

FOG Annual General Meeting 2026 – draft Minutes

Wednesday 18th March 2026

7 Moroney St, Spence

1. The meeting commenced at 6:10pm with a welcome and Acknowledgement of Country from President and Chair, Jamie Pittock.

2. Jamie read the apology from Rainer Rehwinkle. There were no further apologies from the floor.

In attendance were Jamie Pittock, David Johnson, Julia Raine, Margaret Ning, Geoff Robertson, Matt Whitting, Ann Milligan, Helen Sims, Emily Sutcliffe, Paul Cheeseman, Mathew Kent, Mathew Mullaney, Jeanette Mill, Michael Bedingfield, Kathryn McGilp, Andrew Zelnik, Fay Wareham and John Fitz Gerald plus Sarah Sharp (via Zoom).

3. Minutes of previous AGM. The chair asked if there were any comments on the minutes from the 2025 AGM. There being no comments, motion 1 was put:

Motion 1: that the record of minutes from the previous AGM held on the 30th April 2025 be accepted as a true and accurate account.

Moved: Helen Sims

Seconded: Andrew Zelnik

Agreed by show of hands

4. Matters arising from the previous AGM. There were no actions /matters arising from the previous AGM, so the chair proceeded to the next item.

5. Reports: -

(a) Annual report, including the President's Report (Jamie Pittock).

For the meeting Jamie recapped his president's report, printed in full in the Annual Report for 2025 (available on the website) and thanked FOG members for their many hours of dedicated work in advancing FOG's goals.

Comments and contributions from the floor –

Andrew Zelnik asked if there was a target for growing FOG membership and how we might do it. The strength and stability of the current membership base was appreciated as was Ann's proactive work as the membership coordinator helping to keep it that way. Several avenues for increasing FOG membership numbers and influence were suggested from the floor. It was noted that Gungahlin has fewer volunteer groups than other areas in Canberra. Julia suggested that more outreach activities to increase the awareness of grassy ecosystems might be just as beneficial as more members. Kat suggested 'boosted' (paid promotion) of FOG activities on Facebook and plant giveaways or other promotional campaigns to reach new audiences.

With that, motion 2 was put –

Motion 2: that the President's Report be accepted by the meeting.

Moved: Julia Raine

Seconded: Matt Mullaney

Agreed by show of hands

Persons responsible for other aspects of the report who carry out responsibilities for FOG were invited to address the meeting in response to questions raised by attendees. There being no further discussion, motion 3 was put -

Motion 3: that the Annual Report be accepted by the meeting.

Moved: Andre Zelnik

Seconded: Matt Whitting

Agreed by show of hands

(b) Financial Reports (Treasurer, David Johnson)

Jamie presented the financial reports to the meeting and read sections from the Treasurer's report, printed here and in full in the 2025 Annual Report.

Consistent with the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991*, as Treasurer, I hereby present to FOG's 2026 AGM my financial reports for 2025.

General Account

The General Account had a balance of \$95,629 at the end of 2025, down from \$104,996 at the end of 2024. This represents a net loss of \$9,367 for 2025, following an income of \$10,264 in 2024. Several factors combined to give this fall in income, the main one being a fall in the amount of the Blue Gum Point (BGP) grant received in 2025 (\$16,102 – it was \$28,887 in 2024, and an increase in expenditure on the previous BGP grant project (\$32,650 spent in 2025–up from \$26,706 in 2024). Income from memberships grew in 2025 (\$6,870 – up from \$5,490 in 2024). Book sales fell slightly in 2025 (\$5,979–from \$7,016 in 2024) but remained higher than publication and storage costs (\$5,743).

Gift Fund

The balance of the Gift Fund fell by \$5,002 during 2025, somewhat more than it fell in 2024 (\$1,834). A small increase in donations (\$7,830 – up from \$7,400) did not make up for an increase in expenditure (\$12,832 - up from \$9,234). The increase in expenditure was mainly due to costs related to several new funded projects initiated during the year. The two largest expenditures were for the grassland mapping project (\$4,290), and the Gundry TSR management plan (\$6,864). The 2025 end of year balance for the Gift Fund was \$28,459.

Other assets

On 31 December 2025, FOG also held \$31,271 in Term Deposits, and \$4,158 in book stocks.

David Johnson, Treasurer
Friends of Grasslands Inc

There being no questions or comments, motion 4 was put –

Motion 4: that the Treasurer's report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 be accepted by the meeting.

Moved: Paul Cheeseman

Seconded: Margaret Ning

Agreed by show of hands

Also on behalf of the Treasurer, Jamie formally tabled the report from Auditor Pauline Hore as follows:

To the Members of the Friends of Grasslands Incorporated

Scope

I have audited the financial report of Friends of Grasslands Incorporated as set out in the Consolidated General and Publications Accounts Financial Reports for the year ended 31 December 2025 and the Gift Fund Account as of 31 December 2025. The Friends of Grasslands Incorporated committee is responsible for the financial reports. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report to express an opinion on it to the members.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Audit Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial reports and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements and the requirements of Friends of Grasslands Incorporated to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the association's financial position and the results of its operations.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion the financial report presents fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements and the requirements of Friends of Grasslands Incorporated, the financial position of Friends of Grasslands Incorporated as of 31 December 2025 and the results of its operations for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Pauline Hore JP(ACT); CPA

Motion 5: that a vote of thanks be passed recognising the hard work and support provided to the Friends of Grasslands by our auditor Pauline Hore

Moved: Helen Sims

Seconded: Fay Wareham

Agreed by show of hands

Jamie then advised that Pauline Hore has been approached and has agreed to audit FOG's books again next year.

Motion 6: that Pauline Hore be appointed as our auditor for the financial year ending 31 December 2026.

Moved: Andrew Zelnik

Seconded: Kat McGilp

Agreed by show of hands

6. Motions on Notice –

There being no motions on notice, Jamie stood down as chair.

The Returning Officer for the 2026 AGM elections, Geoff Robertson, took the chair.

7. Elections

Positions vacant:

- Office Bearers: President, Vice President (2 positions), Treasurer, Secretary
- Ordinary Committee members (up to 9 positions)

To begin Geoff noted that the special bulletin asking for nominations could give the impression that positions with early nominees are not open to other members to nominate for and advised that this should be made more clear in future. He asked the meeting if anyone had been put-off from nominating by this. Nobody said they had.

Moving on to nominations Geoff explained that as at the closing time for nominations of 6pm on 3rd March 2026 the secretary had received sufficient nominations to fill all positions except for three ordinary committee member positions.

Geoff then dealt with nominated positions.

Pre-meeting nominations

POSITION	NOMINEE	NOMINATED BY	SECONDED BY
PRESIDENT	Jamie Pittock	Margaret Ning	Emily Sutcliffe
VICE-PRESIDENT	Julia Raine	Jamie Pittock	Margaret Ning
VICE-PRESIDENT	Matt Whitting	Helen Sims	Julia Raine
TREASURER	David Johnson	Paul Cheeseman	Mathew Kent
SECRETARY	Emily Sutcliffe	Jeanette Mill	Margaret Ning
ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBER	Margaret Ning	Emily Sutcliffe	Jeanette Mill
ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBER	Rainer Rehwinkel	Helen Sims	Mathew Mullaney
ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBER	Jeanette Mill	Emily Sutcliffe	Margaret Ning
ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBER	Matthew Kent	Matthew Mullaney	Rainer Rehwinkel
ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBER	Matthew Mullaney	Rainer Rehwinkel	Mathew Kent
ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBER	Paul Cheeseman	Jeanette Mill	Mathew Kent

The Returning Officer declared those nominees to be elected.

He then turned to the three vacant Ordinary Committee Member positions and called for nominations from the floor. Ann Milligan was nominated by Margaret Ning, seconded by Jamie Pittock. Ann accepted the nomination.

From the floor nominations

POSITION	NOMINEE	NOMINATED BY	SECONDED BY
ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBER	Ann Milligan	Margaret Ning	Jamie Pittock

The returning officer declared Ann Milligan elected. This was met with applause. Motion 7 was then put-

Motion 7: The motion is that the meeting accept the 2026 FOG Committee as declared elected.

Moved: Geoff Robertson Seconded: Kat McGilp

Agreed by show of hand

Geoff then passed the chair back to the (re-elected) President of FOG, who moved -

Motion 8: Vote of thanks to Geoff Robertson for acting as Returning Officer at FOG's 2026 AGM.

Moved: Jamie Pittock Seconded: Matt Kent

Agreed by show of hands

8. Closing comments

Jamie thanked Helen for hosting at short notice, this was seconded by all present. He also thanked Margaret, Fay, Matt K and Paul for catering.

Special thanks were given to outgoing committee members Helen Sims and Sarah Sharp.

9. The meeting closed at 6:45pm.

For all enquiries please contact: secretary@fog.org.au