

	Topic	Information	Responsible Person	Moved (M) Seconded (S)	Passed / Noted
1	Approval of Agenda, Attendance & Apologies				
1.1	Approval of Agenda	Neville opened the meeting at 2pm and sought any additions/changes to the agenda.	Neville Page		
	Attendance	<p><u>Council</u>: Neville Page (President, Chair), Linda Beveridge (Vice President), Anne Holmes (Treasurer), Marg Nicholls (Secretary), arrived at 2.15pm, Christianna Cobbold, Alan Henderson, Kerry Moir, Masumi Robertson, Sue Serjeantson (left at 2.25pm).</p> <p>NOTE: Due to the late arrival of the Secretary, the Vice President undertook the role of minute taker until the Secretary arrived.</p> <p><u>Ex-officio</u>: Peter Byron (ANBG General Manager) left at 2.58pm, Helen McHugh (ANBG Friends Liaison Officer)</p> <p><u>Invited</u>: Beth Tyerman (Website SIG)</p> <p><u>Apologies</u>: Anthony Whalen (Acting Executive Director ANBG)</p>			
	Conflicts of Interest	Neville called for any Conflicts of Interest to today's Agenda. There were no Conflicts of interest reported.			

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2	Minutes of Previous Meeting				
		<p>RESOLUTION</p> <p>That the minutes of the Council meeting of 8 June 2023 be accepted with corrected spelling of Byron</p>		M: Linda Beveridge S: Masumi Robertson	
	Matters arising from previous minutes				
2.1	Impending Council Vacancy for Treasurer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three Expressions of Interest received • After discussion with Neville two persons subsequently withdrew from further consideration • One person had discussion with Treasurer Anne Holmes and will require followup handover sessions • Neville nominated Rod King to the casual vacancy only until 19 October 2023 • Neville stated that he would provide backup to Rod in the Treasurer role <p>RESOLUTION</p> <p>That Rod King be appointed to fill the casual vacancy of Council Treasurer of the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens with effect from 1 September 2023, such appointment to be valid until the Annual General Meeting to be held on 19 October 2023.</p>	Neville Page	M: Neville Page S: Linda Beveridge	Passed
3	General Business				
3.1	Review of Manuals A and B Progress Report	Report provided on Google Drive	Marg Nicholls		Noted

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominations received from Council members and Special Interest Group (SIG) member covering 22 of the 47 areas of concern • Information received from SIG members and past Council Members • Contact to be made to those who have offered to provide editorial review for their areas of interest • Anticipate draft to Council first quarter 2024 			
3.2	Life Membership 2023 nominations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neville sent an email to council members and SIG conveners suggesting consideration for the prestigious Life Members awards • Council members and SIG Conveners asked to respond to Neville's email with names of prospective recipients end of July 2023. • All nominations are received and assessed in the strictest confidence • One enquiry received by Neville, related to the criteria for selection – would it cover members who provide an outstanding service over one group rather than multiple areas of Friends • The Life Membership Policy notes that the criteria relating to outstanding service must be across multiple areas 	Neville Page Linda Beveridge		Noted

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that Volunteer recognition in November / December for those who have made a contribution in one area only <p>Process to be followed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neville will submit the received names of prospective recipients to the Executive to review and assess for suitability to progress to Council for final decision The final list of potentially suitable candidates for Life Membership will be provided to the full Council for final assessment and decision 			
3.3	Strategic Plan 2021 - 2026 and Key Priorities Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neville provided an overview of the Strategic plan and key priorities Last review of Strategic Plan was in 2021 Council members are to review these documents and prepare suggested changes, updates or amendments and to bring to next council meeting in August 	Neville Page		Noted
3.4	Participation in Floriade activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landcare Act is planning a nature activity and invited the friends to participate. Areas of interest for FANBG <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garden of native plants to be installed with nursery – scope for friends to assist in setting up the garden 	Linda Beveridge		Noted

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote activities that Friends are involved in i.e., Thursday talks and other activities including Wake up with the Birds Neville wrote to ANBG Management (Peter Byron and Helen McHugh) advising that the Friends had been invited to participate in the Landcare event, and asking if the Gardens had any objection to Friends participation. Helen responded that they have no objection, and indicated she would write to Landcare with suggestions for ANBG sponsored activities 			
3.5	Update of Memorandum of Understanding with ANBG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MOU must be reviewed within 3 years from time of signature. It is currently within the timeframe for review Neville requested that Council members advise him of any changes required or suggestions for inclusion Some minor amendments to be undertaken by both FANBG and ANBG 	Neville Page		Noted
4	Reports				
4.1	ANBG Acting Executive Director	Provided by ANBG General Manager			Noted
4.2	ANBG General Manager	STAFFING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Branch Head Executive Director recruitment has been finalised, likely to be announced in August 	Peter Byron		Noted

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Acting Director of National Parks – Sean Sullivan – recruitment is underway to fill the position permanently • Helen Kennedy has been appointed to the role of Identification Botanist and Living Collection Curator. She will be starting in mid-August 2023. I anticipate that in 2024 after she settles into the position, she would be happy to have a conversation about Friends botanical interests <p>Strong 2023-2024 ANBG Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 new horticulture positions • Moderate increase to the operational budget at the Gardens <p>Neutrog / ANBG R&D Partnership deal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANBG is working on a partnership with Neutrog. They have their own research and development lab and working on Armillaria control. About to sign R&D partnership agreement • Very low phosphorus base, all about healthy soils, slow release products • Agreement includes discounted fertilizers for ANBG Friends via discount code <p>Conservatory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-4pm opening – Conservatory Volunteers • “Squishy” Volunteers – integrated pest management for ANBG Greenhouses 			

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		<p>Tasmanian Gardens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantial improvements to paving, bridges and plantings and looking great <p>Seedbank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Still in the costing phase. Only have enough money for the first stage for the Seedbank. Going to retrofit the Trades Cottage for Seedbank staff <p>Meeting the Botanical Interests of Friends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions with ANBG about possibilities 			
4.3	ANBG Friends Liaison Officer	<p>ANBG –Visitation statistics end of financial year to 30 June 2023 (EOFY)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2022-23 financial year (FY), ANBG had 527,690 visitors, this is an 36.35% increase compared to FY2021-22 (387,018 visitors), noting that visitation in 2021 was impacted by Covid-19 restrictions. There has been a 4.96% increase compared with FY2018-19 (502,777 visitors) <p>Education Visitation 2022-23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was a record-breaking Fin-year for the Gardens with 19,795 students visiting from 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023. This is a 29% increase on the previous highest financial year visitation (15,334 in 2018-19) 	Helen McHugh		Noted

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the total student visitation, 68% (13,412) were Interstate students and 32% (6,383) were ACT students Interstate student visitation increased substantially, up by 130% on the 10-year average. ACT student visitation was up by 6% on the 10-year average. • Most schools chose a paid facilitated program with 68% of students (13,299) facilitated. The remaining 33% of students (6,650) visited for a free self-guided experience in the Gardens. <p>Jindii Eco-Spa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jindii Eco-Spa has changed owners, the new director is Jas Kaur and has retained the name, staff, branding and operations of the business. Contacts Director - jas@jindii.com.au / General bookings relax@jindii.com.au <p>MEGafauna</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 Megafauna is in place over July, expect large numbers throughout the month • MEGAFauna afterDARK ran 5 nights with over 1300 attendees and positive feedback. Thank you to the Friends for their support to make this event happen • Media images and film from the day and night activities – Images available here • Megan Donaldson will provide information to the Friends Council for acquitting the ACT Events Grant. 			

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		<p>Science Week Activities – August</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>DCCEEW Take over of Questacon – Sat 19 August</u> The Gardens and Bush Blitz will be in the Maker Lab all day. Standard entry fee applies • <u>Hands on Plant Science – for primary school students and their families</u> – Mon 14, Tues 15 and Fri 18 August 4-5:30. Bookings essential <p>Botanica Gin and Spirits festival</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2&3 September on the Eucalypt lawn. Visit website for tickets and more information Botanica Gin & Spirits Festival (botanicafestival.com.au) <p>Upgrade to the video conferencing across the Venues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The upgrade will open up video conferencing to a variety of platforms and users • Previously only DCCEEW staff could use • Improves Venue experience for clients and may also allow more audience for activities in the Theatre <p>Key Audit – ANBG Friends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen McHugh thanked the President for completing an audit of keys issued to ANBG Friends <p>ANBG requested that ANBG Friends complete an annual Key audit. It was suggested by the President that after the AGM may be good timing</p>			
4.4	President's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6/6/23: Publication and distribution of Friends bulletin. 	Neville Page		Noted

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16-18/6/23: Expressions of interest in the position of ANBG Friends Treasurer. There were three expressions of interest received. • 17-18/6/23: Email and telephone discussions with persons expressing interest in Treasurer Position. One person withdrew because of travel plans. Discussions with remaining two continued. • 2/7/23: Second person withdrew due to new work commitment. • 11-12/7/23: Conduct key audit with Friends Members registered as holding ANBG keys. Consideration to have an annual audit of distributed Keys to commence after AGM • 11/7/23: Email to Peter Byron regarding review of Memorandum of Understanding between ANBG and Friends. • Doing e bulletin for July, please advise if anything to put in 			
4.5	Treasurer's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance Sheet June 2023 – Unaudited • Income Statement June 2023 – Unaudited • Public Fund Financial Position – Unaudited <p>RESOLUTION That the Balance Sheet and Income Statement for June 2023 be accepted.</p>	Anne Holmes	M: Anne Holmes S. Linda Beveridge	Passed

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023-2024 Projections of Income and Expenditure has been uploaded to Google Drive • 2023-2024 Public Fund Projections of Income and Expenditure has been uploaded to Google Drive <p>Note that Donations for financial year 2022-2023 were down on this received financial year 2021-2022 by \$8,244 (excluding Don Beer Memorial Scholarship). In addition, three (3) large donations totalling \$8,000 were received in June 2023.</p> <p>Donations to the Don Beer Memorial Scholarship for financial year 2022-2023 totalled \$5,000.</p> <p>Both term deposits due to mature in August. ANBG Forecast for 2023-2024 requested to be received by 31 July 2023.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RESOLUTION</p> <p>That Council resolves to elect under ss40-160 of the A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999 to treat the following eligible fundraising events as input taxed for the financial year ending 30 June 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Botanic Art Group Exhibitions • The Photographic Group Exhibitions 		<p>M: Anne Holmes S: Alan Henderson</p>	<p>Passed</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing Friends Plant Sales, and • Thursday Talks. 			
4.6	Public Fund	Nothing to report	Neville Page		
4.7	Membership	Reports provided on Google Drive. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2057 current membership which equates to 2834 current members. • 8 new applications for membership • 2 Renewals 	Marg Nicholls Lesley Harland		Noted
4.8	Meeting botanic interests of Friends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good deal of work putting together information for presentations, workshops and practical exercises. • Plant identification group agreed with all parties. Could be a SIG or plant science group • Helen Kennedy scheduled for Thursday Talks 	Linda Beveridge		Noted
4.9	Project Committee	Report circulated and on Google Drive. Uncertainty on amount of income by donations coming in to Public Funds <p style="text-align: center;">RESOLUTION</p> That <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council confirms the decision to contribute an aggregate of \$82,000 toward the exhibition in the foyer of the Visitors Centre, and 2. Agree to defer a decision on the respective contributions of Friends and the Public Fund until 	Alan Henderson	M: Alan Henderson S: Christianna Cobbold	Passed

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		later in the year when there is greater certainty about the level of donations to the Public Fund in 2023-2024			
4.10	IT Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible new membership database available for 2025 • A completely new FANBG website is progressing • The IT Strategy group will begin a period of 3 weeks testing of the site from Monday 17th July. • Once this testing is completed the website will be available for further testing from the council members 	Christianna Cobbold		Noted
4.11	Volunteer Guides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of Guides volunteered to assist during Megafauna after Dark. • Themed rostered walks continue to be very successful. In June the walk on The Story of the ANBG attracted almost half (65 out of 138, 47%) of the visitors who participated in walks for the month, although these constituted fewer than a quarter (14 out of 60, 23%) of the walks. • The next themed walk will be Plants Through Time in the week beginning 17 July. • In August a special themed walk about symbiosis will be offered as part of Science week, titled The Art of Living Together. • Volunteer Guides have done one training walk for education rangers (The Story of the ANBG on 30 	Kerry Moir		Noted

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		<p>June) and another based on Plants Through Time walk is planned for July 25.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A focus for Guides over the next few weeks will be learning to use the new volunteer management system BetterImpact that is being introduced by the ANBG. Initially used for rosters for regular walks and Flora tours but will have many other useful applications in future. 			
5	Friends Groups				All reports noted
5.1	Photographic Group	<p>Neville provided the following information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed preparation for 2024 calendar Proposed 300 to be printed. Potential income to FANBG between \$600 to \$700 	Steven Playford		
5.2	Botanic Art Group	<p>Linda provided the following information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The exhibition of botanic works of art and photographs will be officially opened by Dr July West, former Executive Director of the ANBG end Oct / early November 	Wendy Antoniak		
5.3	Flowers, Fruit and Foliage	<p>Neville provided the following information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continues 	Ben Walcott		
5.4	Growing Friends	<p>Neville provided the following information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sale on Saturday 16th September 2023 	Maurice Hermann		
5.5	Plant Science Group	<p>Neville provided the following information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talks continue 	John Busby		

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5.6	Thursday Talks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full house for last couple of Talks • MEGAfauna – Thursday talk was full-house – guided walk afterwards led by speaker and partner for about 35 people. • Preparing Annual report to August meeting 	Linda Beveridge		
5.7	Social Events and Activities	Lots of activities being planned September <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wake up with birds • Cryptograms walk October <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wake up with the birds 	Christianna Cobbold		
5.8	Nature Journaling	Neville provided the following information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continues to meet on 1s Monday of month 	Lesley Page		
5.9	Communications	<i>FronDs</i> August <i>FronDs</i> due out soon E-Bulletin items requested to be with Neville by 5pm Tuesday 18 th July 2023	Barbara Podger Neville Page		
6	Other Business		Neville Page		Noted
		There was nil other business			
7	Next Meeting				
		The next meeting of FANBG is 10 August 2023 commencing 2pm in the Celia Rosser Room	Neville Page		Noted

