

**Meeting of Council
Tuesday 5th August 2014
Dickson Room**



Minutes

Attendance

Present: David Coutts (Meeting Chairman), Lesley Jackman, John Connolly, Marion Jones, Dennis Ayliffe, Glenys Bishop.

Ex officio: Peter Byron, Anne Phillips, Barbara Podger

Apologies: Anne Campbell, Jan Finley, Warwick Wright, Judy West, Steve Speer, Alan Munns

1. Opening

The meeting was opened by the President, David Coutts, at 1:30PM.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings

Motion: That the minutes of the Council meeting of 1st July 2014 be taken as read and accepted.

Proposed: David Coutts, Seconded, Dennis Ayliffe. Motion carried.

3. Matters arising from Minutes.

3.1 Alpine Project

- A four page insert covering summaries of the presented papers is being prepared for insertion in the next Fronds issue
- A fuller report with between 20 and 24 pages is to be printed in booklet form.
- About 400 copies will be available for distribution to the participants and other interested parties. They will also be made available at the AGM in October.
- *It was moved by David Coutts, seconded by John Connolly that the amount approved for expenditure for the printing be increased to \$2,000. The motion was carried.*

3.2 Summer Concert Series

- Organisation for the concerts was proceeding
- Results of the application of a grant from ACT Health were due on 20th August.
- Further sponsorship leads were being followed.

3.3 No action had been taken as yet on an insert for the Australia's Garden booklet but Barbara Podger would advise if she wished to proceed with this.

4.1 Council Operation Manual

- Jan Finley had circulated further documents for consideration and approval by Council.
 - Council approved the amended version of the Guides policy and operations documents subject to agreement at the next Guides meeting
 - The circulated document outlined the "In Flower This Week" procedures was approved.
 - The circulated document covering the operation of the "Plant Science Group" was also approved.
- Lesley Jackman would discuss any gaps with Jan Finley and seek a suitable way of dealing with these.
- Information about the reported existence of a "Friends Craft Group" was to be sought by Marion Jones

4.2 Annual General Meeting

- There was discussion on possible candidates for Executive and General Council positions

that will become vacant at the next AGM.

4.3 Projects

- The Projects Committee had circulated a list of possible projects with their recommendations.
 1. **Lighting extension to the Red Centre Garden**
 - *Council approved this on the motion of David Coutts, seconded by Dennis Ayliffe*
 2. **Banksia Garden Construction 2015/2016**
 - Much of the expected cost is related to removal of poor and fungus affected soil
 - *Approved in principle was agreed to by Council with a final decision deferred probably until next year...*
 3. **Public Art Work**
 - The project was scheduled for completion in June 2015 with a budget costing of about \$100,000.
 - The site was to be chosen by the Public Art Committee from those identified in the Public Art masterplan
 - This initial proposal was for commissioning Pamille Berg to draw up a concept plan for a Work of art suitable for the designated site at a cost of \$6,500.
 - There was considerable discussion on this particularly as it was unclear as to how much the Friends would ultimately be committed to.
 - It was also noted that the Friends had provided \$116,000 for the Red Centre pavement artwork and some members might feel that such a further large sum would not be the most effective use of Friends money.
 - Council agreed to funding of \$6,500 for the feasibility report and proposal subject to any proposal being in keeping the Friends aims as set out in Section 3 of its constitution
 - Freezer and Growth cabinet – Barbara Podger noted that the Public Fund was looking for projects in the current financial year and would like more information about the seed counter. She asked the chair of the Project Committee if the committee could consider this project and added that Tom North would be coming to the next Public Fund meeting in mid-September. Jeff Hay wanted assurance that this kind of assistance would be within the remit of the Public Fund.
 4. Council approved the grant to the ANBG Library for book purchase and also to support the plant finder app and the poster and bookmarks proposal.

4.4 Books

- Mike Johnson had agreed to appraise, list and price the books
- A booksale will be run in conjunction with the spring Plant Sale.
- It was also proposed that the books could be offered for sale at Thursday Talks and the AGM

4.5 Growing Friends

- The damage caused by the fallen tree branch had been mostly repaired.
- *Council agreed to meeting the cost of shadecloth to a maximum of \$1,000*
- **Propagation Workshop**
 - *Council indicated that it supported the initiative but that suggestions of payment to ANBG staff would cause difficulties.*

4.6 Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Conference

- Several members have indicated they will be attending.
- Pat Wright is one of the listed speakers at the conference and David Coutts will give a report on new significant happenings at ANBG
- Warwick Wright is renominating as vice-President of the Association of Friends of

Botanic Gardens for a further two years.

4.7 Guides Conference 2017

- A planning meeting had been held and a planning committee with Glenys as convenor constituted,
- The next meeting will be on August 25th
- Judy West had indicated full support of ANBG

4.8 Friends Around the Lake – David Coutts outlined his idea of a Friends Around the Lake Event for 2014; in previous years Breakfast with the Birds had been used for this but the idea for 2014 was a late afternoon guided walk, in November, to the RCG. Peter Byron gave his support to this.

4.9 Following a request from the ANBG Bookshop Shiela Cudmore will be asked to produce 12 copies of the latest “Impression of ANBG” DVD

5 Reports

5.1 Executive Director, Judy West

- This Item was covered by The General Manager, Peter Byron

5.2 General Manager, Peter Byron

- Ways of managing the ANBG budget are still being considered.
- Responses to the invitation of expressions of interest in providing a masterplan for ANBG infrastructure resulted in two applicants being invited to tender. This is expected to take 6 to 8 weeks and a advisory committee will be set up to assess the submitted master plans including a representative of the NCA and the commercial manager for the Canberra Airport. The Friends will be invited to nominate a person to this committee. (The plan would include provision for a children’s playground.)
- Reorganisation of staff offices has been completed.
- A soft fall will be installed around the thorny devil in the RCG.
- The Asteraceae Garden is proceeding as planned
 - A “planting out” will take place on 16th September.
 - The Friends are invited to nominate around 10 to 15 members to take part.
 - These will be drawn mainly from Guides, Growing Friends and the Plant Science group.
- The Red Centre Garden Children’s Trail should be in place in September.
- The lower boardwalk renovation is progressing.
- ANBG phone system is working but a new message bank will be installed pending the availability of capital funds
- The interviews conducted as part of the Review of the BRC were inconclusive and as the ANBG sees the BRC as having some value it had been decided to leave the facility as is.
 - .Barbara Podger suggested that, with some re-arrangement of furniture, the room could be used as a small meeting room both for the Visitor Services staff and Friends committees.
 - Council felt that this was a good idea and should be considered by ANBG management.

5.3 Friends Liaison .Steve Speer provided a report for tabling at the meeting...

- Matters Covered were
 - Breakfast with the Birds advertising on ANBG website, Visit Canberra Website with Social media postings later in August
 - After Dark programmes were being put in place
 - Enchanted after dark
 - Sunset Cinema after dark
 - Delicious after Dark
 - Star Gazers after dark

- The Display Glasshouse interpretive signs were in place.
- Labels for the Friends donated Botanic Artworks are being put in the Dickson Room.
- Asteraceae Garden
 - Some interpretive signs are being designed
 - Sabrina Sonntag and Narilla Hirsch, from the Guides, are developing a Guides Asteraceae handbook.
 - The opening is set for November 26th.
 - A planting day with Friends participation will be on September 11th
- Science Week
 - Secret Life of Plants Trail will be in place from 16th to 24th August.
 - ANBG will have a table at the ANU Science Careers day on 15th August
- Floriade
 - ANBG will host a Bush Foods tasting stall on 26 & 27 September

5.3 Treasurer

- The treasurer's report for July had been circulated to Council.
- The President had viewed and signed off the monthly bank statement.
- *It was moved by David Coutts, seconded by John Connolly that the accounts be received and payments approved. **Motion carried.***
- *Council also approved the 2013/2014Accounts*
- The Treasurer reported that the annual accounts had been submitted to the Auditor

5.4 Secretary

- The list of correspondence for July had been circulated.
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5.5 Friends Groups Reports

- Group reports as set out in the Correspondence list for July had been circulated to Council members,
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The meeting concluded at 3:10PM

David Coutts

President