



Meeting of Council of Friends of the ANBG

Tuesday 5 February 2013 at 1.30pm

Dickson Room ANBG

Minutes

1. Attendance

Present David Couotts (President), Barbara Podger, John Connolly, Marion Jones, Dennis Ayliffe, Glenys Bishop, Anne Campbell, Lesley Jackman, Warwick Wright

Ex officio: Peter Byron: Steve Speer, Anne Philips, Alan Munns, Jan Finley.

Apologies Judy West

2. Minutes Confirmation

The minutes of the meeting of 4th December 2012 were accepted (moved D. Couotts, seconded M. Jones)

3. Matters Arising from Minutes

3.1. *Eucalypt walk - Anne Campbell*

- It had not been possible to install the signage before Christmas but the signs had been made and will go up next Monday, Feb 11th.
- Anne Campbell and Sabrina Sonntag had chosen positions for the signs but, in the process, it was discovered that one of the specimens had died and another was not looking too good. Steve Speer said that it was important that the specimens look healthy.
- There had been further editing of the brochure but it was now ready for printing
- The walking route had been altered to improve the flow.
- The project should be finished by the end of February.
- Because of the possible need to make progressive changes, it was considered that the number of brochures printed should be limited to perhaps 2000.
- The posting of the Walk on the ANBG website will be delayed until the site is updated, probably around the middle of the year.
- A suitable launch function could be linked to the Family Day but it was thought not a suitable occasion and a separate small scale function a little later in the year would be more appropriate. The Friends would cater. ANBG would suggest a suitable date and advise Anne.
- The Dahl Trust should be invited to send a representative as should the Friends Public Fund committee.

3.2. *Summer Sounds Concerts*

- ANBG is holding a wrap-up meeting at 1:30PM on Feb 12th
- The uncertain weather with two cancellations and two curtailments resulted in much reduced donation collections but this was somewhat lessened by a better than expected return with the \$5 per car entry donation (probably double).
- Using car counts and numbers on the Eucalypt Lawn the attendance was estimated at around 5,000.
- Excess wine purchases will be used at Friends functions and other left-overs will be sold at cost.
- The Treasurers income and expenditure statement did not include further bills (eg sound and St John's Ambulance)

3.3. *In Flower This Week.*

- David Coutts had circulated a note addressing this.
- It was agreed that Barbara Daly should continue to choose the flowers, preferably with one or two people backing up when necessary.
- There was a real need for someone to take over the computer entry of information, relieving Catherine Jordan from helping with this task. It would not be necessary for this to be done in the library or indeed at ANBG as the file can be transferred to the ANBG afterwards for vetting and printing. A ranger will continue to place out the marker signs, with help from Barbara Daly as necessary.
- Some volunteers, perhaps from the Guides, should be sought to undertake the data entry, either in collaboration with Barbara or from her notes, locating the exhibits on the map and liaising with the Gardens to finalise the weekly leaflet.
- David Coutts was to talk further with Barbara Daly.

3.4. *Bird Brochure reprint*

- The Friends will pay for a reprint.
- The brochures would be in a perspex holder mounted under the ‘Wattle Sculpture’ and the money would be put into a separate box underneath,
- The brochures would be marked as costing \$1.

3.5. *Aboriginal Plant Trail*

- The text for the signs has been agreed.
- It is being sent to the graphic designer after the Eucalypt Walk is finished, probably this week
- Manufacture of the actual signs has been booked with the screen printer.
- The Trail should be in place in about 6 weeks

4. **General Business**

4.1. *Projects*

- A call for new project suggestions should be delayed until the second half of 2013.
- A contract for the building of the Termite Mound has been let to Natureworks, Qld and should be installed by 30th June
- Thorny Devil and Audio Post contracts had been let and should be in place by June 30th.
- The Bubbler has arrived and installation awaits a plumber.
- The Seedbank scales have been ordered.
- To obviate the Friends paying GST on project payments, such payments should be made by ANBG and the Friend will make a “Donation” to ANBG for the cost, less the GST. The Treasurer was to arrange this with the ANBG accountant

4.2. *BRC & Plant Research Group*

- Anne Campbell tabled a report outlining various directions a “Plant Science Group” might follow as well as its relationship to the existing BRC activities.
- Some possible topics that might be suitable for investigation by such a group were outlined.
- No talks at the BRC had been organised so far for 2013.
- Murray Fagg had indicated he was interested in continuing to support the Monday BRC lectures but he was now often away and others would be sought to look for suitable topics and lecturers.
- It was thought that such talks would aim at a higher technical level and not compete with the Public Thursday talks.
- Council agreed that it was an appropriate activity to pursue.
- Steve Speer drew attention to ANBG proposal to run Public horticulture talks / workshops.
- Peter Byron said that ANBG would be seeking volunteers to assist in a plant stocktake

It was agreed that a Plant Science Group steering group be set up to:

- Organise technical talks to be offered to members and others as appropriate

- Take an umbrella role for sourcing members for participation in research projects that arise from time to time. (for example the plant stocktake.)
- Interact with the Education Centre and the Education Rangers.
- Its relationship with the BRC would depend on the results of the ANBG review of the facility.
- Canvas the wider membership for expressions of interest

4.3. *BioBlitz*

- This is an initiative of the Molonglo Catchment group and the aim is to carry out a census of Fauna & Flora on Black Mountain
- The project has been moved back to October
- David Coutts had suggested that it would be useful to include the southern annex of ANBG in this.
- David would liaise with them and with David Taylor to further investigate.
- Peter Byron indicated that the Gardens should be positive to this idea.

4.4 *Centenary Free Bus*

- Council expressed disappointment that ANBG was not included in the route
- David will make representations to ACT.

5. Reports

5.1. *Executive Director*

In the absence of Judy West this item was covered in item 5.2

5.2. *General Manager*

- Red Centre Garden
 - The red sand has arrived
 - Footings for paths have been laid
 - Contract for the viewing platform has been let and construction should start later this month
 - The slab for the Meeting Place is to be poured in Feb.
 - Planting will commence in the autumn (60%), the rest in spring.
- The irrigation pump had failed and potable water had been used for 3 weeks until it was repaired.
- New Parking meters contract had been let and they should be in place by April 1st
- Donations and bequests are kept in a separate ANBG accounts.
- Complaints and comments about Floresco should be referred to the Peter Byron.

5.3. *Friends Liaison*

- Emily Burnett, from the first rotation of the graduates programme, will start next week on developing a knowledge handbook and to undertake recruitment and planning for the guides training course, scheduled to start in April.
- There is also a graduate working with Lucy Sutherland in the Seedbank and another in the ABRS.
- Helen McHugh is to return on 14th April
- Sally Bowman is the Education Officer until June 30.
- Leith Arundel is in the VIC
- Weekend Rangers are being recruited.
- Amber Howe is working in the nursery
- Wayne & Peter, both coming with great experience, have been engaged in horticulture until the end of June
- Frank Brookhouse has been appointed Trades Manager
- A plumber will be recruited

- Departmental Australia Day Awards went to Murray Fagg,
- Phil Hurlle is in the Horticulture Manager position
- “Flix in the Stix” had about 1200 patrons
- “Sunset Cinema” will run from 7th Feb to 6th March, Thursday, Friday & Saturday evenings.
- The “Pryor Tree” is in serious decline and the sign will be removed, the tree will probably be removed.
- There is another plaque to Lindsay Pryor below the Rock Garden. This will probably become the commemorative focus of his role in the ANBG history.
- Seniors / Family Picnic Day will be on 7th April.
- Tuesday Seniors Morning Teas will alternate between ANBG (Floresco) and the Hellenic Club. A short talk will be given by a staff member. Attention will be drawn to the 11:00 AM guided walk. The Flora Explorer may be also made available as required.
- The “Delicious After Dark” evenings had been a great success.
- “After Dark Starry Nights” in conjunction with Canberra Astronomical Society will be on the Rock Garden lawn on 5 nights in March.
- The Friends Cascade sign is being replaced.

5.4. *Treasurer*

The Treasurer had circulated income and expenditure statement for December 2012 & January 2013. It was moved by Marion Jones, seconded by David Coutts that the Treasurer’s report be received and the payments approved. The motion was carried.

There was discussion on acquiring a remote EFTPOS machine as an alternative to the current voucher one. It was decided to take the short term option (\$250 per month +) and trial it at the Botanic Art Show and the Plant sale in April.

5.5. *Secretary*

The secretary tabled the correspondence list covering the period from December 2012.

There has been a request from the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission to register details of the Friends. This is to maintain our no-tax status. We need to supply, amongst other things, details of “Responsible Person” ie the Elected Council to commission.

5.6. *Public Fund.*

The committee will meet on Feb 18th.

A donation of \$5,000 had been received and an acknowledgment letter had been sent by the President.

5.7. *Membership*

Reports for Dec 2012 & Jan 2013 had been circulated. Membership was now 1252 representing about 1600 persons, slightly up on the same period last year

5.8. *Thursday Talks*

The first talk for 2013 was held on Jan 28th with Ian Warden as the inaugural Centenary Chats speaker. About 160 attended and the donations amounted to \$224.

Sue Serjeantson had agreed to join the organising committee. She suggested that the Thursday talks donations be targeted to a specific project. Council agreed that this was a good strategy and a suitable project should be identified.

5.9. *Newsletter & Broadcast Emails.*

- The next issue of Fronds should be out before Easter. Cut-off dates are Feb 25th for main articles and March 4th for “What’s On etc”.
- A broadcast email was sent out on Jan 4th. Another will probably be sent in early March.

5.10. *Guides*

- Glenys Bishop had circulated a summary of a meeting between two of the guides and Steve Speer and Jennifer Salkeld in December. Subjects covered were:

- 30 minute walks at the Summer Sounds Concerts.
 - Assistance with the selection and training of new guides
 - Roving guides at the Red Centre Garden opening and afterwards.
 - The linking of themed guided walks to activities or exhibitions at other national institutions.
- These topics were discussed at a subsequent guides meeting with reasonably positive reaction from most.
 - Another meeting of the working group will further progress these.

5.11. *Growing Friends*

- Reports of meetings in December and January were tabled
- The autumn plant sale is set for April 13th.

5.12. *Social Events & Activities*

- The Twilight Dinner is fully booked
- The speaker will be Leonore Coltheart
- A quiz was being put together
- A viewing of the Ellis Rowan paintings at the NLA is organised and has been fully booked.
- Paul Janssens will conduct another inspection of the Members Courtyards of Parliament House.
- Barbara Podger & Jan Finley had attended a meeting of the ANBG Major Events committee

5.13. *Website*

- David Moore was compiling a “Guide to Editing” the website.
- There was a discussion on the incorporation onto the website of Twitter and Facebook referrals. Council agreed that this was desirable but should be delayed until further advice is received from the Website Group.

5.14. *Botanic Art Group*

- The Botanic Art exhibition will commence on March 8th and continue until April 7th.
- A reply from Robyn Archer as guest speaker for the opening was awaited.
- Other possibilities were Cathy Franzi and Betty Churcher

5.15. *Photography Group*

- A new secretary is being sought for the group
- A vote of thanks to the group for its contribution to the current exhibition in the VIC was passed by council on the motion of Steve Speer.
- There was a need for additional display stands, particularly for the Schools Photography Competition. David Coutts would investigate the condition of old stands and report back to Council

5.16. *Additional Items*

- RMBG Cranbourne: David Coutts reported that he had visited Cranbourne and met with Richard and Margaret Clarke (President and prominent committee member).
- David commented that they had many demonstration gardens and there could be some ideas for ANBG.
- It was suggested that an invitation to the Red Centre Garden opening be offered to the Friends of Cranbourne BG

5.17. *Friends Around the Lake*

- David Coutts will attend a meeting on 19th February.

The meeting was closed at 4:00 PM

Minutes approved 5 March 2013

D Coutts
President

Next meeting of Council, Tuesday 5 March 2013 at 1.30pm in the Dickson Room, ANBG