



Meeting of Council of Friends of the ANBG

Tuesday 4 December 2012 at 1.30PM

Dickson Room ANBG

Minutes

1. Attendance

Present: David Coutts (Chairman), Barbara Podger, John Connolly, Glenys Bishop, Marion Jones, Warwick Wright, Dennis Ayliffe.

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

Apologies: Anne Campbell, Lesley Jackman, Judy West.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of Council meeting of 13 November 2012

Note: As there was not a quorum for this meeting, the following resolution was put to the meeting:-


Motion: That resolutions put forward at the Council meeting of 13 November 2012 are ratified and the minutes are confirmed.

Proposed: David Coutts, *Seconded:* Barbara Podger. Motion *Carried.*

3. Matters arising from Minutes of 13 November 2012

3.1. *Eucalypt walk*

Steve Speer reported that the Eucalypt walk would be ready by Christmas. He showed a first draft of the typical wordage. There will be some minor changes to captions and the logo. The signs had been ordered and were being made at the moment with printing and installation to happen as soon as the data file was finished.

The acknowledgement would be to the Dahl Trust /  Public Fund.

3.2. *Store Room (Ellis Rowan Building)*

There were still issues with the amount of space that Floreso were taking but hopefully this can be resolved. Two refrigerators and two cupboards were in place. A double powerpoint was being installed and repairs to the refrigerators were being attended to.

Council expressed its thanks to Andy Rawlinson for setting up the storeroom.

3.3. *Summer Sounds Concerts*

Barbara Podger reported that Jennifer Salkeld had been putting in place the various activities for the concerts. Sabrina Sontag was preparing material for the ANBG website as is Alan Munns for the Friends site which will have a link to ANBG. Barbara had arranged for co-ordinators for each of the volunteer activities at the concerts and roster sheets for names had been placed in the Friends Lounge.

Ros Osbourne had volunteered as co-ordinator for the donation collectors and had provided much good advice on procedures. It is thought that at least six volunteers will be required for the entry collection at each concert.

A "Summer in the Gardens" brochure, including the Summer Sounds Concert series, ~~brochure~~ is being produced by the ANBG and 20,000 will be printed for distribution locally and interstate.

Steve Speer said he hoped that CSIRO will agree to allow better directions to the carparking in their site.

There is a briefing on Tuesday 11th December at 1:30 PM in the Crosbie Morrison

3.4. *In Flower This Week*

David Coutts reported that he was reviewing the best way to provide the necessary support for Barbara Daly to produce In Flower this Week. The major consideration is to replace the time that gardens staff are providing

with additional friends support. A short note on this activity will be circulated to council for the February meeting.

3.5. *Schools Photography Competition and Exhibition*

David Coutts reported that he is meeting with Carol Summerhayes and Cecelia Melano to review the Competition and Exhibition. He would also invite Janelle Chalker, who had expressed interest in being involved.

Alan Munns said that the prize-winning photos had not been put on the web as previously. Barbara Podger said that most of the prize-winners had been scanned and they could be put on the web. Alan Munns would also attend Thursday's meeting.

4. **General Business**

4.1. *Projects*

Dennis Ayliffe had circulated an update of Projects Selection Guidelines.

There would be a twice yearly call for projects for consideration and projects-deemed suitable for the Public Fund are to be first passed to the Projects Sub-committee

4.2. *BRC & Plant Research Group.*

In the absence of Anne Campbell discussion was held over to the next Council meeting

4.3. *Bird Brochure reprint*

Of the 5000 that were originally printed about 300 were left. It was thought that the demand in future would be less as most of the Friends already have a copy. After discussion in which it was pointed out that, at the time of the original printing, it had been agreed that future reprints would be undertaken by the ANBG. It was agreed, in principle, that there would be a reprinting of 5000 copies, at a quoted cost of \$1,890 without any changes apart from a "\$1" on the front. The Gardens would pay for the reprinting and the money would go into the VIC donations box. However, as there was doubt that there was any money in the ANBG Public Programmes budget for the reprint, the decision as to who would pay would be left to Barbara Podger and Louise Muir to negotiate with Steve Speer.

4.4. *Hellenic Club Christmas Party*

ANBG will have stand at the Hellenic Club Christmas party. There would be an ANBG table and one for the Friends. It would be desirable to have two volunteers to set up and change with another two after a couple of hours. They would pack things away at the end.

4.5. *Volunteer Recognition ceremony.*

This is on Volunteers Day, Wednesday 5th December.

As there were some difficulties in identifying all the Friends volunteers, there is a need to have an up-to-date list of all volunteer activities and the participants. The Membership group were to be contacted to see if such information could be incorporated into the membership data base.

4.6. *VIC Booking*

There was discussion on the involvement of the VIC in event bookings, particularly where no payment is required. Steve Speer felt that an on line booking system was desirable although it was recognised the current Eventopia system had deficiencies. While further discussions will await a replacement for Eventopia it was decided that, for Friends functions where only small numbers were involved, a simple email response or phone call to the Friends would be more appropriate.

5. **Reports**

In the absence of Judy West Items 5.1 & 5.2 were covered by the General Manager, Peter Byron.

5.1. *General Manager*

- Peter Byron reported that the Minister and the Department Secretary were having a meeting at ANBG in the coming week.
- The SEWPAC Christmas party was being held on the Eucalypt Lawn this Friday, Dec 7, with 450 people expected.
- Parks Australia has moved from Woden back to Civic.
- Theresa Pwerle, the Red Centre artwork artist, visited the Gardens for two days, last week, and expressed delight at the Meeting Place plan. She selected the portion of her painting that will be used in the Meeting Place art. She will record an interpretation of the underlying meaning of the painting after she consults with her community.

- Retaining walls are being installed this week and pathways are scheduled next. Placement of more of the sand should also occur before Christmas.
- Tenders for the viewing platform close on Dec 13th.
- The tender for new parking machines is being finalised. The meters will be more flexible than the present ones and should be operational by March 2013.
- Additional money for capital works will finance:
 - Retractable roof for the cafe deck.
 - New carpet in the Crosbie-Morrison building
 - Upgrading of top water reservoir
 - Purchase of two new trucks to replace the current leased vehicles.
- Staffing
 - The trades manager appointment is being finalised
 - Horticulture manager appointment is proceeding.
 - There are two horticulture staff appointments to be made
 - Two weekend ranger positions are being filled.
- A new Parks Australia website is coming into operation, probably around June 2013.
- This will give greater flexibility to the ANBG website which will be seamlessly divided so that part of its information will be actually on the PA site.
- Marjorie Roche's painting purchased at last Botanic Art show is now hanging in the Dickson room.
- In answer to a question from David Coutts Peter Byron said the implementation of the Management plan was being progressed by drawing up of schedules table for the next three years. However there will be an impact from the "efficiency dividend". A summary of the spread sheet would be made available.
- The water bubbler is being ordered but there have been delays as the plumber has been acting as trades manager.
- The lake pumping system was being repaired after a recent failure.

5.2. Friends' Liaison – Steve Speer

- Elle Shepherd, who has been developing the Aboriginal plant trail, had completed her appointment and was transferring to a position in Public Affairs. The plant trail design has been completed but signs still have to be made and it hoped to have it operational in January / February.
- The launch of the summer programme is on next Tuesday (11th Dec). Events being covered are:-
 - Longer Summer Sounds Concerts
 - Flix in the Stix for the third year on 2nd Feb (with the Whitlams).
 - Sunset Cinema running for six weeks, three nights per week, from 7th Feb to 6th March
 - "Delicious after Dark" starts this coming Saturday and there are bookings for January and February.
 - Flora Explorer will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays as well as weekends during the school holidays.
 - The exhibition to start the Centenary year, highlighting capital city botanic gardens, has attracted exhibits from about six overseas cities so far.
 - Snakes Alive

5.3. Treasurer

The treasurer had circulated the accounts and the list of payments made in November as well as the balance sheet for the period July to November.

Motion: That payments for November be approved and the accounts statements be received.

Proposed: Marion Jones. *Seconded:* John Connolly. **Motion Carried.**

There was discussion on the placement of funds from a matured fixed term investment. The treasurer was authorised to reinvest in a fixed term deposit at the best return considered appropriate. Other investment paths were to be investigated and the treasurer will report back to council.

It was decided to renew the subscription to ANPC.

5.4. Secretary

A correspondence list had been circulated and the correspondence tabled.

A number of acknowledgement letters to donors to the Public Fund had been sent by the President and copies were to be lodged in the Public Fund file.

The secretary expressed his thanks to Anne Campbell and Lesley Jackman for taking and producing the

meeting minutes during his absence.

Barbara Podger raised the question of reprinting of Friends letterhead with the new template. It was agreed that the printing of letterheads is no longer necessary as the templates can be downloaded and incorporated into print-ups as needed

Warwick Wright had met with Helen ~~?~~ from MCC Sporting Colours following a request for information on the 2010 Wattle exhibition.

5.5. *Public Fund*

Marion Jones reported that funding had been approved for

- Aboriginal Plant trail signage \$15,000
- Eucalypt Walk signs \$10,000
- Reds Centre Termite mound \$10,000
 - Information on these projects would be posted on the Friends website

Sue Serjeantson had pointed out that the Aboriginal Plant trail is the type of project that is could attract external funding.

It was agreed to reprint the Public Fund receipt book as required.

5.6. *Membership.*

Current membership stood at 1123, representing 1446 individuals, with 313 still to renew. Renewals are still coming in.

5.7. *Thursday talks*

- Sue Serjeantson has agreed to replace Peter Davidson on the sub-committee.
- The first talk in 2013 would be given by Ian Warden on Jan 31
- Attendances at the Thursday talks in 2012 amounted to about 2636
- \$3830 was raised.

Council thanked the Thursday Talks sub-committee for their work in running another successful year of excellent talks;

5.8. *Newsletter*

The new issue of Fronds had been distributed

The Cover picture is of a watercolour by Marjorie Roche which will be the prize in a raffle at the 2013 Botanic Art exhibition.

The Twilight Dinner application form was included

Council again thanked the Fronds Team for an excellent issue.

5.9. *Guides*

- Minutes of the Guides meeting of 20th November were received
- A discussion at the meeting had addressed Red Centre Garden guided activities as well as no-shows.
- A working group had been set up to further some of the ideas and recommendations put forward were:-
 - Roving guides in the Red Centre Garden, either short walks or “Talk stations”
 - Notices indicating the presence of “Roving Guides” would be necessary.
 - Initially having specific short tours when the Red Centre first opens.
 - Red Centre themed walks.
 - Appropriate training for these activities would be needed.
 - These activities might cater for those who want something less than the standard one hour plus walk
 - A possible event might be centred around a number guides stationed around the garden with groups moved from one to the next, maybe with refreshments.
 - Themed walks focussed on other “Main Events” occurring in Canberra.

Steve Speer said the ability of the ANBG to organise a Guides training course next year depends on how many days per week Helen McHugh decided to work on her return from maternity leave. She is due back on 17th April

Glenys Bishop suggested that some initial collection of course material might start now.

5.10. *Social Events and Activities*

The committee will meet next Tuesday (11thDec). The two events being worked on at the moment are the Summer Sounds Concerts and the Twilight dinner.

Rosters for volunteers for Collectors, drinks table, bus drives and the children's table were up in the Friends Lounge

5.11. *Growing Friends*

Minutes of the October Growing Friends were received

The November plant sale had brought in \$3680

5.12. *Website*

An outage of a couple of days had been caused by the crash of the host server but all was OK now.

Arrangements were being made for a better back-up system. It may be that some expenditure will be required

Alan Munns and David More were doing updates

5.13. *Botanic Art Group*

- The theme of the 2013 Botanic Art exhibition is "Celebratory Flowers"
- Requested funding for brochures etc to \$400 was approved
- Friends will provide the wine

5.13.1. 2013 botanic art workshop is being financed from the course charges. However, at the BAG request, the Treasurer was authorised to negotiate on the handling and banking of money

5.14. *Photography group*

- The sub-committee reported that there were around 18 regular members.
- Graham Brown had submitted about 18 photos taken by group members to ANBG for the "Friends and Family" exhibition to be held in Jan to March 2013.

The meeting closed at 4pm.

Minutes approved 5 February 2013

D Coutts
President