



Meeting of Council of Friends of the ANBG

Tuesday 5 March 2013 at 1.30pm

Dickson Room ANBG

Minutes

1. Attendance

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

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

2. Minutes Confirmation

The circulated minutes of the Council meeting held on 5th February 2013 were accepted on the motion of Anne Campbell, seconded by Marion Jones.

3. Matters Arising From Minutes

3.1. *Eucalypt Walk*

- Most of the interpretive signs were in place.
- The brochure was not quite ready.
- A suitable occasion for the launch of the walk was still being considered.
- Suggestions for a celebrity to open the walk included Bill Gammage, David Lindenmayer, Mathew Brookhouse and Murray Fagg.
- A firm date should be set at the March Council meeting.

3.2 *Summer Sounds Concerts*

- A wrap-up meeting had been held on 12th February
- The net takings for the Friends stood at about \$1500.
- Marion Jones pointed out the costs had risen substantially.
- The \$5 per car / group was judged as being effective and generated a larger income.
- Barbara suggested that collecting at the main walking entry points to the Garden may be safer and better for the collectors. This had been discussed at the wrap-up but it was thought that collection at the car entry points was better. This will be further discussed prior to the 2014 concerts.
- Sponsors for next year's concerts were being sought.

4. General Business

4.1. *Projects*

- The next call for projects would be in June
- Peter Byron is preparing a projects' progress spread sheet
- The Red Centre Garden meeting place is on schedule.
- The water bubbler is awaiting installation,
- The Seed Sorter has not been ordered
- Flora Explorer has been sent for warranty repairs.
- VIC Orchid Display status.

4.2. *Orchids*

There was considerable discussion on the problems that had arisen concerning the operation of the orchid glasshouse and the relationship between the members of the Orchid Group and some nursery staff. There was a difference of opinion on the strategy to control pests.

Actions being proposed include:-

- Peter Byron was to have a further meeting with Ben Walcott.
- Some staff responsibilities are being changed.
- More defined responsibilities for the Orchid Volunteers should be agreed to.
- Monthly meetings.
- The collection is being rationalised, with reduction, mainly of exotic specimens, in the light of Mark Clements reduced requirement for plants for his research programme.
- The state of the VIC Orchid display is of concern to the Friends. It is planned that the display would be reinstated to include ferns and possibly terrestrial orchids.
- It is proposed that the orchid volunteers will come under the Friends once new arrangements are in place.

4.3. *BRC & Plant Research Group*

- A planning meeting had been held on 4th March with attendees being mainly from the BRC group.
- It was proposed to advertise for expressions of interest via a broadcast email and also Fronds.
- The group would interact / coordinate with the Seedy Volunteers and other new ANBG / Friends volunteer activities such as the Black Mountain plant survey.
- Stocktake volunteers are an immediate need and a targeted call for expressions of interest will be circulated.
- Technical Talks would be broader than just plant identification and would draw a wider selection of speakers.
- The talks would be a quite different focus from the Friends Thursday talks as well the ANBG's Saturday Public talks / workshops.
- The group will be consulted on the review of the BRC which will commence shortly.
- The next meeting is on May 4th.

4.4. *Friends Executive met with the Judy West and Peter Byron on 28th February.*

- There was discussion covering the Glasshouse orchid collection and the role of the Orchid Volunteers (see Item 4.2 above).
- The difficult budget position of ANBG was discussed and it was suggested that representations to the Departmental Secretary might be helpful.
- A summary of the implementation of the Management Plan was being produced as a spreadsheet and would be made available to the Friends.
- The question of some form of advisory body was still being considered.
- The Council of Heads of Botanic Gardens is seeking pro-bono legal advice on their constitution and rules documents.

4.5. *Seniors Week.*

- A special morning tea aimed at Seniors is set for 21st March.
- A guided walk will be offered beforehand with an inspection of the Botanic Art Show, conducted by some of the artists afterwards.

4.6. *Friends Around the Lake.*

- David Coutts had attended a meeting on 19 February.
- The event to be shared by ANBG would be the "Bush Capital Celebration" in November.
- The NMA event is "The Glorious Days" exhibition tour in May.
- NLA has a private viewing of "Mapping the World".

- Portrait Gallery exhibition is “Elvis at 21”

5. Reports

5.1. Executive Director

- Judy West had had discussion with Andrew Sayers (NMA) and Graham Durant (Questacon) on possible collaborations particularly on some ideas bought back by Steve Speer after his visit to the Smithsonian Institute.
- Technically oriented ideas include an “information cart” for the Red Centre Garden (Questacon could make it).
- On the education front it was thought that a scheme of professional development for teachers would be set up, perhaps in collaboration with Questacon.
- A expansion of the “Enlighten” event along the lines of a similar large scale event in Melbourne is being explored. This would incorporate the various national institutes being open through a full day.
- The International Heritage Section of the Environment Dept is sponsoring projects relating to PNG. These include training and data-basing of the PNG collection in the Herbarium to improve access. Money is available from the Global Environment Fund.
- The part of the Marine Division of Environment involved with Marine Parks is coming into Parks Australia.
- The Minister has been hosting Sunday night meetings with Peter Cochrane, the Dept Secretary, the Deputy Secretary, Judy West and various scientists, some of whom have been critical of current policies. The meetings are aimed at examining the effectiveness of the management of National Parks and alerting the minister to issues. A further meeting is scheduled for Sunday 17th March.
- Projects and funding relating to the Biodiversity Fund and Caring for Country are being examined to look for synergy with the ANBG.
- Australian National Parks are suffering from falling visitor numbers overall.
- Glenys Bishop drew attention to themed walks that are being planned to coincide with the Turner Art Exhibition at the NGA. The walks will be entitled “Turned On “

5.2. General Manager

- Red Centre Garden is progressing rapidly.
- The red sand is being spread.
- The Desert River is taking shape.
- The Interpretation Areas are being developed.
- The Viewing Platform is being constructed at the moment.
- 60% of plantings will take place in the autumn with the rest in spring.
- There had been much activity with the various seed collection field trips.
- Tom North conducted a seed collection visit to Norfolk Island in December and will go again in April.
- Collection from Christmas Island is also planned.
- Lydia Guja has been collecting in bog areas of Namadji and KNP with a team including Craig Cosgrove.
- Carpets are being replaced in the Dickson Room and the Crosbie-Morrison under the capital works budget.
- The capital works programme for next year is being drawn up. The lower boardwalk in the Rainforest is up for replacement.
- The opening of the Red Centre Garden could be brought back to August, depending on the minister.

5.3. Friends Liaison

- “Sunset Cinema” had gone well. There has been some weather impact but numbers have covered

from 100 to 500.

- The Floresco Seniors morning teas /staff talks (alternate Tuesdays) have attracted between 12 and 80.
- The horticulture workshops will commence in April. These will be at weekends and cover a range of activities such as re-potting and pruning.
- The Small Brewers Festival on Saturday 9th March is well booked.
- The Starry Nights are also well booked.
- Parks Australia is developing a tourism website that will cover all their Parks including ANBG. Public Affairs is working on the material relating to ANBG.
- The Bird App development by PA Public Affairs is still underway.
- Bronwyn Collins is returning from long-service leave and will commence the BRC review.
- Emily Burnett is working on the Volunteer Guides training course.
- Julie Akmacic will be on long-service leave from April to August.
- Dan Carmody is on leave in April.

5.4. *Treasurer*

- The Treasurer had circulated the accounts for February.
- It was moved by Marion Jones, seconded by David Coutts that accounts be received and payments authorised. Motion carried.
- Marion informed the meeting that an EFTPOS machine had been obtained for trialling at the Art Show and the Plant Sale.
- Merle Coutts will act for Marion Jones in her absence.
- Bird Brochure is being reprinted.

5.5. *Secretary*

- The correspondence list for February is appended.

5.6. *Public Fund*

- Nothing to report.

5.7. *Membership*

- The February membership report was tabled. Memberships are up a little

5.8. *Thursday Talks*

- Ian Warden's talk had been very well received, with an overflow audience. He has used the material in Canberra Times articles
- Michael Bryce gave an interesting talk on his experiences travelling with the Governor-General
- There was discussion on linking a project to the Thursday Talks donations. It was agreed that this was a good idea and the Projects committee was asked to consider possible projects.

5.9. *Newsletter & Broadcast Emails*

FronDs

- The FronDs group had met with Pamille Berg and were given an outline of the design and construction techniques being employed for the Meeting Place artwork.
- This will be the basis of a FronDs article.
- There is an article on the Eucalypt Walk.
- Also, Ted Edwards has an article on a giant moth from Black Mountain.
- It is hoped to have the issue out before Easter

Broadcast Email Topics

- Upcoming Thursday Talks
- Plant Science Group – expression of interest
- Botanic Art Show
- Plant Sale – 13th April

- Family Picnic Day – 7th April.
- There was discussion about the offer from Murray Fagg of his botanic book collection, possibly by a silent auction in collaboration with the Growing Friends Plant Sale. It was decided that, without knowledge of the number of books, a silent auction would be difficult to arrange and that a straight booksale at the Plant Sale or at another time might be better. David Coutts will consult with Mike Johnson on the matter
- The matter was left for further consideration.

Campsis

- A contribution for the next issue of Campsis is being sought. An article on ANBG's involvement with the Canberra Centenary was agreed to be the best focus

5.10. *Guides*

- The “Turned-on” themed walks are mentioned above.
- It is planned to have daytime walks in June-July and special sun-rise / sunset events in August.
- A small committee is liaising with Jennifer Salkeld and Julie Akmacic on these.
- The planning for a new guides intake is proceeding with a committee consisting of Steve Speer, Emily Burnett, Jane Keogh and Glenys Bishop. A timetable has been drawn up.
- Guides have been arranged for the Seniors Morning Tea on March 21.
- A training programme for the Red Centre Garden is being set up. There will be a tour at the March Guides meeting, a talk about themes at the April meeting and a further tour in July. Craig Cosgrove and David Taylor are contributing.
- The guides would be happy to make use of a touch trolley /cart

5.11. *Website*

- The website is up to date

5.12. *Botanic Art Group*

- The Art will be hung tomorrow, Mar 6th.
- There was discussion on the purchase by the Friends for presentation to ANBG. It was decided that Lynden Ayliffe, Lesley Jackman and Judy West would inspect the paintings in consultation with the Botanic Art Group prior to the opening and choose a suitable botanic artwork. An upper cost was set at \$500 - \$600.
- The speaker at the opening is to be Cathy Franzi and Jeremy Lasek, Executive Director of the Canberra Centenary will also speak.
- John Connolly will purchase champagne and orange juice. There is sufficient red and white wine left over from the concerts.

5.13. *Growing Friends*

- The Plant Sale is on April 13th

5.14. *Social Events & Activities*

- The Twilight Dinner had gone well and was fully booked.
- In future seating should be allocated and name tags provided.
- The Ellis Rowan inspections are next week and fully booked.
- The inspection of the internal gardens at Parliament House is set for May and will be advertised in the next Fronds

5.15. *Photography Group*

- Stuart Hogben and Els Wynen had offered to be joint coordinators for the group

5.16. *External Talks*

- Warwick Wright reported that he and Pat would be talking at the North Coast Botanic Garden Coffs Harbour, hosted by Gwynne and Geoff Clark on the 10th April. They are also scheduled to talk to the guides of the Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens in South Africa on 22nd August.
- As it is also the centenary of Kirstenbosch BG Warwick suggested that a formal greeting be sent from the Friends. Judy West was to send a similar greeting from ANBG.

5.17 BGANZ

- Warwick Wright reported that a MOU had been drawn up between Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand and the Association of Friends of Botanic Garden and should be ratified shortly.
- This would result in closer cooperation between the two organisations

The meeting was closed at 4:30 PM

D.Coutts

President

2nd April 2013

Next Meeting :- Tuesday April 2nd 2013, Dickson Room, ANBG