



Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

between

**Botanic Gardens Australia New Zealand Ltd. (BGANZ) and
Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc. (AAFBG)**

Preamble

BGANZ (2004) and AAFBG (1993) are membership-based not-for-profit organisations, with complementary aims, which have been developed in support of botanic gardens and arboreta and their Friends and volunteers, in Australia and New Zealand. This MOU has been created in respect of each other's aims.

BGANZ is the peak body representing botanic gardens across Australia and New Zealand. With over 160 members, 90+ of which are botanic gardens and arboreta, we aim to create a future where plants are valued and protected, ensuring a greener, healthier and more resilient world for generations to come.

The purpose of BGANZ is to unite and strengthen the botanic gardens network, promoting a deeper appreciation for plants and fostering plant conservation to safeguard our natural world.

BGANZ achieves this by:

- **Advocating:** influencing government and industry policies and programs that advance botanic gardens
- **Elevating:** developing a strong network offering professional development, training, resources for best practice, and inspiration for future generations
- **Educating:** raise stakeholder and community awareness of the true value of botanic gardens and their contribution to conservation and a sustainable society
- **Celebrating:** showcasing member excellence and amplifying communication and outreach efforts
- **Activating:** building organisational excellence, strengthening our brand and cultivating diverse partnerships

AAFBG network was formed by Friends groups to be the peak body of Friends and volunteers of botanic, heritage, and conservation gardens and arboreta, to represent, encourage, and support the activities of Friends groups in increasing community participation, understanding and appreciation of the role of botanic gardens and supporting the work of botanic gardens staff and institutions in general.

The aims of the AAFBG are to:

- **Advocate** to government and industry for policies and programs that advance friends and volunteers of botanic, heritage, and conservation gardens and arboreta;
- **Encourage** and support the growth of societies or associations interested in the conservation, development, environmental wellbeing and public appreciation of Botanic Gardens;
- **Represent** the interests of Friends of Botanic Gardens in Australia & New Zealand;
- **Facilitate** communication, advocacy, education, information exchange and sharing of experience;
- **Maintain** a website for the benefit of members and other community groups;
- **Publish and disseminate** among members and the community, newsletters or



- other publications relating to the activities of the Association;
- **Co-ordinate** national conferences or arrange seminars, forums or any other events that may be desirable for the promotion of the purposes;
 - **Build and maintain** links with the national body representing Botanic Gardens;
 - **Encourage** members' involvement in the Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) regional events and other related seminars and conferences.

Purpose

This MOU is intended to celebrate that the groups have common interests, to formally recognise their complementary aims and identify a range of matters that might form the basis of regular dialogue.

Memorandum of Understanding between BGANZ and AAFBG

BGANZ and AAFBG recognise common interests in supporting gardens institutions and their staff in Australia and New Zealand. This comes from a shared understanding of the importance of gardens as significant assets, which provide substantial economic, social and environmental benefits to their communities. As a reflection of this shared understanding of the positive contributions that gardens make to society in Australia and New Zealand, and common commitment to ensuring that all efforts and activity are as effective as possible, BGANZ and AAFBG agree to develop collaborative approaches on the following matters:

1. Membership

- a) BGANZ has created a special category for Friends of botanic gardens. AAFBG members can join BGANZ as Associate "Friends" members and receive all the benefits of an Associate member.
- b) AAFBG will receive a complimentary BGANZ Associate membership. This means all Associate member benefits are available to direct employees/volunteers of AAFBG including the Management Committee. This does not extend to the AAFBG membership.
- c) BGANZ will receive a complimentary AAFBG affiliate membership. This means that all affiliate membership benefits are available to direct employees/ volunteers of BGANZ. This does not extend to the BGANZ membership

2. Conferences

- a) In order to facilitate awareness and understanding, an opportunity for an Executive member of each organisation will be provided to attend the others national conference and present an informal talk about their activities. To facilitate this provision for a free standard registration will be made, and a guest registration for an accompanying person if required.
- b) Opportunities will be explored for reciprocal session/workshop to be held at the BGANZ and AAFBG conferences. These would include opportunities for AAFBG representatives to convene sessions with a focus on Friends and volunteer activity.

3. Communications

There is a range of communications opportunities, which may be mutually beneficial for both AAFBG and BGANZ which can be explored over time. The examples below are not



exhaustive and this topic will be the subject of regular discussion:

BGANZ Networking Groups

As an Associate Member, an AAFBG nominated person can attend BGANZ regional and specialist networking meetings to assist with regular communication and future collaboration. This does not have to be the same representative for each group, but must be an employee or volunteer of AAFBG. As an Associate Member, AAFBG can nominate to have a representative on a regional or specialist committee.

BGANZ Working Groups

For specific events/forums which relates to Friends, an AAFBG member will be invited to join the working group.

Newsletters

It has been agreed to share information through newsletters and other forms of correspondence, and to provide space in respective newsletters for news and information. Sharing of newsletters to each other's members will be via a link in the newsletter and/or via websites.

Directory of Expertise

BGANZ is developing a directory of expertise and as this progresses, discussions will be held as to the value of including AAFBG members and sharing the database.

4. Regular Executive Forum

Regular meeting of the Executive of AAFBG and BGANZ will take place to discuss the above matters and further explore any other opportunities for collaboration. This could include sharing common challenges and looking for opportunities to solve these. Examples may include hosting joint webinars/forums to aid problem solving and/or support funding applications for creation of resources, or opportunities for development of skills and talents, and citizen science, that benefit both BGANZ and AAFBG members.

Frequency will be open to negotiation but initially the forum will be six monthly.

This Memorandum of Understanding is not legally binding and does not and is not intended to give rise to any enforceable obligations or liabilities on the part of any party to another. It is intended to record the mutual understanding between BGANZ and AAFBG at the time of signing the Agreement.

The term of this initial Agreement is twelve months from the commencement date, at which time it will be evaluated and reviewed.

Signatories

This Memorandum of Understanding is agreed on behalf of the memberships of each organisation on this ...²⁴... August 2024.


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Botanic Gardens of Australia & New Zealand
Pty Ltd.


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