Minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting of Members by Zoom on 17 November 2025

The meeting opened at 3.02 pm.

Present: E. Charles Morris (President and Treasurer), Heather Miles (Secretary), Tina Bell, Hans Griesser (Grants Officer), Paddy Lightfoot, Angela Moles, Trevor Wilson. Visitor Robyn Byrne, APS Victoria.

1. Apologies: Ross Smyth-Kirk (Vice President), Jennifer Firn (Vice President), Gabrielle Lebbink, David Lightfoot.

Proxies: The Secretary advised that the following proxies were held:
In favour of Heather Miles – Jennifer Firn
In favour of Paddy Lightfoot – David Lightfoot
In favour of Charles Morris – Ross Smyth-Kirk

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

2. Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the 42nd Annual General Meeting held on 25 November 2024 were accepted.

3. Matters arising from the minutes: Nil

4. President's Report
The President 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 attached to these minutes.

5. Treasurer's Report
The Treasurer presented his financial report together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2025. His report was accepted and a copy is attached to these minutes. It was resolved:

- To adopt the Balance Sheets and Profit and Loss Statements of the Foundation for the financial year ended 30 June 2025 as tabled.
- To adopt the Councillors' Declaration and its contents, as attached to the Foundation's financial statements, for the year ended 30 June 2025.
- That the Foundation will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

6. Scientific Committee
See President's report.

7. Research Program
Hans Griesser reported on the Foundation's research program for the past year, culminating in the approval by the Council of funding of $262,775 for the Malcolm Reed Large Grants, Small Grants, and the Macadamia Conservation Trust Grant. Details of these are in the President's Report.

8. Votes of Thanks
See President's Report.

9. Election of Councillors and Office Bearers
9.1 The following Councillors who retired by rotation pursuant to Article 38, were nominated and seconded and re-elected:

- Emeritus Professor Hans Griesser as Grants Officer
- Professor Jennifer Firn as Vice President
- Dr Patrick Lightfoot OAM as Councillor

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

Position	**Nominee**	**Nominated by**	**Seconded by**
President	Edward Charles Morris	Angela Moles	Tina Bell
Vice President	Ross Smyth-Kirk	Angela Moles	Tina Bell
Vice President	Jennifer Firn	Angela Moles	Tina Bell
Treasurer	Edward Charles Morris	Angela Moles	Tina Bell
Secretary	Heather Miles	Angela Moles	Tina Bell

10. Other Business - Nil

Closure
The meeting closed at 3.30 pm.

Confirmed as a correct record

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President Date

Over the three years from 2022 to 2024, there has been a step increase in the funding budget arising from the receipt of the Reid bequest in 2021.

This period saw the introduction of a 2-tiered granting scheme:

- the Reid grants, with a budget of $20 – $60,000, and
- the Small grants, with a budget limit of $20,000.

Expenditure on grants was $24,083 in 2022 (last year of the previous granting system: Table 1).

With the increase in income from the bequest, expenditure on grants rose to $207,418 in 2023, and has ranged from $184 to $189K over 2024 – 2025 (Table 1).

Four to five Reid Grants per year were awarded over this period, and 2 – 4 Small Grants.

A collaboration with the Macadamia Conservation Trust resulted in an extra Reid Grant per year over the last two years, funded by the Macadamia Conservation Trust.

The planned grant expenditure was for three Reid Grants ($176,905) and two Small Grants ($26,870) for a total budget of $203,775 (Table 2). The Macadamia Grant incurs a further $60,000 expenditure, but this cost is borne by the Macadamia Conservation Trust.

Table 1: Grant expenditure, number of Reid#, Small# and total grants# awarded 2022 – 25).

Year	*Grant Expenditure (GST inclusive)*	*Reid #*	*Small #*	*Total #*
2022	24,083	4	3	7
2023	207,418	4	4	8
2024	184,111	5	2	7
2025	189,731	2	3	5

Table 2. Grants awarded in 2025 round

Reid Grants	*Title*	*Institution*	*amount*
Angela Moles	How is herbivore pressure changing through time?	UNSW	$59,856
Hannah Carle	Finding climate resilience for grassy woodland restoration: species diversity and climate-adjusted provenances	WSU	$59,240
Margaret Mayfield	Characterising field vital rates of annual wildflowers to predict species persistence under future climates	U Melb	$57,809
Subtotal			**$175,905**
Small Grants			
Isabella Butler	Fly-pollinated Banksia? – A possible first case of sapromyiophily in Proteaceae and its conservation implications	UWA	$7,560
Trevor Wilson	Trevor Wilson, Botanic Gardens NSW, Advancing plant conservation: investigating reproductive strategies and pollination to guide management of threatened Australian flora using Prosthanthera as a case study,	RBGS	$19,310
subtotal			**$26,870**

Macadamia Trust			
James Makinson	Using AI powered machine vision to find new Macadamia tetraphylla populations, and to monitor trees	WSU	60,000
Total			**$262,775**

The work of the Foundation relies on the good will of many people: the members and donors who support us, and the Councillors who oversee administration.

The Scientific Committee is central to the work of the Foundation, in collecting and assessing grant applications via peer review. Jennifer Firn has overseen this process with the other Scientific Committee members. Heather Miles has been an excellent Secretary, taking on the role after Ian Cox, who held the position for many years, retired. Hans Griesser has been capable and competent as Grants Officer. Tina Bell produces the high standard Newsletter. Gabrielle Lebbink oversees our webpage. Paddy Lightfoot, Ross Smyth-Kirk and David Murray continue as Councillors. I continue as President and Treasurer.

E Charles Morris
President
12 November 2025

AFF Treasurer's Report 2024 - 2025

Research Fund

At the end of the 2024 – 2025 financial year, the Research Fund Balance sheet showed Total Assets of $5.00M.

- Net Assets stood at $4.57M, which was an increase from the previous year ($4.19M).
- Managed Funds showed an increase of $381K over the year, to finish at a final value of $3.85M (see Note 2, Audit papers. This is still short of their initial value of $4.3M at November 2021).

Income in the Research Fund was made up of research donations ($53K), Managed Fund distributions ($149K, up from $86K the previous year), Imputation Credits ($25.9K), interest ($12K) and a transfer of surplus money from the General Fund ($28K).

Total expenditure included $172K in Grants (after GST) and an increase in grant liabilities for the 2024 - 25 year of $158K. This meant that total Grant liabilities stood at $417K at June 2025 (up from $258K in previous year; see Note 4 of audit).

Research donations included $6,000 from Australian Plant Society NSW, $3,000 via Pay Pal, and $2,500 from Industry Partner Bell Art Australia. Other generous donors have been the native Australian plant societies: Native Plants Queensland Mackay ($1,467); and Australian Plant Society Newcastle (1,000). Generous individual donors have included Susan Oldfield ($500); Rhonda Daniels ($500); and Margaret Hawkins ($500).

In summary, the Research Fund is increasing in assets, and is maintaining an income stream sufficient to cover future grants to date. Care will be needed so that the expenditure on grants does not overreach the income available.

General Fund

The net assets of the General Fund were $849K at 30 June 2025 an increase of $282K from the previous year. The CBA shares from the Reed bequest make up $863K of this amount. Total income of $303K was made up of increase in value of the CBA shares ($268K) and dividends from the shares ($22K). Income from memberships was $3K.

Total expenditure of $21.3K was made up of transfer of surplus money to the Research fund ($16.7K) Website costs, MYOB, postage and printing and other administrative costs ($914), young scientists awards at the Ecological Society of Australia Conference ($1,000), and auditor's fee ($2,800).

E. Charles Morris
Treasurer
11 November 2025