

Minutes

Attendance

Members: Lesley Jackman (Chair), Jan Finley, Marion Jones, Rita Maclachlan, Ian Primrose, Barbara Tyler.
Ex officio: Peter Byron, Rosella Hampshire, Steve Speer, Judy West.
Co-opted: David Coutts, Barbara Podger, Annalisa Millar (part).
Apologies: Dennis Ayliffe, Christianna Cobbold, Sue Sergeantson, Alan Munns, Glenys Bishop.

1. Opening and confirmation of agenda

The meeting was opened by the Friends' President, Lesley Jackman, at 2:40 pm.

2. Minutes of Council Meeting 7 July 2015

No amendments were made to the minutes; they were taken as read and accepted.

Resolution: Council accepts the minutes of the July 2015 Council meeting.

Proposed: Jan Finley. *Seconded:* Barbara Tyler. *Carried.*

3. Matters arising from July 2015 Meeting Minutes

3.1 High Mountain Futures Centre of Excellence bid

- Adrienne Nicotra has advised the bid is progressing, it has gone through the ANU support process to the ARC stage.

3.2 Storage of Records

- Ian Primrose to investigate an area behind the Friends lounge as an option for storage of Friends' hardcopy financial records and report back to Council in September.

4. General Business

4.1 2016 Summer Concerts

4.1.1 Social Events and Activities Committee report

- The Friends free Rainforest walks, led by Toby Golsen (ANBG), will occur on 12 and 13 August (the Friends' funded a rainforest plant collection trip to Queensland and NSW in 2014).
- Planning for Breakfast with the Birds is advanced. The walks will take place on Saturday and Sundays from September 19 to October 11.
- The Friends' 25th Anniversary function on 1 October is well advanced. Council approved payment of \$100 for music to be played in the Rainforest at the event.
- Background information to establish a Register of Volunteers for Friends' social events and joint activities with the ANBG will be provided for Council's consideration in September. This will cover strategies to recruit new volunteers and retain existing volunteers. Council agreed the approach should be applicable more broadly to all Friends events and activities.

4.1.2 Sponsorship report

- The Central by Goodwin Homes has advised it will not provide sponsorship for the 2016 Summer concerts, however it may explore options for 2017. Goodwin has indicated an interest in exploring other activities such as story time sessions and horticultural talks.
- Annalisa Millar (ANBG) noted the Summer Concerts are suited to sponsorship by legal and accounting firms as a means of raising their brand awareness. She and Lesley Jackman will work on a sponsorship strategy document for Council's consideration. Ian Primrose advised he will pursue those major

accounting firms with whom he has contacts.

- Council noted there needs to be a level of sponsorship to stage the summer concerts because of the risk of inclement weather. The Major Events Planning Group will begin work on the 2016 Summer Concerts in August.

4.2 Public Art – way forward

4.2.1 Submission to the Public Fund

- Lesley Jackman will provide a submission to the Public Fund to support the Friends' proposed tree house gazebo project prior to the Pamille Berg briefing on 20 August, with a view to it being considered by the Public Fund on 7 September.

4.2.2 Briefing by Pamille Berg, 20 August 5.30pm

- ANBG to identify those staff members who will attend Pamille Berg's briefing on the proposed tree house gazebo project.
- Council members will provide refreshments.

4.3 Friends AGM 8 October 2015

- The financial audit of the Friends and Public Fund accounts is underway.
- There has been informal discussion with a potential nominee for Council.

4.4 Review of Constitution

- A small number of comments have been received from Friends on the consultation draft of the amended Constitution.
- The AGM agenda will include a recommendation to accept the amended Constitution.

4.5 Council Manual update

- All Council manual updates that have been reviewed by Council will be placed on the Friends document management system when Les Fielke returns from overseas.

4.6 Floresco feedback

- The ANBG is comfortable for the Friends to discuss with Floresco management any concerns with the menu such as quality, pricing, range and service. Council agreed to invite Pat McKenna and Mick Douros to a future meeting of Council to discuss the matter.

4.7 Register of volunteers – refer to item 4.1.1

5. Reports

5.1 ANBG Executive Director

- Implementation of the ANBG Master Plan is progressing with a recent workshop involving the architects, landscape architects and staff. Staff are rejuvenated by what the plan will bring to the Gardens and by their involvement in the process.

5.2 ANBG General Manager

- Capital works funding has been obtained for a secondary pump to improve filtration of the pumping system from Lake Burley Griffin.
- Funding has been obtained from the ACT government for free Wifi hubs in the Gardens covering the Crosbie Morrison Building, the Banks Building and the Visitors Information Centre and the area around the Eucalypt Lawn.
- The Bookshop renovation will be completed mid August with the opening by Sally Barnes, Director National Parks scheduled for 4 September.
- Large tree surgery is progressing.

5.3 ANBG Friends Liaison

- Staffing news: Megan Donaldson has been appointed the Visitor Experience and Public Programs Coordinator, specifically dealing with events, Rangers, Visitor Centre Volunteers, and exhibitions in the Visitor Centre; a graduate employee is developing a biodiversity program and a 'bee hotel'; Helen McHugh returns on 31 August; the Nursery has new recruits.

- The Gardens and the National Dinosaur Museum are partnering with a Dinosaur Trail for National Science Week from 15 – 22 August. An interpreted discovery trail will go from the Rainforest through the Gondwana Conifer section, the Rock Garden and the Eucalypt Lawn to the Display Glass House with dinosaur models and Mesozoic fossil exhibits highlighting the living plants around them as links to their evolutionary past.
- David Taylor, Senior Curator, will speak at the Brindabella Business Park on 28 August. Barbara Podger will liaise with Steve Speer to promote the Friends activities at the event.
- The ANBG's 45th Anniversary activities are arranged for Sunday 18 October (note the change of date from the 25th October as printed in Fronds).
- Rosella Hampshire, ANBG staff representative, noted the purchase of two new vehicles for Living Collections and work on the new monocotyledon section 302 will commence the week of 11 August.

5.4 Treasurer

5.4.1 Financial Report

- Marion Jones tabled the July 2015 financial statement of receipts and outgoings. The report was not circulated prior to the meeting. Of note was the income realised from sales at the Photographic Group's exhibition and the Botanical Art Group's workshop fees.
- It was agreed the financial report should be circulated to Council for out of session consideration.
- The 2015 audit process is underway. The auditor recommended moving to a cloud based system using the latest MYOB package and can assist with the set up. Purchase of a commercial system will make the financial reporting process clearer for all involved. Given the transition to a new financial management structure, the plan is to defer consideration of this until next March.
- The new financial management arrangements are working well, they have the benefit of separating a range of banking duties to reduce the Treasurer's workload. It was agreed that Kim Liston should be added as signatory to the Events account providing her with access to view account balances.
- Ian Primrose, Acting Treasurer, advised that from September 2015 the cut off for the monthly financial statement will be last Tuesday of the month. He will provide a forward budget for Council's consideration at the September meeting.

5.5 Friends Groups' reports

5.5.1 Photographic Group

5.5.1.1 Report on recent exhibition

- The Photographic Group's first exhibition was well received, with sales of framed prints, unframed prints and cards of \$4614 and \$1370 going to the Friends. Council agreed the Photographic Group should be congratulated on their efforts.

5.5.1.2 Report on discussion and vote on the scope of PG activities

- The Photographic Group's members have made a majority decision to include photos of native flora and fauna taken outside the Gardens in future exhibitions. Their decision was made following consideration of an issues paper. Council considered the matter has been resolved satisfactorily noting the Photographic Group's reasons included:
 - increased opportunities for photographing flora and fauna in their native habitats and plant associations;
 - photographing species not represented in the ANBG;
 - demonstrating the fragility and beauty of the Australian environment;
 - increasing community awareness of the diversity of flora and fauna;
 - the possibility of increased photographic support for the broader scientific activities of the ANBG;
 - improvement of members' photographic skills; and
 - the opportunity to increase membership by encompassing a greater range of interests and activities.

5.5.1.3 Friends School Photographic Competition 18 October – 9 November 2015

- Entries for the annual Friends' School Photographic Exhibition close on 21 September. Reminder notices have been sent to all ACT schools. To date one ACT school and one student from another school have expressed interest. Reminders have been sent to all schools.
- Council agreed that continuation of the competition should be reviewed after the 2015 exhibition.

5.5.1.4 Project Committee -Consideration of *ex situ* conservation program project by Council

- At the July 2015 meeting, Council referred the ANBG project proposal for an *Ex situ* conservation program under the Global Strategy for Conservation to the Friends' Public Fund. Council recommended support for the fieldwork component of this project up to a maximum of \$25,000 over two years. Further, Council recommended that the project manager provide more detail about the intended fieldwork prior to the funds being expended (Refer to July 2015 Council Minute 5.5.2 Projects Committee – ANBG proposal for *ex situ* conservation program).
- Barbara Podger advised the matter had not been formally referred to the Public Fund by the time of its last meeting and hence had not been considered. She noted that the project proposal lacked a detailed budget and hence the Public Fund would only be able to give in principle support at this stage.
- Council agreed the Projects Committee should seek a detailed budget breakdown and more clarity about the intended fieldwork component prior to referring the proposal back to Council for consideration. Additionally because the proposal provides opportunities for involvement of Friends' groups it would be more appropriate for funding to come from the Friends.

5.5.2 Plant Science Group

- The ANBG has approached the Friends' Plant Science Group to assist with improvements in the southern annex related to potential developments identified in the the Master Plan. The first step is to be preparation of a report drawing together all the available information on the area. A small working group has been established to guide this first phase of the project and it is hoped the report will be ready before the end of 2015. This should enable priorities for action in the area to be identified. The project will require liaison with the Friends of Black Mountain and other relevant interest groups. David Couatts will provide updates to Council.

5.5.3 Friends website

- David Couatts informed Council of a meeting with David More (Friends website team) of David's plans to improve the process for amendments and additions to the Friends website, including a better system for the Friends broadcast emails. The work should be completed by the end of the year. Council will be advised on progress.

6. Next meeting: 2.30pm, Tuesday 1 September 2015, Dickson Room.

The meeting closed at 4.30 pm.

Lesley Jackman
President