

MINUTES

of the **Botany Historical Trust**
held in the Mascot Library and George Hanna Memorial Museum
2 Hatfield Street, Mascot
on **Monday 18 August 2025** at **6:30 pm**

Present

Robert Hanna, President
Jacqueline Milledge, Senior Vice President
Christopher Hanna, Vice President
Richard Smolenski, Treasurer
Amanda Wilson AM, Member
Jo Jansyn, Community Representative
Jenny Muscat, Community Representative
Nathan Brown, Community Representative

Also present

Bobbi Mayne, Manager Libraries and Lifestyle
Cate Kloos, Administration Officer Libraries and Lifestyle

The Chairperson opened the meeting in the Mascot Library and George Hanna Memorial Museum at 6:30pm.

1 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairperson affirmed that Bayside Council acknowledges the Bidjigal Clan, the traditional owners of the land on which we meet and work and acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. Bayside Council pays respects to Elders past and present.

As the meeting coincided with Vietnam Veterans Day, the Chairperson formally acknowledged the contribution of Vietnam War veterans and all those who served in the war.

2 Apologies, Leave of Absence & Attendance Via Audio-Visual Link

Apologies

The following apologies were received:

Warren Hensley, Secretary
Lenore Daley, Member
Christina Curry, Councillor
Scott Morrissey, Councillor

Leave of Absence

There were no applications for Leave of Absence received.

Attendance Via Audio-Visual Link

There were no Committee members in attendance via audio-visual link.

3 Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

4 Minutes of Previous Meetings**4.1 Minutes of the Botany Historical Trust Meeting - 5 May 2025****Committee Recommendation**

Moved by Amanda Wilson AM and Jenny Muscat

That point BHT25.012 Program and Activities for 2025 be amended to reflect that Jo Jansyn recommended to include local history talks in future exhibitions and invite schools to attend the exhibitions as an excursion with BHT members volunteering to talk to the schools.

Committee Resolution

Moved by Jo Jansyn and Amanda Wilson AM

That the outcomes of BHT recommendation from Council meetings be included as a standing item on the agendas of all future BHT Executive Committee meetings, to be listed under point 4.2.

Committee Resolution

Moved by Richard Smolenski and Jacqueline Milledge

That the Minutes of the Botany Historical Trust meeting held on 5 May 2025 be confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

4.2 Business Arising

The Committee notes that the Minutes of the Botany Historical Trust of Monday 5 May 2025 were received and the recommendations therein were adopted by the Council at its meeting of 23 July 2025.

5 Reports

BHT25.017 Planning, Development & Compliance Matters

Planning, Development and Compliance matters were tabled for discussion with the BHT Executive Committee.

- DA-2025/106 – 16 Tenterden Road Botany
 - No issues raised by the BHT Executive
- DA-2025/69 – 55 Gardeners Road Daceyville
 - This DA application has been appealed in the Land and Environment Court as it was rejected by Council.
 - Amanda Wilson AM advised that she will be speaking in Court in her capacity as a resident only, and not as a representative of the BHT. She recommended re-submitting the submission previously lodged by Rob Hanna on behalf of the BHT.

Committee Resolution

Moved by Jo Jansyn and Nathan Brown

1. That the BHT Committee notes the information provided about heritage related planning, development and compliance matters.
2. That BHT President Rob Hanna re-submits the previously lodged submission to the Land and Environment Court on behalf of the BHT.

BHT25.016 President's Report - Robert Hanna

The key points of the President's report were:

- The President's intention to write to MPs Hoenig and Daley to approach Housing NSW concerning the use of the former Botany Police Station for BHT purposes.
- The President advised that he attended the A-Z exhibition with BHT Committee members Chris Hanna, Warren Hensley and Jo Jansyn. He noted low BHT general member attendance. Two Councillors attended, and the President informed them about the role of the BHT.
- Having the Lake Singers perform at a future BHT event.

Committee Resolution

Moved by Richard Smolenski and Jo Jansyn

1. That the President's Report be noted.

2. That the Lake Singers be invited to perform at the BHT Member Christmas Function.
3. That Jo Jansyn to contact the Lake Singers to confirm if they are available to perform at the Christmas Function, how many people will perform and if any equipment is required to support their performance.

BHT25.018 Local History Update

Bobbi Mayne provided additional updates on Local History projects:

- Local History Librarian Laura Daaboul has resigned and Council is interviewing applicants for a replacement.
- Council's A-Z History Exhibition was launched on 21 June 2025 and included a speech by BHT President Rob Hanna.
- Rob Hanna is representing the BHT on the judging panel for the Ron Rathbone Local History Competition and advised that Council received six entries; four from adults and two from school students.
- The Committee noted the small number of entries for the competition and would like Council to undertake a review of the program.

Committee Resolution

Moved by Jo Jansyn and Jenny Muscat

1. That the Local History Update be noted.
2. That the action items be carried out as assigned.
3. That Bobbi Mayne investigate and confirm if the A-Z exhibition has been digitised and is available online.

Committee Recommendation

Moved by Jo Jansyn and Jenny Muscat

That Council undertake a review of the Ron Rathbone Competition and that Council engage with both the Botany Historical Trust and the St George Historical Society regarding potential improvements and amendments to the competition format to increase community participation.

BHT25.019 Program and Activities for 2025

The Committee discussed the program and activities program for 2025:

- Nancy Hillier Lecture
 - The BHT wishes to provide feedback regarding previous lectures and the objectives of the upcoming lecture to UNSW, the organisers of the event. They also seek to be involved in the event's planning.
- Update on additional activities
 - Richard proposed an excursion to the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway in Concord. He will make enquiries and share them with the BHT Executive Committee shortly.
 - Amanda is organising a talk with David Burdon who is the National Trust NSW Director of Conservation. Suggested timing would be at the upcoming AGM on 3 November 2025.
- BHT Christmas Function
 - Date of Tuesday 9 December 2025 is confirmed
 - The function will follow the same format as last year, with round tables and plated meals, and if possible, with the addition of a performance by the Lake Singers.

Committee Resolution

Moved by Nathan Brown and Richard Smolenski.

That the Botany Historical Trust Executive:

1. Notes the Program and Activities for 2025 report.
2. Confirms the date for the BHT Christmas Function is to be Tuesday 9 December 2025 if The Hon. Ron Hoenig confirms that he is available to attend.
3. Writes a letter to the organisers of the Nancy Hillier lecture.
4. That Bobbi Mayne sends the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Nancy Hillier Lecture to the BHT Executive Committee.
5. That Rob Hanna writes a letter to the organisers of the Nancy Hillier lecture.

BHT25.020 Outcome of the Botany Historical Trust Executive Engagement Strategy meeting on 19 June 2025

The Committee discussed the outcome of the BHT Executive Engagement Strategy:

- Rob Hanna shared 9 key points of the strategy with Council staff prior to the meeting. Amanda is going to share the complete list after the meeting.

- Amanda clarified that the BHT requested additional Council staff attend Executive Committee meetings only when required, such as a representative from Communications to discuss improving BHT's online presence.
- The BHT would like to increase the meeting frequency from 4 to 6 meetings per year to be able to react faster when DA applications are received. It is proposed to have meetings in February, April, June, August, October, November (AGM) and the Christmas Function in December.
- The BHT would like a representative from the Communications/Marketing team to come to the next meeting to discuss ideas and give feedback on BHT's recommendations.

Committee Resolution

That Bobbi provides feedback on the Engagement Strategy spreadsheet

Committee Recommendation

Moved by Jacqueline Milledge and Nathan Brown

That the Botany Historical Trust Executive:

1. Increases their meeting frequency from 4 to 6 meetings per year.
2. Invites a representative from Council's Communications team to the next meeting to discuss ideas and recommendations.

BHT25.021 Other Business

Update on the relocated items that were stored at AMAC House:

A report detailing the items stored at AMAC House was circulated before the meeting. A former daycare cottage may be made available to house a museum for the collection. The initial step is to inspect the property, followed by determining how the museum would be managed, identifying any BHT volunteers to assist, and exploring potential funding options. Council will make the final decision on the cottage's availability at the Council meeting next week.

Committee Resolution

That the Botany Historical Trust Executive discuss and make recommendations regarding the items outlined in the report.

BHT25.022 Honouring Dr Peter Orlovich

The BHT Executive Committee had decided in a previous meeting that a framed photo of Dr Peter Orlovich should be displayed at the George Hanna Memorial Museum at Mascot Library. The BHT is hoping that the framed photo can be unveiled at the upcoming AGM and Peter's family be invited to the unveiling.

Committee Recommendation

That Bayside Council reach out to Dr Peter Orlovich's family to obtain a photo and ask if they would like to contribute to the wording that will be displayed with the photo.

6 General Business

BHT25.023 Outcome of DA applications

The BHT Executive Committee receives email notifications from Council's Applications Processing Officer about new planning matters within the old Botany Council area that are of historical importance. The BHT does not get updated about the outcomes of those DA applications.

Committee Recommendation

That Council shares outcomes of DA applications with the BHT Executive Committee.

BHT25.024 BHT Meeting Schedule for 2026

Currently all BHT Executive Committee meetings are scheduled for the first Monday of a month. Councillors Curry and Morrissey advised that they already have previous commitments on those days and requested that the meetings will be moved to another day.

Committee Resolution

That the BHT Executive Committee meetings will be moved to the second Monday of the month starting from 2026.

BHT25.025 BHT AGM

The BHT meeting that is scheduled for November 2025 is also the annual AGM. The BHT Executive Committee would like to have their regular meeting first, followed with the AGM for all BHT members.

Proposed AGM Agenda items:

- Review of the year
- Constitution change: 5 year membership
- Fine tuning of the BHT Christmas function

- Unveiling of a framed photo of Dr Peter Orlovich
- Events for next year
- Talk with David Burdon

Committee Resolution

That the BHT Executive Committee hold their regular meeting on Monday 3 November at 6:30pm, followed by the AGM for all BHT members at 7:30pm.

7 Next Meeting

That the next meeting be held in the George Hanna Memorial Museum at Mascot Library at 6:30pm on Monday, 3 November 2025.

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 8:49pm.