

**Meeting of Council
Tuesday 7th October 2014
Dickson Room**



Minutes

Attendance

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

Ex officio: Steve Speer, Anne Phillips, Barbara Podger, Alan Munns

Friends Visitors Rita Maclachlan, Christianna Cobbold

Apologies: Jan Finley, Judy West, Peter Byron,

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 2nd September 2014 be taken as read and accepted.*

Proposed: David Coutts, Seconded, Glenys Bishop. Motion carried.

3. Matters arising from Minutes

3.1 Executive Meeting With ANBG General Manager

- ANBG will stress the desirability of membership of the Friends when recruiting volunteers but cannot make it compulsory.
- Procedures for the 3 hour Friends free parking were discussed
- The implementation of parking permits for volunteers and Friends requiring longer than 3 hours is being addressed
- There will be procedures set up to ensure that there is consistency between the Friends and ANBG lists of Volunteers.

3.2 Summer Concert Series

- A provisional budget for the 2015 concert series has been drawn up and circulated.
- The estimated nett cost is of the order of \$26,000.
- The bands' contracts provide for half payment in the event of cancellation 24 hours in advance
- Lesley Jackman reported that there were some promising leads on sponsorship. It had been discussed that sponsorship funds would be used by the ANBG to offset staff costs.

3.3 Insert into "Australia's Garden" booklet

- Discussion centred around the proposal to have printed a four page insert covering the Red Centre and Asteraceae Gardens and reduction in the price of the booklet.
- It was suggested that we could have them for sale at the Concerts and possibly in the VIC.
- **Motion:**
 - *It was moved by David Coutts, seconded by Barbara Podger, that 500 4 page inserts, covering the Red Centre Garden and the Asteraceae Gardens be printed and the price be reduced to \$5, subject to discussion with the ANBG Bookshop.*
 - **The motion was carried.**

4. General Business

4.1 AGM

- **Nominations for Council positions becoming vacant received or expected were:**

- **President** **Lesley Jackman.**
- **Vice-President** **Jan Finley**
- **Secretary** **Rita Maclachlan**
- **Council Members** **Susan Serjeantson**

Christianna Cobbald

Barbara Tyler

Ian Primrose

- John Turnbull had agreed to speak to the presentation of Life Membership to Denise Newman.
- David Coutts will check with the AGM speaker, Adrienne Nicotra.
- Council members were asked to bring a plate. David Coutts will co-ordinate
- John Connolly will look after drinks and glasses

4.2 Alpine Project Report

- The proof copy of the report was circulated.
- 500 copies will be printed and copies will be available at the AGM.
- The report will be posted on the website.

4.3 Projects

- David Coutts reported that the Public Fund had not agreed to finance the seed incubator for the Seedbank.
 - This had been on the list of projects recommended by the Projects Committee
 - ***David Coutts moved that Council approve funding of \$11,700 for the seed incubator. The motion was seconded by Dennis Ayliffe and carried by Council***
- Anne Phillips reported that Toby Golson and Julie Percival had commenced the collection trip to Queensland and Northern NSW. Cuttings were arriving at the nursery
- Anna Munroe had requested input from the Friends on the selection of books for the next selection of Library books from the Friends grant.
 - *Christianna Cobbald agreed to consult with Maureen Connolly and some other Guides on book selection.*
- Steve Speer reported that they were awaiting a third quote for the lighting extension to the Red Centre Garden and the Plant Finder App was being progressed.
- It was proposed to set up a small group to help advance the Aboriginal Trail project.

4.4 Asteraceae Garden Opening

- Don Beer had circulated a progress report.
- The opening is set for November 24th.

4.5 Public Art

- Pamille Berg has been engaged to carry out a feasibility study being financed to around \$6,000 by the Friends.
- David Coutts pointed out that with amounts for art work being put at up to \$100,000 he did not see the Friends as the sole funders but more as an element of a wider contribution.
- A Friends Steering has been set up to consult with Pamille on the study
- The Committee is
 - Lynden Ayliffe
 - Max Bourke
 - Marion Jones
 - Barbara Podger

4.6 Friends Around the Lake Event

- Owing to the various ANBG and Friends functions in December and January it was decided to postpone the event into 2015
- After discussion about the type of event that should be offered it was proposed to slot in an “Enlighten” type “Members and Friends Around the Lake” tour mid-week between the two “Enlighten” weekends. Drinks and nibbles could be offered with a charge to cover costs.
- This would highlight the Friends lighting extension project
- Glenys Bishop said that she preferred that our volunteer guide be stationed at points along the walk rather than leading tour groups.
- The Social Events committee would be asked to consider the proposal.

5. Reports

In the absence of the Executive Director and the General Manager Items 5.1 & 5.2 were dealt with by Steve Speer,

5.3 Friends Liaison

- TCL had been engaged as the Masterplan consultant
 - The company principal, Peter Tonkin will visit the Gardens on October 17.
 - A meeting of stakeholders, including Friends representatives, will be held in early November
 - A draft concept should be completed in early December with a community information day to be held on 7th December.
 - The plan should be in place by March or April 2015.
- The reconstructed lower Rainforest Boardwalk was finished.
- The renovation of the cafe toilets should be finished by October 17
- Senator Birmingham will visit the ANBG on 21st October to look at the Red Centre Garden one year on.
- The Gardens have submitted an entry to the ACT Tourism Award.
- The “Enlightened” tours would be held on 6 nights over two weekends, (27, 27 Feb & 1st March and 6th, 7th & 8th March)
 - The Guides had agreed to participate.
 - The Friends would provide a drinks table
 - An initial glass of wine and possibly some food (truffles) would be included in the ticket cost.
 - Wine would also be available for sale.
 - A Council member on the current liquor licence would need to be present on each night.
- Anne Phillips drew attention to a “Open Morning” for Friends at the Nursery on Thursday 16th October from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

5.4 Treasurer’s Report

- The annual Audited Accounts for the Friends and the Public Fund had been circulated
- The accounts for September 2014 had also been circulated.
- ***It was moved by David Coutts, seconded by Marion Jones, that the accounts be received and payments approved. Motion carried.***
- *The President, David Coutts indicated that he had sighted and signed the bank statement for September.*

5.5 Secretary

- The list of correspondence for July had been circulated.
- *It was agreed that the new secretary would become the Public Officer.*
 - John Connolly would obtain the required form from the ACT Office of Regulatory Services along with the Annual return form.

5.6 Friends Groups Reports

- The membership report shows a membership number close to 2,000.
- “New Members”: talk and guided tour would be held on 9th November. Refreshments would be provided.
 - The invitation letter should mention to possibility of scooters and the Flora Explorer for those who might need assistance
- Warwick Wright circulated an updated list of External Talks given by Pat and Warwick.
- The next issue of Fronds is set for 1st December
 - Articles should be in by mid-October
 - Final notices etc, by mid-November
- The Schools Photographic Competition prizes presentations will take place on 18th October.
- Glenys Bishop reported that the Guides Conference organisers expect to make some venue bookings before Christmas and would need deposit funds.
 - *Council agreed to make funds available as required*

Lesley Jackman moved a vote of thanks to the retiring members of council.

- David Coutts
- Glenys Bishop
- Anne Campbell
- John Connolly
- Warwick Wright
- Anne Phillips (Staff Rep)

The meeting concluded at 3:20PM

David Coutts
President