

Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens Council Meeting 8 September 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 additions/changes to the draft agenda. The agenda was accepted without comment.		Noted
1.2	Attendance and Apologies	Present <u>Council</u> : Neville Page (President, Chair), Linda Beveridge (Vice President), Lynden Ayliffe (Secretary), Anne Holmes (Treasurer), Wanda Filsell, Lesley King and Beth Tyerman <u>Ex-officio</u> : Judy West, Megan Menz and Megan Donaldson <u>Invited</u> : Christianna Cobbold <u>Apologies</u> : Alan Henderson, Kerry Moir, Barbara Podger		Noted
2	Minutes of Previous Meeting	RESOLUTION: that the minutes of the Council meeting of 11 August 2022 be accepted.	M: Neville Page S: Anne Holmes	Passed
3	Matters arising from previous minutes	None raised		
4	General Business			
4.1	Annual General Meeting	Neville Page reminded Council members that the AGM would be held on 20 October 2022 in the theatrette and that Executive had decided to organize catering for the drinks and nibbles afterwards. Judy West asked that attendees be encouraged to wear masks in the theatrette.		Noted

5	Reports			
5.1	ANBG Executive Director	Judy West indicated that the transition into the Department was still underway and staff were busy with preparations for the Global Botanic Gardens Congress in Melbourne late September (26-29/9/2022). She also indicated that she was finalising her presentations for Thursday Talks and the Friends AGM on 20 October 2022.		Noted
5.2	ANBG General Manager	<p>Megan Menz said that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a number of staff will be attending the Congress in Melbourne, • the tender for the Northern precinct works is being evaluated, and • work on the Conservatory is proceeding as planned. <p>When asked about works to the main road, Megan indicated that the works are expected to be finished within a week and that the work was required for electrical upgrades.</p>		Noted
5.3	ANBG Friends Liaison Officer	Megan Donaldson said that visitor numbers for August totalled 37,588. This was on trend, although education staff catered for 213 students that was the highest number on record. Staff were preparing for Floriade along with Pollen and venue staff. The Australian Native Plants Society will be holding its plant sale at the ANBG on 15 October 2022, following a very popular sale by Growing Friends recently. Megan also indicated that some of the ANBG public toilets were being refurbished.		Noted
5.4	President's Report	Neville Page indicated that his report was on Google drive. He then spoke about the Friends' funding application for \$30,000 to help fund the ANBG Mega Fauna event in 2023. Applications for this ACT Events Program closed on 5 September and he thanked Megan for her assistance in preparing the application.		Noted
5.5	Treasurer's Report	<p>Anne Holmes indicated that her Balance Sheet, Income Statement, and 2022-2023 Projections for Friends and Public Fund were on Google drive and that Growing Friends had raised \$7,557 at its recent sale with 90%of plants sold. An excellent result.</p> <p>She went on to say that the Auditor had prepared the financial statements for the last financial year and these would be presented at the AGM. Neville Page acknowledged and thanked Anne for her hard work.</p>		

		RESOLUTION: That the Treasurer's report be accepted	M: Anne Holmes S: Linda Beveridge	Passed
5.6	Project Committee	<p>Discussion focussed on the proposed Scholarship Program that had been considered by Council out of session and approved. Linda Beveridge asked Council to consider the following amendments to the original decision:</p> <p><i>(a) The Friends ANBG Research Scholarship program continue in 2023-24 with funding of up to \$7,500 every year for 3 years ie a maximum of \$22,500</i> <i>(c) The scholarship program continue, but review the situation in 2025-2026 with a view to making decision about the increase in the amount of funding to ensure that it retains economic value.</i></p> <p>After much debate, the resolution was accepted with the proposed amendments, namely:</p> <p>RESOLUTION: that Council agree:</p> <p>(a) the Friends ANBG Research Scholarship program continue in 2023-24 with funding of up to \$7,500 every year for 3 years ie a maximum of 22,500</p> <p>(b) that the scholarship can be used to undertake Honours, Masters or PhD level research</p> <p>(c) the scholarship program continue, but review the situation in 2025-2026 with a view to making decision about the increase in the amount of funding to ensure that it retains economic value.</p> <p>(d) that any underspend could be allocated to other projects <i>except</i> in circumstances where funding for an active scholarship needs to be rolled over to a subsequent year (as a consequence \$15,000 may need</p>	M: Linda Beveridge S: Anne Holmes	Passed

		<p>to be paid in that year), and</p> <p>(e) that the Project Committee will nominate a suitably qualified Friend to participate in the selection of scholarship recipients by ANBG.</p> <p>Focus then turned on a late paper for funding the following honours project supported by Projects Committee:</p> <p><i>Impacts of increased temperatures on Australian alpine Euphrasia's seed dormancy, germination and viability</i> currently underway by Alex McLachlan who has worked in the National Seed Bank and is using Seed Bank resources. Two ANBG staff and two University of Canberra staff are supervising the research and \$4,000 is sought: (\$3,000 as a "top-up" to the scholarship and \$1,000 for research expenses).</p> <p>Usually a Friend would be involved in any project that Council agrees to fund. However it is considered unnecessary in this case, as four people are supervising the Honours project.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: That Council agree to provide \$4,000 this financial year for the Honours project "Impacts of increased temperatures on Australian alpine Euphrasia's seed dormancy, germination and viability" being undertaken by Alex McLachlan.</p>	<p>M: Wanda Filsell S: Linda Beveridge</p>	<p>Passed</p>
5.7	Public Fund	<p>Neville Page indicated that the Public Fund had agreed to help fund the Scholarship Program (see Agenda item 5.6 above). This decision was taken out of session and would see the Public Fund contribute \$7,500 pa.</p> <p>He then went on to say that Marg Nicholls and Adrienne Nicotra would be stepping down on 20 October 2022 and that he had accepted their resignations after thanking them for their contribution.</p> <p>Neville then raised the issue of merging the Public Fund with Council. He explained that the Council is ultimately responsible and that only 3 members are required for the Management Committee under our Constitution. The</p>		<p>Noted</p>

		<p>majority are also required to be responsible persons. Both he and Alan Henderson would qualify leaving Anne Holmes as the third member of this sub committee of Council. Other members of the Committee (Louise Maher and Jann Ollerenshaw) may be interested in joining Council. As yet neither have indicated whether they would be interested in joining Council.</p> <p>There was then discussion about the independence of the Public Fund Management Committee and whether this was required under law. Neville Page indicated that he would investigate the matter further and come back with a proposal.</p>		
5.8	Friends Groups	<p>a. Photographic Group – no report b. Botanic Art Group – no report c. Flowers, Fruit and Foliage – no report d. Growing Friends – report on Google drive. There was an issue raised about Council supplying morning tea and Wanda Filsell agreed to investigate frequency of such morning teas. e. Plant Science Group – no report f. Thursday Talks – talks going well. g. Social Events and Activities – Christianna Cobbold indicated that walks this weekend were booked out and although there would be no Wakeup with the Birds this year, there would be 3 bird walks in October for Friends only. h. Nature Journaling – continues to be successful. i. Membership – report on Google drive.</p>		All reports Noted
5.9	Volunteer Guides	<p>Lesley King said that new trainees are continuing to qualify with about half now fully fledged. September saw the return of two walks per day but it has been challenging to fill the roster. There are a large number of booked walks during Floriade and Guides will need to monitor numbers over the next 2 months to see if the current situation is sustainable. Eighteen guides have registered for the National Guides Conference in Melbourne.</p>		Noted
5.10	Communications	<p><i>Fronds</i> – no report Broadcast email – copy to Wanda Filsell by COB 13 September 2022</p>		Noted

6	Other Business	None raised		
7	Awards - In camera	At this point Neville asked all non-voting attendees to leave the meeting.		
7.1	Life membership	There was significant discussion about the number of memberships that should be offered. This meant a decision on the final list was deferred until all Council members could be consulted.		Noted
7.2	Volunteer Recognition	Council considered all candidates nominated and reached consensus about those to be awarded certificates in November.		Noted
8	Next Meeting	2pm on 13 October 2022 in the Celia Rosser Room		Noted