

<b>Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens Council Meeting 14 October 2021 Minutes</b>				
<b>Item</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Information</b>	<b>Moved (M) Seconded (S)</b>	<b>Council</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Approval of Agenda, Attendance &amp; Apologies</b>			
1.1	Agenda	Neville Page opened the meeting which was held via ZOOM due to COVID restrictions. He thanked Lesley King for organising and hosting the meeting. <b>RESOLUTION: that the Agenda be adopted</b>	M: Wendy Antoniak S: Alan Henderson	Passed
1.2	Attendance and Apologies	Present <u>Council:</u> Neville Page (President, Chair), Linda Beveridge (Vice President), Lynden Ayliffe (Secretary), Wendy Antoniak, David More, Alan Henderson, Wanda Filsell, Lesley King <u>Ex officio:</u> Judy West, Peter Byron, Megan Donaldson <u>Invited:</u> Barbara Podger <u>Apologies:</u> Helen Elliot, Max Bourke, Tricia Morton		Noted
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>	Linda asked that there be a few changes to the minutes: <i>Item 5.9e</i> , namely that the report mentioned applied to speakers from Feb-June 2021. She also asked that the word “current” be inserted before Departmental restrictions. Item 6.2 should refer to 20 people and 2 walks. <b>RESOLUTION: that the minutes of the Council meeting of 8 July 2021 be accepted as amended.</b>	M: Linda Beveridge S: Lynden Ayliffe	Passed
<b>3</b>	<b>Matters arising from previous minutes</b>			

3.1	COVID Safety Plans	Neville Page reminded Council about its discussions at the previous meeting about the COVID Safety Plan prepared by Growing Friends. He advised that the wording had been changed and now approved by ANBG. No further action required.		Noted
<b>4</b>	<b>General Business</b>			
4.1	FANBG Council Priorities: 2020-21 Review and 2021-25 Strategic Plan	Deferred until the next meeting of Council.		Noted
4.2	Review of Policies and Procedures Manual	Deferred until the next meeting of Council.		Noted
4.3	Review of Constitution Update	Lynden Ayliffe said that an update was provided on Google drive outlining the way forward. A discussion paper is being developed and will be brought to Council at its next meeting. It will then be finalised and comments sought from Friends, before resolutions on changes to the Constitution are finalised. These resolutions will then be considered at a special general meeting early next year, followed by a much needed social event for Friends.		Noted
4.4	AGM Arrangements	Lynden Ayliffe indicated that arrangements have been finalised for Friday 29 October at the Shine Dome (3.15pm for 3.30 pm start). A checklist was sent to Council members. Rather than hand out hard copies on the day, AGM papers would be put on the Friends website next week after a reminder has been sent out by E-newsletter. Lynden said that she had received 2 nominations for the one vacancy for an ordinary Council member, which would mean an election. Judy West has consented to be Returning Officer and Peter Byron and Megan Donaldson would collect ballots issued when Friends check in. Attention then focussed on the issue of Public Officer as Wendy Antoniak is retiring at the AGM. Wanda Filsell offered to take on the role and Council agreed.	M: Neville Page	

		<p><b>RESOLUTION: That Council appoint Wanda Filsell as Pubic Officer from 30 October 2021</b></p> <p>The issue of who would take on the E-newsletter was put off until the next meeting. Neville thanked Wendy Antoniak for her valuable contribution to Council and Friends generally.</p> <p>Lynden then asked Council to approve the draft AGM COVID Safety Plan that was on Google drive.</p> <p><b>RESOLUTION: That Council approve the draft AGM COVID Safety Plan</b></p> <p>Neville Page then thanked Lynden for work she had done organising the AGM.</p>	<p>S: Alan Henderson</p> <p>M: Lynden Ayliffe S: Linda Beveridge</p>	<p>Passed</p> <p>Passed</p>
4.5	Leadership of Photographic Group	<p>Neville Page indicated that the current Convenor, Rhonda Daniel would not be continuing in the role after the Group's AGM in late November. As there were no likely contenders he urged Council members to suggest some names. David More said he understood that, in the past, the Group decided its office bearers.</p>		Noted
4.6	Volunteer Recognition	<p>Linda Beveridge indicated that most nominees have accepted their nominations and that ANBG would be printing certificates for presentation at an event on Tuesday 7 December at 10am. She urged Council members to attend and put the date in their diaries.</p>		Noted
4.7	Life Memberships	<p>Both nominees have confirmed that they are delighted to accept and will be present at the AGM to accept their awards.</p>		Noted
<b>5</b>	<b>Reports</b>			
5.1	ANBG Executive Director	<p>Judy West indicated that she is working from home at the moment but visits the Gardens regularly and has been delighted by the amount of flowers. It has been a fantastic season and the horticulture staff are working hard to prepare for the increased visitation when the gardens open.</p> <p>After the positive feedback from her first update, Judy said that she was preparing a new update on Garden activities to send out as a broadcast</p>		Noted

		<p>email to Friends.</p> <p>The new Management plan will be out for public comment on the first of November and Judy urged Council to provide comment during the one month consultation period. The goals in the Plan have been reduced from 9 to 4 with fewer actions to enable the Gardens to focus on major projects such as the Conservatory.</p>		
5.2	ANBG General Manager	<p>Peter Byron indicated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Gardens would reopen on 29 October.</li> <li>● A snapshot of the opening parameters including the need to wear masks inside and outdoors, was shared with Council but is not a public document.</li> <li>● Pollen and the Bookshop will open on 29 November. Jindii is already open.</li> <li>● A conservative approach is being taken with staffing, with only 25% of office staff is on site – this will increase to 50% in December. By Feb/March 2022 all staff will return.</li> <li>● Growing Friends’ public sale programmed for November will be cancelled.</li> <li>● Photographs of work on the Conservatory were then shown with the footings dug and the slab due next week. Work is 6-8 weeks behind because of shutdowns and rain.</li> </ul> <p>Alan Henderson asked about changes to the signage for the Friends’ Lawn. Peter Byron indicated that the proposed stencilling was too rough and they now proposed embedding stainless steel letters in the concrete instead. Peter indicated that he would provide more information.</p> <p>After a question about the front entrance, Peter Byron said it would be enlarged along with the new traffic lights to be installed on Clunies Ross Street in the next 2 months. Barbara Podger said that cars of workmen were a safety hazard at the moment near the overflow parking. Peter acknowledged the problem and said that was a matter</p>		Noted

		for the ANU as the workmen are their contractors.		
5.3	ANBG Friends Liaison	<p>Megan Donaldson reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Gardens were expecting a deluge of visitors at the end of the month.</li> <li>• She and rangers are returning and all enquiries should be directed to her except for venue bookings that will be handled by a new officer Ros Wallace.</li> <li>• There has been much praise for the Friends' funded videos on social media. These videos will be shown as trailers when Sunset Cinemas restart (Nov – Feb)</li> <li>• The metallic Bee project is on track and will be installed soon.</li> <li>• The first exhibition in the Visitors Centre will be the Photographic Group's annual exhibition starting on 25 November.</li> </ul> <p>Questions were then asked about the music commissioned by ANBG last year. Megan indicated that there had been a performance in the Banksia Garden in conjunction with the International Music Festival. It was a live performance piece using instruments made from native material and not a recording as such.</p>		Noted
5.4	President	Neville Page indicated that although there was not a formal report, much was happening. He has been liaising with Group Convenors and preparing his annual report. He welcomed the amount Friends have achieved despite lockdown and indicated that memberships were up.		Noted
5.5	Treasurer	<p>In Helen Elliot's absence, Lynden Ayliffe reported that the a resolution to redeem and cash out term deposit 1938 for \$210,688 (plus accrued interest) on 9 October 2021 had been approved by Council out of session. She then asked Council to approve the financial reports for August and September that Helen had provided on Google drive.</p> <p><b>RESOLUTION: That the Treasurer's Report for August be accepted</b></p> <p><b>RESOLUTION: That the Treasurer's report for September be accepted.</b></p>	<p>M: Neville Page S: Linda Beveridge M: Neville Page S: Wendy Antoniak</p>	<p>Passed</p> <p>Passed</p>

5.6	IT Report including Administrative Database Evaluation Working Group	David More indicated that work continues on fine-tuning the membership database. Other projects are on hold until people can meet in the Gardens.		Noted
5.7	Project Committee	<p>Alan Henderson focussed on 2 items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The upgrading of project guidelines is underway</li> <li>• With the resignations of Jeff Brown and Dennis Ayliffe from the Committee, David Coutts has suggested Sharon Abrahams as a possible Committee Member. She has a Masters in Scientific Communication and a PhD in plant molecular genetics. Council supported this and Lynden Ayliffe said that Marg Ncholls had expressed interest.</li> </ul>		Noted
5.8	Public Fund	Neville Page indicated that there had been no meeting since the last one held at the end of the June Council meeting.		Noted
5.9	Friends Reports	<p><b>a. Photographic Group</b> - The Group had asked to visit the Gardens at 7.30am on 5 November but Peter Byron said that low onsite staffing levels meant that this was not possible. They would be allowed from 8.30am.</p> <p>Lynden Ayliffe raised the issue of buying a piece from the Group's new exhibition and Neville suggested \$500 would be appropriate and asked Lynden to coordinate.</p> <p><b>RESOLUTION: that Council approve the expenditure of up to \$500 for the purchase of photograph/s from the Exhibition</b></p> <p><b>b. Botanic Art Group</b> – Wendy Antoniak indicated that they would not be meeting until next year. An exhibition was planned for next year featuring plants growing in the Gardens.</p> <p><b>c. Flowers, Fruit and Foliage (FFF)</b> – Neville Page indicated that Ben &amp; Ros Walcott were eager to return on 31 October to record plants for FFF and Neville would video record the walk.</p> <p><b>d. Growing Friends</b> – no report but Neville indicated that there would be another click and collect sale soon.</p>	<p>M: Lynden Ayliffe S: Wendy Antoniak</p>	<p>Passed</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

		<p><b>e. Thursday Talks (TT)</b> – Linda Beveridge indicated that speakers would be rescheduled to next year and that the progress on recording talks was suspended during lockdown. as it was not possible to test equipment</p> <p><b>f. Social Events</b>– Butterfly and summit walks were held although Wake up with the Birds had to be cancelled.</p> <p><b>g. Nature Journaling and Field Sketching</b> – Neville Page indicated that there was an informal gathering June of this new Group and Peter Byron has approved the Group meeting on 1 November although only 25-30 of the 32 members will be allowed.</p> <p><b>h. Membership and Meet and Greet</b> – Friends will be meeting the postage costs when reminders are sent out about renewals, as the ANBG has no mail room service at present. The new Members Meet and Greet has been deferred until Feb/March 2022.</p>		Noted
5.10	Volunteer Guides	Lesley King advised that Guides are continuing to meet and undertake professional development.		Noted
5.11	Communications	<p><i>Fronds</i> – All copy is due by 22 October so that this next edition will be in letterboxes by 1 December.</p> <p>Broadcast email – copy to Wendy Antoniak by Monday 18 Oct</p>		Noted
<b>6</b>	<b>Other Business</b>			
6.1	Annual General Meeting of the Australian Network for Plant Conservation Inc. (ANPC): Wednesday 17 November 2021	<p>Neville Page indicated that the Friends, as members of this network, had been asked to attend this virtual meeting and asked if anyone was interested. Judy West indicated that this network was a significant NGO for the ANBG and urged Friends' participation.</p> <p>Neville Page to discuss with Linda Beveridge out of session.</p>		Noted
6.2	Possible Donation	Alan Henderson said that the Wanless family had approached the Friends about making a donation in recognition of their father's love for the Gardens. Two suggestions were made (a bench and/or Seed Bank equipment) and Alan hoped to follow up when the Gardens reopen.		Noted

7	<b>Next Meeting</b>	2pm, Thursday 11 November 2021 - Celia Rosser Room		Noted
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N. Rosser', written in a cursive style.