

MINUTES

of the **Extraordinary Botany Historical Trust**
held in the Mascot Library and George Hanna Memorial Museum
2 Hatfield Street, Mascot
on **Monday 3 November 2025 at 6:30 PM**

Present

Jacqueline Milledge, Senior Vice President and Chairperson
Christopher Hanna, Vice President
Richard Smolenski, Treasurer
Warren Hensley, Secretary
Amanda Wilson AM, Committee Member
Lenore Daley, Committee Member
Jo Jansyn, Community Representative
Jenny Muscat, Community Representative
Nathan Brown, Community Representative
Christina Curry, Councillor
Scott Morrissey, Councillor
Judy Embrey, Member
Giovanna Fuoti, Member
Carlyn Johnston, Member
Carole Nestor, Member
Alan Nicholas, Member
Nerina Skrabut, Member
Carla Smolenski, Member
Lyle Underwood, Member
Matthew Orlovich
Phil Orlovich
Susan Orlovich
Cheryl Nicholas

Also present

Bobbi Mayne, Manager Libraries and Lifestyle
Celia Piper, Local History Librarian
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.

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

Apologies

The following apologies were received:

Robert Hanna, President
Max Evers, Member
Thelma Gardiner, Member
Dorothy Kavanagh, Member
James Kavanagh, Member
Robert Middlemiss, Member
Charmaine Piaud, Member
Pamela Richardson, Member
Karen Slater, Member
Paul Slater, Member
Alison Wishart, Member

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 Extraordinary Botany Historical Trust Meeting - 4 November 2024

Committee Resolution

Moved by Lenore Daley and Warren Hensley

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Botany Historical Trust (AGM) meeting held on 4 November 2024 be confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

4.2 Business Arising

The Committee notes that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Botany Historical Trust of 4 November 2024 were received and the recommendations therein were adopted by the Council at its meeting of 27 November 2024.

5 Reports

BHT25.030 President's Report - Robert Hanna

Richard Smolenski presented the President's Report

They key points of the President's Report were:

- The reasoning behind the proposed amendment of the constitution
- A summary of events that were taking place in the last year, including an excursion to the Kokoda Track Memorial Walk at Concord, which was organised by BHT Committee member Richard Smolenski.
- His advocacy to use the former Botany Police Station for local community services. Rob contacted The Hon. Ron Hoenig and The Hon. Michael Daley seeking their assistance. The Hon. Michael Daley responded to advise that he raised the Committee's concerns with The Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage.
- The Committee's recommendation that the development application for 55 Gardeners Road not be approved was provided to Council's lawyers for the Land and Environment Court hearing on 21 October 2025. Several Committee members attended the hearing.
- Honouring of Dr Peter Orlovich's memory and the Committee's priority to find an Executive member with an interest in archival matters to fill the vacancy.
- Update on proposed alterations to the Botany war memorial.
- Advising that the Nancy Hillier lecture will be held at Botany Town Hall on 19 November 2025 from 6pm to 9pm.
Jacqueline Milledge noted that the lecture is a community-based event addressing issues of local relevance. She encouraged BHT members to attend.
- Richard pointed out a change of venue for the BHT Christmas Function, which will take place on 9 December 2025 at 6:30pm at the Botany Golf Club restaurant.
- Thanking Council staff, who supported the BHT Committee throughout the year.

Committee Resolution

Moved by Amanda Wilson AM and Chris Hanna

That the President's Report be noted.

BHT25.031 Recognition of Dr Peter Orlovich

On behalf of the Committee, Jacqueline Milledge paid tribute to the late Dr Peter Orlovich by reading a citation provided by Dr Orlovich's son, Matthew and adding that Peter was clever, important, faithful and also very funny.

The photo with citation was revealed by Peter's wife Phil and his children Susan and Matthew.

Matthew Orlovich thanked the BHT with below words:

"On behalf of the Orlovich family, I'd like to thank the Botany Historical Trust and Bayside Council for inviting us to this evening's unveiling in recognition of Dad's contribution to the Trust.

In the BHT newsletter of June 2024, former President Anne Slattery described Dad as a warrior – "quiet, strong, patient and persistent in his mission to save the records of Botany's local government administration and make them accessible to everyone." Those who knew Dad would also remember his humble, self-effacing nature, and I'm sure he never would have imagined us unveiling his portrait here tonight.

I know, though, that this honour would have been very much appreciated by him – especially coming from his long-time colleagues and friends of the Trust and Council.

To you all, thank you for recognising Dad's work in such a special way. Long may his display inspire in others the same curiosity and love of archives and local history that Dad enjoyed throughout his life. And long may the Botany Historical Trust continue its important work – under the watchful gaze of its "warrior", Dr Peter Orlovich: pioneering archivist, generous contributor, and loyal friend to many."

Jacqueline Milledge thanked the Orlovich family.

BHT25.032 Proposed amendment of BHT Constitution

The Committee proposed an amendment to clause 5(e) of the constitution to remove the requirement for BHT members to renew their membership every five years and to reflect that memberships will only expire upon resignation, expulsion, or death.

Jacqueline Milledge outlined the proposed amendment and invited comments from members for or against the motion. As no objections were raised, she sought confirmation from attending BHT members of their agreement with the proposed change. The motion was carried unanimously and will be implemented accordingly.

Jacqueline Milledge explained that the amendment has a consequential effect on clause 5(i) of the constitution relating to life memberships. She noted that, as all members will now be considered life members, a new mechanism is needed to recognise and honour distinguished members of the Trust. She invited comments from members for or against the motion.

Committee member Amanda Wilson AM proposed changing the wording in clause 5(i) from “life member” to “distinguished life member” to recognise outstanding contributions by BHT members. The proposal was not widely supported by members in attendance.

In response, BHT member Alan Nicholas suggested deleting clause 5(i) from the constitution to allow the BHT Committee and the Trustee (Bayside Council) to determine the most appropriate way to honour distinguished members, rather than having this process fixed in the constitution. The proposal was supported and subsequently put to a vote.

The motion was carried unanimously and will be implemented.

Committee Recommendation

That the Botany Historical Trust recommends that Council considers amending the Botany Historical Trust Constitution as follows:

1. Clause 5(e) be amended to read:
“Membership will expire automatically upon resignation, expulsion or death.”
2. Clause 5(i) be deleted

6 General Business

BHT25.033 Christmas Function

The BHT Christmas Function will take place on 9 December 2025 at 6pm for a 6:30pm start at Botany Golf Club.

Jacqueline Milledge indicated that she may share her experiences of past Christmases and encouraged other members to do likewise.

BHT member Nerina Skrabut provided an update that the Lakes Singers will not be available to perform at the Christmas function and confirmed that she had already informed Rob Hanna.

BHT25.034 Closing Remarks

Jacqueline Milledge welcomed the new Local History Librarian, Celia Piper, and concluded the AGM with a reflection on the past year. She noted that the Committee has been invigorated, with all positions now filled by committed members.

7 Next Meeting

That the next BHT Executive meeting will be held in the Mascot Library and George Hanna Memorial Museum at 6:30pm on Monday, 9 February 2026.

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 7:25pm.