



**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between
Botanic Gardens Australia New Zealand Inc. (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, in Australia and New Zealand.

BGANZ was formed to represent, promote and support the interests of botanic garden institutions and their professional staff members, and to enhance the state of botanic gardens for the benefit of the community.

The AAFBG network was formed by Friends groups 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 complementary aims can be observed in the documented aims of each organisation:

The aims of BGANZ are to:

- provide a forum for information exchange and coordinated planning;
- foster best-practice standards amongst Australian and New Zealand botanic gardens and other botanic gardens internationally;
- be an advocate for the interests of Australian and New Zealand botanic gardens;
- provide policy and legislative advice affecting botanic gardens;
- advocate for plant conservation and fostering the plant sciences and social and cultural heritage programs;
- build and maintain links with relevant national and international bodies.

The aims of the AAFBG are to:

- encourage and support the growth of societies or associations interested in the conservation, development, 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

- AAFBG members can join BGANZ as Associate members. Associate members of BGANZ receive member-discounted rates at BGANZ national conferences and events and discounted or student rates at BGANZ Regional Conferences and events. Sharing of other member resources can be discussed on a case-by-case basis.
- BGANZ Regional Groups are local networks for BGANZ members to share information and expertise. Activities are inclusive of members and non-members, the emphasis being on sharing and networking. AAFBG members are encouraged to participate in BGANZ Regional Group activities.

2. Conferences

- 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.
- Opportunities will be explored for AAFBG to convene sessions with a focus on volunteer activity, in conjunction with BGANZ conferences.

3. Communications

There is a range of communications opportunities, which may be mutually beneficial for both AAFBG and BGANZ and which can be explored over time. Some of these are easily agreed and others will require further discussion with members of each organisation. The examples below are not exhaustive and this topic will be the subject of regular discussion:



Regional Group Liaison

AAFBG liaison at BGANZ Regional Group level may assist in regular communication and facilitate future collaboration. It has thus been agreed that the AAFBG Committee may appoint a Liaison who may attend BGANZ regional committee meetings by invitation of the Regional Group Convenor on an ex officio basis.

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.

Contact databases

Mutual sharing of contact databases will require further discussion with appropriate consideration of privacy concerns of members.

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. 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 day, 19th July 2019.

A blue ink signature of Paul Tracey, written in a cursive style, is shown above a horizontal line.

Paul Tracey
President
Botanic Gardens Australia & New
Zealand Incorporated

A blue ink signature of Wayne Harvey, written in a cursive style, is shown above a horizontal line.

Wayne Harvey
President
Australian Association of Friends of
Botanic Gardens Incorporated



Addendum to Memorandum of Understanding 2016:

1 Membership of BGANZ to AAFBG and AAFBG to BGANZ by affiliation

2 Sharing of information between BGANZ and AAFBG

BGANZ Newsletter distribution to AAFBG Members
AAFBG Newsletter distribution to BGANZ Members

BGANZ to notify AAFBG of Regional meetings.

- AAFBG Committee may send a representative.

BGANZ Members and AAFBG Members are reciprocally invited to AGMs

- BGANZ to send annual AGM invitation to AAFBG
- AAFBG to send annual AGM invitation to BGANZ