



Friends of the

Australian National Botanic Gardens



Meeting of Council of Friends of the ANBG

Tuesday 1 October 2013 at 1.30pm

Dickson Room, ANBG

Minutes

1. Opening and Apologies

Present: David Coutts (President in the Chair), Dennis Ayliffe, Glenys Bishop, Anne Campbell, Barbara Podger, Warwick Wright

Ex Officio: Judy West, Anne Phillips, Steve Speer

Apologies: Peter Byron, John Connolly, Lesley Jackman, Marion Jones, Jan Finley, Alan Munns

2. Confirmation of Minutes of Council Meeting of 3 September, 2013

Under 5.6 Guides. Glenys Bishop noted that there were 19 new guides (not 18)

David Coutts agreed to do the revisions.

Motion: That the corrected minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September 2013 be accepted.

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

3. Matters Arising From Minutes

3.1 Eucalypt Exhibition and Dahl Trust Application

David Coutts and Alan Munns finalized the application on the basis of information provided by Warwick Wright and submitted it by the due date. An answer is expected in late October. Should it be successful then a small subcommittee will be convened (Warwick Wright [& Pat Wright – health permitting], Jennifer Salkeld, David Coutts, Alan Munns) to discuss implementation. The dates set for the exhibition are 4 August to 6 October 2014.

3.2 In Flower this Week

As was discussed in an earlier Council meeting, this is putting some strain on Gardens resources.

Action: Steve Speers and Anna Monro to discuss as soon as possible with Barbara Daly the proposed change from weekly to fortnightly of “In Flower this Week” with a relevant name change and advise the outcome.

3.3 VIC Volunteers

- Peter Byron and David Coutts met with Margaret Webber to discuss her strong negative views on this; she wishes to raise it at the AGM and will provide a brief summary to be added to the meeting papers.
- Judy West reported on the recent quarterly Site Consultative Meeting at which Union and staff representatives were present, noting a good discussion and positive response to the use of volunteers to meet and greet visitors. The main issue was the speed of implementation and communication about it.
- David Coutts suggested that this scheme be assessed at the end of the year.
- Steve Speer noted that the number of volunteers is increasing; eg in October only five half day slots are to be filled and 3 new volunteers have signed up to help.

4. General Business

4.1 Red Centre Garden

- The Exhibition, as forerunner to the opening of the Red Centre Garden, opened on 23 September in the VIC.
- The official opening of the Red Centre Garden is planned for Friday 1st November. Senator Birmingham, Senator for SA and Parliamentary Secretary to Minister Hunt (Environment) with responsibility for Parks Australia (and hence ANBG) has been invited to officiate. Friends Council will be asked to nominate guests to be invited.

- The Garden will be open, formally, to the Public on 2nd November, the first day of the Bush Capital function to be held at ANBG.
- It was interesting to note that from Black Mountain it is the only part of the ANBG which is visible; as part of developing promotional material it is planned to take photographs from a drone.

4.2 Friends AGM, 10th October 2013

- A reminder about the AGM has been included in the most recent broadcast email to be dispatched today (1st October). It will be held in the Crosbie Morrison Building and directional signs will be needed.
- Nominations: Barbara Podger indicated she will step down from the position of Vice President; Lesley Jackman will nominate for the position. Marion Jones will renominate as Treasurer and Dennis Ayliffe for Committee member; it is likely that there will be one vacancy for Committee. David Coutts will approach Jan Finley to determine her interest in nominating for Committee.
- Alan Munns is to receive Life Membership of the Friends, which Barbara Podger will present along with a bunch of native flowers.
- Council members are asked to bring light food to serve with drinks beforehand. It is hoped that Andy Rawlinson can help with drinks.
- Dr Linda Broadhurst, Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research, has agreed to speak instead of the Centre's Director, Dr Andrew Young.
- Steve Speer will present the Executive Director's Report, as Dr Judy West will be overseas.
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Action: Steve Speer to arrange for directional signs to be set up and also to ensure that glasses are available in the Crosbie Morrison Building for the refreshments.

4.3 Alpine Project

Adrienne Nicotra, lead researcher on the current project at ANU, met with David Coutts and Kristianne Hermann to discuss potential support for a new application to the Australian Research Council to continue the initial project for which the Friends provided support. A detailed proposal is awaited but it is likely to be larger and broader and involve a wider array of industry participants and collaborators and as such it may not be possible to meet the deadline for application (end of November) with a strongly supported proposal. It may be preferable to defer the application until 2014. In addition, all outcomes from the initial project are still to be delivered (additional research publications; articles targeted for the general public, web site material etc).

4.4 Interns

Council agreed to the request from Bronwyn Collins for provision of book tokens (\$80 each) plus a one year's complementary membership of the Friends for Interns working at ANBG over the Summer Vacation. These will be presented by David Coutts at their "graduation" on Friday 14 February 2014.

4.5 Orchid Group

Ben Walcott, in a recent letter to David Coutts, indicated that the Orchid Volunteers are interested to become a member group of the Friends. Currently they are not working at ANBG but helping Dr Mark Clements in his orchid facility at CSIRO. Council believed it was important to clarify the expectations of the Orchid Group in joining the Friends and working at the ANBG orchid facility. David Coutts will discuss this with Ben Walcott before the next Council meeting if possible.

4.6 Broadcast Emails

- It was agreed that the frequency could be more than monthly (if needed) but that it be brief. One has just been dispatched today.
- It should only focus on Friends' matters and these need to be prioritized (eg Thursday Talks are already well advertised elsewhere as is Breakfast with the Birds)
- It should not be a vehicle for advertising for other organisations.
- The distribution mechanism (by Mail Chimp) has now been simplified but more people besides David More need to be instructed in how to do it.
- It would be helpful if someone could take over the broadcast email production and distribution to relieve David Coutts

4.7 Membership Renewal Letter.

Council agreed to the draft of the letter to be sent out inviting members to renew. The number of members is gradually increasing; currently a total of 1850 individuals (adjusted for households)

4.8 CAMPSIS

Action: David Coutts to ascertain from Anne Rawson, Editor, her requirements for the next edition.

4.9 Eucalypt Discovery Trail Brochure.

It appears that since the launch of the trail in mid April 2013, there are very few left of the 2000 brochures printed, such has been the demand.

Council agreed to fund the reprinting of another batch (3,000 or \$600). However, further reprints were to be covered by the ANBG; it would also be necessary to ensure that the relevant specimens covered by the brochure were still alive and well.

Action: Steve Speer to ensure that costs for reprinting of the Eucalypt Discovery Trail brochure was included in the ANBG budget in future.

5. Reports

5.1. Executive Director

- Judy West appraised Council of the new Departmental arrangements and is optimistic of a productive working relationship. Minister Greg Hunt, MP and his Parliamentary Secretary, Senator Simon Birmingham, have good background experience in matters of importance to the Environment Portfolio. The new Departmental Secretary is Dr Gordon de Brouwer, an economist and previously with PM&C. The Deputy Secretary with direct responsibility for ANBG is still Mr Malcolm Thompson.
- David Coutts plans to write to the Senator and Departmental Secretary by way of apprising them of the role of the Friends at the ANBG and of ongoing concerns in relation to Gardens resources. A meeting will be sought at an appropriate time.
- Judy also highlighted her discussions with the ACT's Chief Minister with respect to helping the Arboretum on scientific matters particularly with respect to conservation and seed banking. She has appraised the Chief Minister of the capabilities that ANBG could bring to such an arrangement.
- Judy will attend the AGM of the Council of Heads of Botanic Gardens and the Plant Bank opening at the Mt Annan site of the Sydney Botanic Gardens on 10th October.
- Judy will then lead an Australian delegation for SBSTTA (Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity) to a meeting in Montreal, Canada and later participate at an International Conference on Botanic Gardens Conservation at Dunedin, New Zealand, with other members from ANBG (Lucy Sutherland, David Taylor, Lydia Guja), all of whom, including Judy, will be presenting papers. She returns on 28th October.

5.2 General Manager

No report as Peter Byron was on leave; operational matters were covered by Steve Speer in 5.3

5.3 Friends Liaison

- Arrangements for the Bush Capital Celebration on 2nd and 3rd November are well in hand; media partners are Canberra Weekly and hopefully radio, 2CA. The Chronicle is also a useful advertising vehicle.
- The Departmental Tourism web site will be going live before the ABC TV program on Kakadu on Sunday 13th October. This also includes the ANBG site.
- The Eco Tourism submission is ready to be lodged with the ACT Government for their Tourism Awards.
- Sunset Cinema movies in the Gardens will take place in the early evening from Wednesday to Saturday from 15th November until just before Christmas. The list of movies will be released shortly.
- A marketing plan has been developed for the Red Centre Garden; this is aimed at increasing visitation to the ANBG and to sites not usually visited (eg Glasshouse, renamed Tropical Glasshouse). As part of this, Ian Warden, Canberra Times journalist, has been invited to see the Red Centre Garden, prior to writing about it in his regular column. ACT 7.30 have also been approached.
- The Botanical Bookshop is to stock more merchandise that is specifically ANBG branded eg calendar for 2014, post cards, and T shirts.

- Friends' Projects: The water bubbler fountain has now been installed. The Environmental Monitoring System is still not operational; it is hoped that within 2 weeks some insight as to the problems bedeviling it will be clarified and fixed. The Aboriginal Plant Trail Signs are on hold until the Red Centre Garden interpretative signs have been finished.
- Staff: Jennifer Salkeld is away for 2 weeks until mid-October, Sally Bowman is away overseas until November and Helen McHugh will be handling venue bookings in her absence.

5.4 Treasurer

No report as the Treasurer was interstate.

5.5 Secretary

No report as the Secretary was overseas.

5.6. Friends Group Reports

Social Events

Bush Capital Celebration

- Roving Guides will be needed for the Red Centre Garden during the weekend.
- Volunteers will also be required to help at the event on the Saturday Night 2nd November (ticket sales from 5 to 7.30 pm, wine table from 4.30 to 9.30 pm). The Saturday Night event will encompass music, dancing and dinner (either bring a picnic or sample Floresco's offering of a BBQ Buffet at \$50 for 2 adults and 2 children).
- Tickets for the Saturday night will be for sale on-line up to 2 weeks before the event and then available for purchase on the night.
- In addition to the output from the Media Partners (see 5.3), publicity for the event will include posters for distribution in shopping centres and staked banners on medium strips of key roads as well as listing on the ANBG web site and distribution of an e-flyer; it will also be posted to the Friends Web site. A DL flyer, if ready in time, could be distributed with the call for renewal of ANBG Friends Memberships. Friends around the Lake will also be notified of the event for advertising through their networks.

Action: Barbara Podger to liaise with Julie Akmacic re the DL Flyer advertising the Bush Capital Celebration and also the Membership Team for its distribution.

Breakfast with the Birds.

The numbers for this have increased. It has proved difficult to service the phone enquiries regularly and it was suggested that a mobile phone be purchased so that organizers for a specific event can deal with enquiries directly.

Action: David Coutts to follow up on purchase of a suitable mobile phone for the ANBG Friends.

Open Garden

The Walcotts will be opening their native garden in Red Hill on 26th and 27th October, from 10 am to 4 pm and, as in the past, have generously offered a share of the gate takings to the Friends.

As in the past the Friends have helped (collection of entrance fees, showing people around the garden, providing morning and afternoon tea).

Actions:

- *Warwick Wright to seek volunteers to help (gate, morning and afternoon tea) at the Walcott's Open Garden.
- *Glenys Bishop to seek support from the Guides at the next Guides meeting on 15th October.
- * David Coutts to determine whether to send out another broadcast email about the Walcott's Open Garden.

Guides

- Glenys Bishop will follow up with Helen McHugh with respect to shirts and name badges for new guides.
- Barbara Podger noted that more guides are needed for the pool of guides trained to drive Flora Explorer. Currently there is a bottleneck as some of the new guides are interested in helping with Flora Explorer but they have not yet been assessed and so cannot guide alone; they could, however, in

the meantime, be trained in driving Flora Explorer.

- Glenys Bishop noted that Peter Davidson has resigned from guiding due to ill health; she will write to him.
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Actions:

* Glenys Bishop to follow up with Helen McHugh re shirts, name badges for new guides

* Steve Speer will follow up with Helen McHugh re new guides for Flora Explorer (guiding assessment, driver training)

Projects:

- The Project Subcommittee meeting has had to be post-poned as most of its members are away.
- It will reconvene towards the end of October.
- Eight proposals have been received for consideration.
- The Alpine research proposal (see 4.3) will also need to be reviewed.

Growing Friends:

It has been suggested that it would be more efficient if the earlier process for getting cuttings could be reinstated. For this a list of plants wanted would be approved by ANBG and then Growing Friends could collect the cuttings themselves instead of involving an ANBG Staff member. Peter Byron has agreed to follow up.

Other:

Consideration could be given to the development of a large poster advertising the activities of the Friends as is done at the Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens. This poster could be displayed in a prominent position in the ANBG.

Next meeting:

This is scheduled for Tuesday 12th November, the week after Melbourne Cup.

The meeting closed at 3.50 pm.