



# **FRIENDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS INC**

## **20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Tuesday 10 February 2009 at 5.30pm

ANBG Theatrette

### **MINUTES**

#### **Item 1 Opening and Welcome**

The President opened the meeting at 5.30pm and welcomed members present. A list of those attending is attached to these minutes.

#### **Item 2**

Apologies were received from Rosemary Purdie, Lesley Kettle, Barbara Scott and Les Fielke.

#### **Item 3 Confirmation of minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> AGM**

The minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> AGM, held on 13 February 2008, were adopted as circulated.

Moved Ron Fisher, seconded Kath Holtzapffel.

#### **Item 4 Presidents Report**

Alan Munns presented his report for the preceding year, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Alan Munns informed the meeting that Senator Kate Lundy had indicated her interest in hosting a second forum, to concentrate on the gardens as a place to visit, as a national institution and its education potential. He also informed the meeting that Les Fielke had resigned from Council but had offered to continue working as the IT manager, especially in relation to the membership database.

Alan Munns moved that his report be adopted. This was seconded by David Coutts and carried.

#### **Item 5 Treasurer's report**

Beverly Fisher presented her report for the year ended 30 September 2008, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. This report covers the Friends and the Public Fund.

Beverly Fisher moved that her report be adopted. This was seconded by Barbara Podger and carried.

#### **Item 6 Report by Director of ANBG**

Anne Duncan presented her report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

David Coutts moved that the Director's report be adopted. This was seconded by Alan Munns and carried.

#### **Item 7 Election of Office Bearers and Members of Council**

The President asked Anne Duncan to take over the Chair for the election of office bearers and Council members.

Anne Duncan informed the meeting that there were five positions up for election at this meeting. These were the President, Vice President, Secretary and three Council members. Each of the positions would hold office for two years. Anne Duncan informed the meeting that the nominations that had been received for these positions were :

President	Alan Munns
Vice president	Barbara Podger
Secretary	David Coutts
Council	John Connolly, Warwick Wright and Andy Rawlinson

As there was only one nomination for each vacant position Anne Duncan declared the candidates listed above elected.

Alan Munns resumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting. Alan asked that the meeting recognize the contribution of Les Fielke over the past year, especially in relation to the moving of the website and setting up broadband access for the email and internet. Les Fielke's willingness to continue as IT advisor was noted with appreciation.

#### **Item 8 Appointment of Auditor**

Beverly Fisher moved that the auditor, Gorrell Long Robertson, be reappointed for the 2008/09 year. Seconded by Barbara Podger and carried.

#### **Item 9 Award of Life membership**

Barbara Podger informed the meeting that Council had decided to award life membership to Pauline Wicksteed. Barbara summarized the contributions made by Pauline over many years. The award was presented by the Patron, Mrs Marlena Jeffery. Pauline thanked the Friends for this award and indicated she hoped to be involved for many years to come.

#### **Item 10 Any other business**

##### *Hudson's discount*

Several members raised the issue of the removal of the 10% discount at Hudsons and asked if there was anything that could be done to return to the past system.

The President indicated that the Council had not welcomed this change and had made strong representations to Hudsons and Gardens management when it became known last year. It was suggested that something might be negotiated with the Gardens to allow active Friends volunteers to get the same discount as members of staff.

The President noted the views of the meeting and indicated that the new Council would take this matter up again with Hudsons and Gardens management.

##### *Lynne Stone*

Warwick Wright asked that the meeting note that Lynne Stone, the botanical artist who is doing the *Acacia pycnantha* artwork, lost everything in the Victorian bushfires but is physically unharmed. The meeting agreed that the Friends condolences should be passed to Lynne, with thanks that she has indicated that she will be finishing the artwork in time for the Wattle Day event in 2009.

**The President closed the meeting at 6.45pm and invited members to stay for a talk by Lucy Sutherland on the Jardin Botanico Nacional de Cuba**