



Meeting of Council of Friends of the ANBG

Tuesday 4 June 2013 at 1.30pm

Dickson Room, ANBG

Minutes

Attendance

Present David Coutts (President), Barbara Podger, John Connolly, Lesley Jackman, Marion Jones, Dennis Ayliffe, Glenys Bishop, Anne Campbell, Warwick Wright,.

Ex officio: Judy West, Steve Speer, Alan Munns.

Apologies Peter Byron, Anne Phillips, Jan Finley

1. The meeting was opened by the President, David Coutts at 1:35 PM

2. Minutes Confirmation

- The minutes of the meeting held on 7th May 2013, were accepted on the motion of Barbara Podger, seconded by Glenys Bishop

3. Matters Arising From Minutes

3.1 *Eucalypt Trail*

- Murray Fagg had launched the trail on 17th May with about 50 attending
- The report for the Dahl Trust had been prepared.
- Steve Speer said that information on the trail would be placed on the ANBG website with a link to the Friends website.
- It was decided to place the full report, prepared for the Dahl Trust, on the Friends website. Anne Campbell was to liaise with Alan Munns to implement this.
- A survey of public response will be taken after around six months.
- A holder for the brochures is to be put near the "In Flower this Week" stand.
- The organising committee were congratulated for the successful finalising of the project

3.2 *Aboriginal Plant Trail*

- The artwork was being changed from silhouettes to line drawings to improve the impact of the interpretive signs. Final designs will await Siobhan Duffy's return from leave on 30th June.
- It was hoped to have it finished by NAIDOC week.
- In answer to a query from David Coutts concerning the acknowledgement of the Friends contribution to the signage, Steve Speer said that, because of size limitations, the Friends logo would only appear on the first sign.
- David Coutts said he was most unhappy about this as he felt the logo should be on all signs.
- Steve Speer agreed to send print-ups of the signs to David Coutts.

3.3 *Friends Lounge Maintenance*

- This has been taken care of for the present.

4. General Business

4.1 *2013 AGM*

- David Coutts reported that Andrew Young was unavailable.
- As the AGM date was not absolutely fixed Judy West offered to approach Andrew to see if another date was suitable.

4.2 *17th June Council Discussion Meeting*

- David Coutts had circulated a list of matters for discussion at the meeting to the Elected Council.
- A copy was passed to Judy West.
- As many of the items deal with membership, the membership team had been invited to participate
- Council was asked for other suggestions of members who might be keen to contribute.

4.3 *Broadcast Emails*

- There was discussion on the frequency of news/broadcast emails.
- It was agreed that it was desirable to send out regular emails to members to keep them informed of Friends activities and news items from the Gardens. Monthly issues could be appropriate depending on what was happening.
- It was agreed that the President would continue to assemble the material for the time being at least and the website team would take responsibility for sending out these emails, in consultation with membership.

4.4 *Schools Photography Competition*

- Cecilia Milano had indicated that it was under control.
- The opening was scheduled for 15th November. Invitation to the schools would go out on 16th July.
- Signed releases from identifiable persons in photos would be needed. ANBG has a form.
- Cecilia had asked if the water dragon logo on the entry form could be upgraded. The Gardens may have a suitable drawing or Siobhan Duffy could produce a design.
- It was felt that information should be sent to teachers before the end of the current term if possible so that the competition could be incorporated into curriculums.

4.4 *Friends 2013/2014 Programme.*

- The annual program of the Friends had been prepared and will be circulated before the next Council meeting.

4.5 *Nilavan Adams Stand Donation*

- A brochure stand had been donated by Nilivan Adams.
- A suitable use for it will be considered.

4. Reports

5.1/5.2 *Executive Director/General Manager*

- In the absence of Peter Byron Agenda Items 5.1 & 5.2 were dealt with by Judy West
- The Friends Executive will be briefed on the ANBG budget at 11:30 AM on Tuesday June 18th.
- Peter Byron is planning to make a presentation on the budget to the July Council meeting.
- There had been detailed budget discussions with Parks Australia over the last week or so.
- Arising from Ministerial discussion sessions resulting from criticisms of the management performance of National Parks, a process for assessing outcomes against the goals set out in their various NP management plans is being set in place. There had been much intense discussion within ANBG addressing implementation.
- A detailed examination of the core functions of each of the areas ANBG operates in has been carried out over the last few months. It addresses the impact of possible future cutting back of particular functions on the overall Gardens operation.
- The Red Centre Garden is progressing with the viewing platform installed.
- The fencing will probably be removed in August to allow access.
- The formal opening is still set for the beginning of November (The Bush Capital Weekend)
- The Meeting Place will be covered until the opening.
- David Coutts will inform our Patron, Michael Bryce, of the opening date.
- The librarian, Catherine Jordan, is remaining at ANBG but her role will be widened to include research for other parts of Parks Australia. This would bring forward the need to find a different process for the production of "In Flower this Week".
- Catherine Jordan had been awarded "ACT Librarian of the Year".
- There may be some Friend's members with sufficient librarian experience to assist in helping Catherine.
- Julie Percival had taken part in a seed and cutting collection expedition to Henbry Station in the NT. This had been very successful both of the material gathered and for Julie's professional development.
- Lucy Sutherland and Judy West had represented CHABG at the Museums of Australia conference, recently held in Canberra. Judy commented that there were no similar collaboration schemes in other museum groups like the seedbank partnerships amongst Australian Botanic Gardens
- Parks Australia had agreed that ANBG photos and other information can be used freely, with appropriate acknowledgement, in research and for other non-commercial uses. Charges would still apply to commercial publications.

5.3 *Friends Liaison.*

- The Bookshop was producing a 2014 Calendar with a print run of 500.
- The ANBG Tourism website is being prepared and a draft should be ready in a couple of weeks. The business side of the ANBG will be on a separate linked site.

- The “Thorny Devil” and the “Termite Mound “should arrive shortly and be installed by the end of June. (Both will be covered until the formal opening).
 - As part of the BRC review there had been a meeting on June 3 A survey had been sent out to about 20 facilitators but only 5 responses had been received.
 - It was pointed out that many of those originally involved do not regard themselves as facilitators now.
 - It was hoped that further input to the review would come from the next “Plant Science” group meeting to which Bronwyn Copp will be invited.
 - Jennifer Salkeld has commenced the review of the Flora Explorer. A questionnaire is being prepared.
 - The reprinting of ANBG visitor brochures is being timed to the Red Centre Garden opening.
 - Activities for Science Week in August include a Seedbank Interactive Trail funded by a grant from National Science Week.
 - The weekend ranger positions have been filled. Bruce Driver and Josh Creaser will be rotating two weeks on, two weeks off.
- 5.4 *Treasurer*
- The monthly financial statement had been circulated.
 - The insurance renewal proposal had been received. Council agreed to payment of the premium. (Moved David Coutts, seconded Lesley Jackman)
 - There was discussion on the account keeping software being used, particularly in the light of succession planning for the treasurer’s position. It was agreed that a commercial accounting package was desirable and MYOB at a cost of around \$1,000 was probably the best choice. Marion Jones said that, rather than an outright purchase, a licence at a monthly rental of about \$30 can be obtained. This has the advantage of access with password control by any internet connected computer. The Treasurer was authorised to conduct a month’s trial and report back to Council. (Barbara Podger, David Coutts)
 - It was moved by Marion Jones, seconded by John Connolly that the report be received and accounts approved for payment.
- 5.5 *Secretary*
- The correspondence list for May had been circulated.
 - There was discussion on the agenda items and minutes of council meetings.
 - It was proposed that the sub-committee co-ordinators be asked to submit activity reports by email to the secretary prior to each Council meeting. These reports would be appended to the minutes and the agenda would have a single “Sub-committee Reports” item.
 - The main body of the minutes would only record resolutions of Council
- 5.6 *Projects*
- The mid-year call for project proposals was being made.
 - ANBG had received 12 proposals from staff and these were being short-listed and ANBG management would look at the list in the next week.
 - The “ChatterVox” had been trialled on the Flora Explorer and was judged useful. However a decision would await enquiries by the Rangers on the cost, etc, of installing a fixed system with a wireless microphone. on Flora.
 - The theatre lapel microphone was being upgraded
 - The meeting expressed the strong expectation that the water bubbler would be installed by September.
- 5.7 *Public Fund*
- No report
- 5.8. *Membership*
- The Membership report for May had been circulated.
 - 8 or 9 New Friends attended the walk and morning tea on 19th May.
- 5.9. *Thursday Talks*
- The programme to early 2014 was in place.
 - Don Beer will deliver the next “Centenary Chat” on Thursday June 6th
- 5.10. *Newsletter & Broadcast Emails*
- Barbara Podger drew attention to the deadlines for the next Fronds issue, mid-June for main articles 28th June for “What’s On” and 9th July for final submissions.
- 5.11. *Guides*
- Guides Training Course
 - Glenys Bishop reported that the schedule for the guides training course had been altered and would now be held on Thursdays and Fridays starting on 4th July and continuing for 5 weeks.
 - There had been 28 applicants, 25 were interviewed and 21 had been accepted
 - “Turned On” guided walks are being run in June and may be extended into July and August, depending

- on the response. Guides from the National Gallery had been “sublimely” impressed.
 - Jane Keogh and Maureen Connolly had put together a handbook on the Red Centre Garden for guides. They are seeking someone from the Gardens to check the botanical accuracy of the contents.
 - The 2015 Guides Conference is scheduled for Sydney and the suggestion was made that the 2017 conference should be at ANBG. Council was in favour but, as the organisation would largely devolve on the Guides, their agreement was essential. This would be put to the next Guides meeting.
- 5..12. *Social Events & Activities*
- The next planning meeting for the Bush Capital weekend is on Friday 14th June
 - There was further discussion on ways of raising money at this function. A raffle was discounted.
 - It was decided to further examine the running of a “Drinks Table”. A co-ordinator would be sought.
 - The arrangements for Breakfast with the Birds were proceeding. Information on the new Bookings operator that the Gardens were trialling would be sought.
- 5..13. *Growing Friends*
- The minutes of the Growing Friends meeting held on May 4th were received.
- 5..14. *Website*
- Alan Munns reported that the website was up to date,
- 5..15. *Botanic Art Group*
- The report of the 2013 Botanic Art Show had been circulated,
- 5..16. *Photography Group*
- 22 had attended the last group meeting and a speaker list for the year .had been mapped out,
- 5..17. *Plant Science Group*
- Council noted that the Plant Science group would be meeting on 28 June. Council agreed that the former BRC talks would now come under the Plant Science group and have a broader focus.
- 5.18 *External Talks*
- Warwick Wright tabled an updated list of forthcoming talks he and Pat would deliver.

The meeting was closed at 3:50 PM

Minutes approved by Council 2 July 2013