new members and renewals for April 2021 was noted. Linda Beveridge raised the possibility of having another Meet and Greet given the number of new memberships. Alan Henderson pointed out that over the last two years membership had increased about 13.9%.</p>		<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
5.10	Volunteer Guides	Lesley King referred to the report on Google drive. All activities were going well and Guides had developed a calendar of the popular <i>Themed Walks</i> for the rest of the year. Lesley said that rosters were very tight because a number of Guides		Noted



		that were away or ill. She suggested that the ANBG may need to consider a new intake of Guides next year and she will prepare a proposal.		
5.11	Communications	<i>Fronde</i> – Barbara Podger said that contributions for the August issue are sought before the end June, with deadlines varying between 18 June (articles) and 28 June (what’s on). Broadcast email –Wendy Antoniak said the deadline for contributions is 19 May and it will include new foot traffic arrangements.		Noted Noted
6	Other Business	No matters were raised.		
7	Next Meeting	2pm, Thursday 10 June 2021 - Celia Rosser Room		Noted

