A charity fostering scientific research into
the biology and cultivation of Australian flora

PO Box 846, Willoughby NSW 2068 Australia
ABN 14 758 725 506 https://aff.org.au/

Australian Flora Foundation President's Report 2025 – 2026

As shown in the Treasurer's report for the year ending 30 June 2026, while the equity of the Foundation declined this year, this was largely due to the face value of the managed funds. Other sources of income increased.

The important financial measure for matching income with expenditure is the balance in the Macquarie Research account. If income and expenditure are close in value, the financial position of the Foundation is on course to sustain expenditure into the future.

The balance of the Research Account at the end of June shows an increase of $180k over the last three years:

Year	Value of Research Account at end of financial year
2024	$409K
2025	$434K
2026K	$589K

Since June 2026, the balance in the Research account has further increased into the range of $600K. As such, the pool of money available for expenditure on grants is slowly growing.

The Council has the option to increase the research budget and/or invest money into investment funds to keep pace with inflation; both uses are appropriate for the Foundation if cash flows continue as observed to date.

The funding of grants since 2022 can be seen in Table 2 or Table 1? The amounts shown are a mix of funding new grants and maintaining funds for existing grants.

As can be seen, annual funding has increased to $266K over the last 4 years. This growth in funding reflects the contribution of the Malcolm Reid Bequest. There does appear to be capacity to continue to expand funding for grants in the future.

The grants awarded in the 2026 round are shown in Table 2. The increase in grant amount up to $60K means that more projects from high level researchers can be funded, more so than in the past. The Scientific Committee is faced with a wealth of choices when selecting successful applicants.

A vote of thanks goes to all AFF members for their support, and for the office bearers and Councillors who serve on the AFF Council.

A special vote of thanks goes to the members of the Scientific Committee who peer review applications received in the annual granting round. Jennifer Firn is Chair of the Committee, along with a panel of reviewers who do the difficult job of selecting the best applications from the large number submitted.

Heather Miles is the hard-working Secretary who keeps the administration work in hand. Hans Griesser acts as Grants Officer, keeping tabs on the administration of the granting system. Tina Bell compiles the excellent Newsletter and Gabriele Lebbink manages the website. Ross Smyth-Kirk

serves as Vice President and Angela Moles as a Councillor. Paddy Lightfoot is signing off after many years on the Committee, as is David Murray; a big thank you to both of them.

Table 1: Expenditure on grants (exclusive of GST), cumulative expenditure, and numbers of grants (Reid/Large, Small, and Total).

	Grants, $	Cumulative, $	Reid Grants #	Small Grants #	Total Grants #
2022	21,894	21,894	4	3	7
2023	188,562	210,455	4	4	8
2024	167,374	377,829	5	2	7
2025	172,483	550,312	2	3	5
2026	266,206	816,518	2	2	4

Table 2: Grants awarded in 2026 round

Name of researcher	**Research topic**	**Institution**	**Amount of grant**
Malcolm Reid Grants			
A Moles	How is herbivore pressure changing through time?	UNSW	$59,856
H Carle	Finding climate resilience for grassy woodland restoration	WSU	$59,240
M Mayfield	Characterising field vital rates of annual wildflowers to predict species persistence under future climates	U Melb	$57,809
		Sub total	**$176,905**
Small Grants			
I Butler	Fly pollinated Banksia? A possible first case of sapromyiphily in Proteaceae	UWA	$7,560
T Wilson	Advancing plant conservation: investigating reproductive strategies and pollination to guide management	RBG NSW	$19,310
		Sub total	**$28,870**
		Total	**$205,775**
Macadamia Trust			
J Makinson	Using AI powered machine vision to find new *Macadamia tetraphylla* populations	WSA	
		Sub total	**$60,000**
		Grant Total	**$265,775**

E. Charles Morris

President 6 November 2026