



# FRIENDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS INC

## 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 4 February 2010 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 Isobel McBride, Janet Hadley Williams, Anne Campbell, Joyce Coles and Geoffrey White.

#### **Item 3                    Confirmation of minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> AGM**

The minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> AGM, held on 10 February 2009, were adopted as circulated.

Moved Barbara Scott, seconded Barbara Podger.

#### **Item 4                    President's Report**

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

Alan Munns underlined that, while there are still considerable challenges ahead, there have been positive and welcome developments during the year. Alan welcomed the appointment of the new Executive Director, Dr Judy West and recorded thanks to the outgoing Director, Anne Duncan, for her work for the Gardens.

Alan Munns thanked the Gardens staff for their help to the Friends during the year and for their professionalism and commitment to the Gardens. Alan also thanked his colleagues on Council for their hard work and enthusiasm during the year.

Alan Munns made special mention of Bev Fisher and Louise Muir, who were retiring from Council after many years of service. He underlined the invaluable contributions they had made and the meeting endorsed these comments by acclamation.

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 Murray Fagg and carried.

The Patron, Marlena Jeffery, presented flowers to Bev Fisher to mark members' appreciation for her 18 years of service to the Friends.

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

Dr Judy West presented her report to the meeting. Key points made in this report were

- Dr West was very happy to be involved with the Gardens and looked forward to the opportunities coming from the restructure at Parks Australian to place a higher emphasis on science
- The new Management Plan is a high priority and should be going out to public comment very shortly
- An EIS is under way at the old nursery site, to establish what problems might exist under the ground and an open competition on proposals for future usage may be established after the EIS is finished and assessed
- Partnerships are a high priority, such as the alpine seed project, the Australian cultivar registration project and the weeds coordination project with the Herbarium
- The Atlas of Living Australia is bringing together a wide range of biodiversity data, with close involvement of the Gardens
- There will be involvement of the Gardens in the centenary of Canberra and discussions are being held with Robin Archer
- The website is being upgraded and should be fully operational by April
- Social media initiatives are being developed, especially to link more effectively with younger people

David Coutts moved that the Executive 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 Judy West take over the Chair for the election of office bearers and Council members.

Dr West informed the meeting that there were three positions up for election at this meeting. These were the Treasurer and two Council members. Each of the positions would hold office for two years. Dr West informed the meeting that the nominations that had been received for these positions were :

Treasurer	Marion Jones
Council	Don Beer and Jill More

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

Alan Munns resumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

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

Beverly Fisher moved that the auditor, Gorrell Long Robertson, be reappointed for the 2009/10 year. Seconded by Rosemary Blemings and carried.

#### **Item 9 Other business**

The President informed the meeting that, as requested at the 2009 AGM, the Council had met with Hudsons to discuss the concerns about the removal of the previous 10% discount for Friends. It was reported that these talks had not yielded any change to the policy. The Council had decided this matter would have to wait until the renewal of the contract for the cafe came up again, at which time Council would seek to be involved in the discussions.

**The President closed the meeting at 6.45pm and invited members to stay for a talk by Dr Judy West**