

Australian Native Plants Society Canberra (ANPSC) End Year (President) Report, Against 2022 Annual Plan

Compiled by Steve Saunders, President ANPSC

ANPSC is one of 8 state-territory affiliates of the Australian Native Plants Society Australia (ANPSA). We are a small non-profit run by volunteers, earning and spending roughly \$25,000 annually. The Society's key purposes are improving the horticulture of Australian native plants plus preserving these plants and their habitats.

In August 2022, we had a change of Treasurer (see below). As elected at the November 2022 Annual General Meeting, our governing body is a Council of nine members, as compared with the seven minimum.

COVID disrupted Society activities in 2021 — especially Council and Member Meetings, Plant Sales and Wednesday Walks. These activities have generally recovered in 2022. Following are other progress reports and notes.

Affiliations and Governance

- We provided an ACT report to the ANPSA national conference in Kiama, September 2022, and a Council member was in attendance.
- Society duly submitted its Annual Return to the ACT regulator in November 2022.
- Society held a full roster of Council and Member Meetings in 2022.

Finances

2020–21 Society revenue and other income was lower than usual. For the financial year 2021–22, we had aimed for higher.

- Despite no October 2021 Plant Sale, revenue-income for 2021–22 was actually a little bit higher than 2020–21, buoyed by our Plant Book (see below).
- Our major expenses were half the amortised cost of our new website, plus ongoing web maintenance/data storage.
- Total equity dipped for 2021–22, as compared with the previous year.
- The Auditor had been asked to give a better breakout of expenses, but our new Treasurer advised this was best done, outside of Financial Statements context.
- Society's 'Accounts and Delegations' arrangements were to be revised in 2022, but this has been delayed, by the change of Treasurer.
- Just after mid-2022, our former long-term Bookkeeper came onto Council, as the new Treasurer.

Memberships

- January 2022, total Society membership including partners was close to 300. At year's end, it was about 275. Subscriptions are a key source of income-revenue.
- A new Council member took over the role of Speaker Coordinator. We achieved a full book of speakers for 2022.
- In consideration of members no longer able to physically attend meetings, we began writing up the speaker presentations for our Journal.

Activities and Working Groups

- As per the Memorandum of Understanding, we gave ANBG a major financial donation, after the October Plant Sale. However, the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) did not receive its usual plant donation, due to plant shortages. We also gave a donation to the ACT Conservation Council.

Plant Sale

- Post COVID, we reverted to our usual March and October Plant Sales, for the calendar 2022.
- Plants mainly came from 6 to 7 affiliated 'Member Growers', our own Propagation Group (understandably) providing fewer plants than usual. Better support for Prop Group will be important for 2023.
- Both Plant Sales succeeded. Each offered about 6,000 plants, with over 90% plant clearance, good attendance, and reasonable commissions back to the Society.
- For the October Sale, a Council Member stepped in for an experienced Plant Sale Coordinator. While he had the advantage of a detailed 'Plant Sale Process', we will be fine-tuning this, over the course of 2023.
- In 2022, we revised our 'Conditions of Supply' for Member Growers. This covered quality checks, price hikes, Threatened or Protected Species (TS) requirements (see below), and photo placards.
- A Plant Sale regulatory oversight arose, but this was covered off at October Sale. We received an ACT licence for import/sale of TS.
- (Most of) the TS plants that we offered at the October Sale carried separate 'TS Labels', as well as our conventional descriptive 'Plant Sale Labels'.

Wednesday Walks etc

- Wednesday Walks and Field Trips are popular field activities, but COVID had disrupted these in 2021.
- Regular walks resumed in mid 2022. These were hampered by La Nina rains, rather than COVID. We also resumed field trips.
- The Daytime Activity Group/Garden Design Study Group (DAGs) continued in 2022.

Website and Other Publications

Website

- Our website's (nativeplantscbr.com.au) main topics did not change.
- The Society made several Conservation Submissions in 2022, on local (ACT) planning and development issues affecting threatened ACT environments and plants.
- The Society dealt with an issue over photo copyrights on the website's new Plant Database. Contributing photographers generally agreed to keep their existing photos up on the Database. A few preferred to take photos down, and gaps are being filled.
- The old 'Plant Label Database' was removed from our website.
- The website advertises the Society's notable \$30 Plant Book, now into the fourth printing of the 5th edition. With Plant Sales and Memberships, the Book is our other major revenue-income source. 21-22 book revenue was higher than 20-21.

Other Publications

- Other publications on the website — Plant Guides, Brochures, Conservation Submissions, Wednesday Walk Reports — were maintained or updated as usual.
- ANPSC 'Bulletin' (monthly, via Mailchimp) and 'Journal' (quarterly, hard copy) continued to be circulated separately, as key services to members.
- Given limited Society resources, an issue for 2022 was to survey members as regards frequency and format of the Journal. The outcome was, 2023 Journals will be emailed as PDFs, but members can still 'opt in' for hard copy.