

<b>Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens Council Meeting Minutes Feb 9 2023</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 and sought any additions/changes to the agenda.		Noted
1.2	Attendance	Present <u>Council</u> : Neville Page (President, Chair), Linda Beveridge (Vice President), Anne Holmes (Treasurer), Louise Maher (Secretary), Christianna Cobbold, Alan Henderson, Kerry Moir, Masumi Robertson. <u>IT rep</u> Beth Tyerman. <u>Ex-officio</u> : Peter Byron (ANBG General Manager), Megan Menz (ANBG Friends Liaison Officer). <u>Apologies</u> : Julia Nicholls (Secretary), Anthony Whalen (Acting ANBG Executive Director), Barbara Podger.		Noted
1.3	Council Secretary position	Neville reported that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• due to illness, Julia Nicholls has submitted her resignation as Secretary of the Friends Council</li> <li>• Louise Maher had agreed to become the new Secretary.</li> </ul> <p>Neville thanked Julia on behalf of the Council for her willingness to do the job, noting she had been an excellent appointment and the Council welcomed Louise.</p>		

		<p><b>RESOLUTION: That the resignation of Julia Nicholls as Secretary of the Friends Council be received.</b></p> <p><b>RESOLUTION: That Council appoint Louise Maher as Secretary of the Friends Council to fill a casual vacancy until the 2023 Annual General Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>M. Neville Page</b> <b>S. Linda Beveridge</b></p> <p><b>M. Linda Beveridge</b> <b>S. Neville Page</b></p>	<p>Passed</p> <p>Passed</p>
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>	<b>RESOLUTION: that the minutes of the Council meeting of December 2022 be accepted.</b>	<b>M: Christianna Cobbold</b> <b>S: Kerry Moir</b>	Passed
<b>3</b>	<b>Matters arising from previous minutes</b>	None		
<b>4</b>	<b>General Business</b>			
4.1	Grant from ACT Events 2023 - \$20,000 for MegaFauna 2023 – invoice to ACT Government	<p>Linda reported that a Megafauna expert, Dr Liz Reed, based at Adelaide University needs \$500 to help her with fuel expenses to travel to the ANBG for her speaking engagement.</p> <p>Neville suggested, and it was agreed, that the Friends pay \$500 from the grant to her.</p>		Noted
<b>5</b>	<b>Reports</b>			
5.1	ANBG Acting Executive Director			
5.2	ANBG General Manager	<p>Peter showed Council members the new <i>Canberra Convention Bureau Meeting Planners Guide</i> which features the Gardens' new conservatory on the cover.</p> <p>He reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anthony Whalen (ANBG Acting Executive Director) will be acting in the</li> </ul>		Noted

		<p>role until the appointment of a new Executive Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• steel for the new conservatory is about to be installed and glass blocks, the lift and other key items are on site; construction should be finished by June/July</li> <li>• plants will not be installed until after winter, so the launch date is now expected to be in October</li> <li>• negotiations are continuing with the builder of the Seed Bank; the contract should be signed within the next few months and the build is expected to take 12 months</li> <li>• two ANBG staff members have resigned, one has gone to the Mt Annan Botanical Garden the other to the ANU; and</li> <li>• the Gardens has secured two new staff positions, a guide co-ordinator and another horticulturalist.</li> </ul>		
5.3	ANBG Friends Liaison Officer	<p>Megan reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• visitor numbers for 2022 were 522,349, up 336 from 2021</li> <li>• visitor numbers for January 2023 were 51,832, the highest since January 2007</li> <li>• education numbers for 2022 were 15,661 with 11,629 recorded between July and December, 30% higher than any other year; and</li> <li>• there are already 14,930 student bookings for 2023.</li> </ul> <p>Megan also sought and received a contact for the Social Events Committee to liaise with committee over the 2023 and 2024 calendar of events</p>		Noted
5.4	President's Report	<p>Neville reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• following training, he is now an administrator on Mail Chimp, he sent out the E-bulletin on Feb 1 and will continue to do so in future</li> <li>• it's important to continue the practice of two signatories on the Council's bank account in light of the recent scam/hacking of the Native Plants Society which lost \$30,000</li> <li>• Ella Beer, the widow of the late historian, Friend, Volunteer Guide and Friends' Council member, Don Beer, wants to make a donation to the</li> </ul>		Noted

		<p>Friends in Don’s memory of \$25,000 over five years (\$5000 a year), preferably for a scholarship program based on research; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• this needs to be set up carefully to meet the requirements of the Public Fund.</li> </ul>		
5.5	Treasurer’s Report	<p>Anne Holmes reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Treasurer’s Report and updated financial projections for end May 2023, end June 2023 and FY 2023-2024 documents are on Google Drive and</li> <li>• the Friends’ recent photographic exhibition made a profit of \$1742.66.</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOLUTION: That Term Deposit #72 902 3119 for \$106,283.14 (plus accrued interest \$393.11) plus an additional amount of \$25,000 (taken the Operating Account BSB: 082 902 Account: 17 654 4896) be reinvested for a new term of 3 months.</b></p> <p><b>RESOLUTION: That the Treasurer’s Report be Accepted</b></p>	<p><b>M. Anne Holmes</b> S. Linda Beveridge</p> <p><b>M. Linda Beveridge</b> S. Alan Henderson</p>	<p>Passed</p> <p>Passed</p>
5.6	Project Committee	<p>Alan Henderson reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there’s one project currently in the pipeline – the foyer exhibition; and</li> <li>• there’s no scope at this stage for additional projects given <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the financial projections of the Friends and the Public Fund over the next 18 months and</li> <li>b) expenditure for the proposed IT project expenditure is unknown.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		Noted
5.7	Public Fund	It was suggested that a separate account for the Don Beer Memorial Fund be investigated by the Public Fund Management Committee.		<p>Noted</p> <p>Passed</p>

		<p>Updated financial projections for end May 2023, end June 2023 and FY 2023-2024 documents are on Google Drive.</p> <p><b>Resolution: That term deposit #88 034 0395 for \$107, 483.57 (plus accrued interest \$530.06) plus an additional amount of \$5000 (debited from Public Fund account BSB: 082 902 Account 55 578 7847) be reinvested for a new term of 3 months</b></p>	<p>M. Alan Henderson S. Neville Page</p>	
5.8	IT Strategy	<p>Christianna Cobbold reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a contract has been signed for the redevelopment of the website which should be completed by the end of June</li> <li>• the website committee is very happy with the initial design and will now spend a few weeks examining it more closely before moving on to the next stage, including user testing and</li> <li>• the Style Guide needs to be updated; it should be finished by the end of February in time for the new website design.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolution: That Friends approve expenditure of up to \$7000 on a new Style Guide</b></p>	<p>M. Christianna Cobbold S. Alan Henderson</p>	Passed
5.9	Future of the Botanic Resource Centre	<p>Neville reminded Council that at the December 2022 Council meeting it was resolved that the Members engage in discussion with the Gardens Management on the future of the Botanic Resource Centre.</p> <p>Council members discussed what this work group will investigate. Linda and Christianna suggested that discussions need to include examining the best way for Friends interested in botany to pursue that interest.</p> <p><b>RESOLUTION: That a work group of Friends' Members be formed to undertake discussion with the ANBG Management to prepare a joint report for Council on how the interests of Friends interested in botany can be met</b></p>	<p>M. Neville Page S. Alan Henderson</p>	Passed

		<b>in future. Such work group to initially comprise the following persons: Linda Beveridge, Matsumi Roberston, Neville Page and John FitzGerald.</b>		
<b>6</b>	<b>Friends Groups</b>			All reports were noted and resolutions were passed.
6.1	Photographic Group	Nothing to report		
6.2	Botanic Art Group	Neville reported that the group has an exhibition coming up and would like financial support.  <b>Resolution: That Council approves expenditure of up to \$750 including \$150 petty cash to be acquitted by receipts and \$100 float (to be returned) and \$500 for printing bookmarks.</b> <b>Resolution That Council approve expenditure up to \$750 for the purchase of an artwork for the Gardens</b>	Both resolutions: <b>M. Linda Beveridge</b> <b>S. Anne Holmes</b>	
6.3	Flowers, Fruit and Foliage	Nothing to report.		
6.4	Growing Friends	Neville reported that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing Friends' meeting minutes are on Google drive and</li> <li>• the next plant sale is on March 4 and will be featured in <i>FronDs</i>.</li> </ul> <p>Anne reported that a new EFTPOS machine is required to replace a broken one.</p>		
6.5	Plant Science Group	Linda reported that the next meeting is on February 13 and will feature a visiting scientist talking about a rare and endangered plant in Brazil.		
6.6	Thursday Talks	Linda reported that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately 1500 people attended talks between March and November 2022, with donations of over \$2000; and</li> <li>• average attendance is in the 40s with some talks attracting full houses.</li> </ul>		

6.7	Social Events and Activities	Christianna reported that the January butterfly walks were a success though one was affected by a sudden storm. Butterflies were recorded on both walks		
6.8	Nature Journaling	Neville reported that the next gathering is on Feb 6 and the group will meet in March but not in April because it clashes with Easter.		
6.9	Membership	Linda reported that the new Members welcome event is on March 26 and all Council Members are invited to attend, too.  <b>RESOLUTION: That Council approve expenditure of up to \$1000 for the New Members event in March 2023.</b>	M. Linda Beveridge S. Neville Page	
6.10	Volunteer Guides	Kerry reported that the themed Guide walks in the next few months are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 6-12 <i>Amazing women in the world of plants</i></li> <li>• May 1-7 <i>Wonderful Australian trees</i></li> <li>• June 12-18 <i>The Story of the ANBG</i></li> </ul> She also reported that the Guides will be participating in a professional development excursion on March 30 to Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden supported by ANBG's professional development fund.		
6.11	Communications Fronds Broadcast email	Neville reported that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the cut-off for <i>Fronds</i> April edition is February 24 and</li> <li>• the cut off for the next E-Newsletter is COB on Tuesday</li> </ul>		
7	<b>Other Business</b>	Photographs of the Council and Executives for use in <i>Fronds</i> and the Friends website were done at the end of the meeting.		
8	<b>Next Meeting</b>	The meeting concluded at 3:27 pm. Next meeting to be held at 2pm on March 9, 2023, in the Celia Rosser Room		Noted