



AUSTRALIAN FLORA FOUNDATION INC.

Minutes of the 42nd Annual General Meeting of Members held via Zoom online connection on 25th November 2024 (Amended 17 April 2025)

The meeting opened at 3.02 pm.

Present: E. Charles Morris (President and Treasurer), Ross Smyth-Kirk (Vice President), Jennifer Firn (Vice President), Ian Cox (Secretary), Tina Bell, Hans Griesser, Gabrielle Lebbink, Paddy Lightfoot, Angela Moles.

1. Apologies: Heather Miles, David Lightfoot, John Arnott, Richard Williams.

Proxies: The Secretary advised that the following proxies were held:

In favour of Ian Cox – Heather Miles, Richard Williams.

In Favour of Paddy Lightfoot - David Lightfoot.

Quorum: The Secretary advised that a quorum of members was present.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting held on 13th November 2023 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising from the minutes: Nil

4. President's Report

The President E. Charles Morris presented his annual report to members.

It was resolved that the President be thanked for his report and that it be accepted. A copy of his report is annexed to these minutes.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer E. Charles Morris presented his financial report together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 30th June 2024 which the Council had approved earlier today. His report was accepted with thanks and a copy is annexed to these minutes. It was resolved that the audited financial statements of the Foundation for the year ended 30th June 2024 be accepted.

6. Scientific Committee

The President reported briefly on the Scientific Committee's activities for the year. The Committee had again actively assessed this year's round of full applications, reporting its evaluations of each full application to the Council.

7. Research Program

The President reviewed the Foundation's research program for the past year, culminating in the approval by the Council of funding of \$289,068 for the Malcolm Reed Large Grants,

\$52,210 for the Small Grants, and \$59,582 for the Macadamia Conservation Trust Grants. Details of these are in the President's Report.

8. Votes of Thanks

The following votes of thanks were adopted:

- To Jennifer Firn and other members of the Scientific Committee for their invaluable help in assessing grant applications.
- To E. Charles Morris for carrying out his large workload in the dual roles of President and Treasurer;
- To Ian Cox for his work as Secretary over the past 18 years;
- To Gabrielle Lebbink for managing the website;
- To Tina Bell for producing the Newsletter;
- To Hans Griesser for administering the grants.

9. Election of Councillors and Office Bearers

9.1 The following Councillors who retired by rotation pursuant to Article 38 and having been duly nominated and seconded were re-elected:

Ross Smyth-Kirk (Nominated by Ian Cox, seconded by E. Charles Morris)

E. Charles Morris (Nominated by Ian Cox, seconded by Jennifer Firn)

Ian Cox (Nominated by E. Charles Morris, seconded by Jennifer Firn)

9.2 The following Councillors, having been duly nominated and seconded, were elected as Office Bearers for the coming year:

Position	Nominee	Nominated by	Seconded by
President	Edward Charles Morris	Ian Cox	Jennifer Firn
Vice President	Ross Smyth-Kirk	Ian Cox	E. Charles Morris
Vice President	Jennifer Firn	Ian Cox	E. Charles Morris
Treasurer	Edward Charles Morris	Ian Cox	Jennifer Firn
Secretary	Heather Miles	Ian Cox	E. Charles Morris

10. Other Business - Nil

Closure

The meeting closed at 3.15 pm.

Confirmed as a correct record

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President

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Date

Annexures to Australian Flora Foundation AGM Minutes 25th November 2024

Australian Flora Foundation President's Report 2023-24

The past year has seen a continued expansion in the number and value of research grants supported by the Foundation. Expenditure on grants in 2023-24 was three times greater than what was possible before the Reed Estate bequest came to the Foundation. In the 2024 round, a total of five Reed (Large) grants has been awarded (\$289K) and two Small grants (\$32,775). The expansion of the granting budget will continue into 2024-25, but will then have to be restrained so that it does not become unsustainable. Another addition to the granting program has been the collaboration with the Macadamia Conservation Trust, who has committed to funding one large grant per year in their area of interest. The first such grant (59K) has been awarded for 2025 commencement. The Table below sets out the details of the grants.

Grant Investigators, Title and value for 2024 granting round.

Reed (Large) grants

Lead Investigator	Title (abbreviated)	\$
Machado de Lima	Testing efficacy of climate-adjusted provenancing for restoration Assessing the use of seed endophytes to fast-track adaptations to climate change in Banksia woodlands	58,556
Lanceman	Assessing adaptive capacity of restored saltmarshes using genomic tools	59,978
Uesugi	Long-term consequences of fire in weed-invaded landscapes	51,198
Ooi	Conservation initiatives for rare and threatened Zieria species in NSW	59,591
Montesinos	Weed impacts on threatened plants of Australian Wet Tropics	<u>59,745</u>
Total		<u>289,068</u>

Small Grants:

Lead Investigator	Title (abbreviated)	\$
Britton	Growth rates and trait adaptation to drought in Eucalyptus	19,270
Dwyer	Population genetics of <i>Prostanthera galbraithiae</i>	<u>13,505</u>
Total		<u>32,775</u>

Macadamia Conservation Trust Grants:

Lead Investigator	Title (abbreviated)	\$
Wong	Tissue culture to conserve Australia's rarest Macadamia	59,582

The work of the Foundation relies on the goodwill of many people: the members and donors who support us, and the Councillors who oversee administration. Outstanding amongst these people is our long-term Secretary, Ian Cox, who is retiring from his position this year. Ian has been competent and efficient in the role, keeping the wheels of administration running smoothly and seemingly effortlessly to the rest of us. He will be greatly missed, and we wish him all the best for the future. Heather Miles is stepping up to replace Ian.

The Scientific Committee is central to the Foundation's work, collecting and assessing grant applications via peer review. Jennifer Firn has overseen this process with the other Scientific Committee members. Hans Griesser has been capable and competent in taking over the role of Grants Officer. Tina Bell produces the high-standard Newsletter. Gabrielle Lebbink oversees our webpage. John Arnott is retiring after a period on Council; many thanks John. Paddy Lightfoot, Ross Smyth-Kirk and David Murray continue as Councillors. I continue as President and Treasurer.

E Charles Morris
President
25 November 2024

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Australian Flora Foundation Treasurer's Report 2023-24**Research Fund**

At the end of the financial year, the assets of the Research Account in Managed Funds and Term deposits stood at \$4.45M (up by \$411K from previous year). A better performance by the Managed Funds largely contributed to this result, which is now close in value to the initial starting value of these Funds in 2021. The steep decline in value of the Managed Funds in the first half of 2022 has been recovered. Liabilities increased by \$104K from previous, reflecting the gradual roll-out of the research grant funding made possible by the Reid bequest of several years ago. The 2024 granting round saw an increase in the granting expenditure (\$184K for 2024-25), but in the coming year we will have reached a plateau in research expenditure that will be sustainable for the foreseeable future. The surplus in the Research Fund was \$307K, and total accumulated funds were \$4.2M.

General Fund

The assets of the General Fund stood at \$612K at the end of the financial year, up by \$135K from previous. The great part of this increase came from a change in value of shares. Income exceeded expenditure, to give a \$134K surplus for the year. The administrative component of expenses (audit, website costs, postage) amounted to approximately \$3.1K. Support for young scientists and support for a Conference summed to \$2.5K.

E. Charles Morris
Treasurer
22 November 2024.