

Minutes

Attendance

- Members: Lesley Jackman (Chair), Dennis Ayliffe, Christianna Cobbold, Jan Finley, Marion Jones, Rita Maclachlan, Sue Sergeantson.
- Ex officio: Judy West, Peter Byron, Steve Speer.
- Co-opted: Glenys Bishop, David Coutts, Alan Munns. Barbara Podger.
- Apologies: Barbara Tyler, Rosella Hampshire.

1. Opening and confirmation of agenda

The meeting was opened by the Friends' President, Lesley Jackman, at 2:30 pm on 6 October 2015.

2. Minutes of Council Meeting 4 August 2015

No amendments were made to the minutes, they were taken as read and accepted.

Resolution: Council accepts the minutes of the August 2015 Council meeting.

Proposed: Christianna Cobbold. Seconded: Sue Sergeantson. **Carried.**

3. Matters arising from September 2015 Meeting Minutes

3.1.1 Minute 5.4.1 – Financial report

The Financial Report for the August 2015 was not ratified by Council at the September meeting, therefore the following resolution was put to the October 2015 Council:

Resolution: Council accepts the August 2015 financial statement of receipts and outgoings presented at the September meeting of Council.

Proposed: Christianna Cobbold. Seconded: Sue Sergeantson. **Carried.**

3.1.2 Minute: 5.4.1. – Term Deposit

- It was agreed by Council, 'That subject to the agreement of the Acting Treasurer, Council considers it feasible to transfer \$40,000 from the Maxi Account into the Term Deposit maturing on 11 September 2015. The term deposit should be reinvested at the best possible rate for six months.'
- Outcome: The above mentioned action was not ratified by Council, and the \$40,000 mentioned was not transferred from the Maxi Account into the Term Deposit maturing on 11 September 2015 – it automatically rolled-over.

Resolution: Council accepts the automatic roll-over of the Term Deposit (\$121,656) maturing on 11 September 2015.

Proposed: Marion Jones. Seconded: Jan Finley. **Carried.**

3.2 Ex situ conservation project

- John Fitz Gerald, convenor of the Friends' Seed volunteers ('Seedy Vols') has agreed to be take on the liaison role to work with the ANBG project team to facilitate Friends' assistance for the project.

4. General Business

4.1 Floresco feedback

- Patrick McKenna and Mick Duros (Hellenic Club and Floresco Cafe management) met with Council to discuss the cafe's menu options and suggestions for improvement – these were matters that had been raised with Council by a group of volunteer guides. Patrick and Mick emphasised that the Friends are important to Floresco and that they were appreciative of the feedback from Council.
- The President invited the Hellenic Club team to develop a written response to the feedback to be tabled at the November meeting of Council. Additionally Council members advised that the Friends would be pleased to advertise Floresco's seasonal menu changes in *Fronds* magazine and Friends' broadcast emails.

4.2 Summer Concerts financial arrangements

- Financial arrangements for management of the 2016 Summer Concert series were agreed with the ANBG. As the major sponsorship agreement has been signed with the Gardens, Council agreed it is practical that the Friends pay a grant of \$10,000 (made up from gate takings) and the \$5,000 ICON Water sponsorship money to the ANBG which would then deal with the concert budget, thereby limiting potential risk for the Friends.

Resolution: Council agreed to support the 2016 Summer Concerts' budget by providing to the ANBG: a grant of \$10,000; and the \$5,000 sponsorship to be received by the Friends from ICON Water.

Proposed: Jan Finley. Seconded: Sue Sergeantson. **Carried.**

4.3 Public Art – Public Fund decision on tax deductibility

- Barbara Podger, Chair of the Friends' Public Fund, advised the trustees have committed \$30,000 in cash over a two year period and will provide tax deductibility for donations for the tree house gazebo project through the Public Fund.

4.4 Friends' Annual General Meeting 8 October 2015

- There will be three vacant Council positions at the AGM as Denis Ayliffe, Marion Jones and Ian Primrose have given notice of their resignations. Nominations have been received for two general Council positions and none for the Treasurer's position.
- Marion Jones agreed to be co-opted to Council to serve as Acting Treasurer as an interim measure pending the appointment of a long-term successor.

Resolution: Council agreed to co-opt Marion Jones as Acting Treasurer of the Friends of the ANBG from 6 October 2015 to the conclusion of the the Friends' Annual General Meeting on 8 October 2015.

Proposed: Jan Finley. Seconded: Christianna Cobbold **Carried.**

4.5 National Library of Australia PANDORA Web Archive: request to archive Friends web site

- Council supported a request from the National Library of Australia (NLA) to include the Friends website in the PANDORA Archive.
- PANDORA, Australia's Web Archive, was set up by the Library in 1996 to enable the archiving and provision of long-term access to online Australian publications. In giving permission, the Friends would grant The NLA a licence under the Copyright Act 1968, to copy Friends' publications into the Archive and to provide online public access to them in perpetuity. The NLA would archive the website periodically to record significant additions and changes.

Resolution: Council supported a request by the National Library of Australia for the Friends of the ANBG to give permission to include the Friends' website in the Library's PANDORA web archive.

Proposed: Jan Finley. Seconded: Sue Sergeantson. **Carried**

4.6 Friends' parking

- The President advised she will consult with Friends' Special Interest Groups on their experience with the ANBG parking arrangements which were instituted 12 months ago. She will do so before the Friends' Membership Team issues parking permits for the ensuing year.
- Council agreed to a request from the ANBG for voluntary administrative assistance preparing the parking

permits.

4.7 Request for support to CANBR Volunteer Botanical Training Program summer 2016

- Council agreed to support the Volunteer Botanical Training Program run by the Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research over the summer months of 2016. The Friends' support would be at the same level as provided in previous years - a book voucher from the Botanic Gardens bookshop and a one-year complimentary membership of the Friends of the ANBG.
- Participants will receive instruction and guidance to help pursue careers in botany. The Program is divided between training sessions and working in teams to provide basic herbarium assistance and research assistance, and a number of field trips to help participants become familiar with plant collection techniques, the regional flora and cryptogams.

Resolution: Council confirmed its commitment to support the 2016 Volunteer Botanical Training Program run by the Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research. The Friends' support would be the same level as in previous years, comprising a book voucher from the Botanic Gardens Bookshop and a one-year complimentary membership of the Friends of the ANBG.

Proposed: Christainna Cobbold. Seconded: Rita Maclachlan. **Carried**

4.8 Request for support for Seed Bank volunteers attendance at the National Seed Science Forum, Mt Annan, March 2016

- Council considered a request for the Friends to fund one or possibly more Seed Bank volunteers to attend the National Seed Science Forum in March 2016. The event will be hosted by the Australian Botanic Garden at Mount Annan and will be held at the Australian PlantBank, in collaboration with the ANPC and the Australian Grains Genebank. The event will bring together leading botanical and agricultural institutions, seed scientists and conservation and restoration experts to share ideas that showcase the importance of seed science to the future of plant conservation and food security in Australia. The funding bid for one person was estimated to be \$1000- \$1500 covering early bird registration, accommodation, meals and transport.
- Judy West noted the Seed Bank laboratory volunteers are worthy of support. She advised she would investigate whether there is a concession available for the registration of unwaged attendees. Note: at the end of the meeting Judy West advised the registration fee for Seed Bank volunteers is \$320.
- Council agreed to restrict support to early bird registrations of Seed Bank volunteers. This approach is consistent with the approach taken with support for volunteer guides attending the Australasian guides' conferences.
- Council also agreed it would be useful to develop a policy for Friends' support of volunteers at conferences with the aim to ensure equity between the various Friends' groups.

4.9 Green Army application

- An ANBG Green Army application, sponsored by Friends' President has been submitted. It is materially the same as the application submitted in the previous round.

4.10 High Mountain Adaptation Centre of Excellence EOI- update

- Advice has been received from Associate Professor Adrienne Nicotra, ANU Research School of Biology, that the bid supported by the Friends of the ANBG for an ARC Centre of Excellence for High Mountain Adaptation was not selected to proceed to the full proposal stage. Council gave its support for the bid at the July 2015 Council meeting.

5 Reports

5.1 ANBG Executive Director

- New Ministerial and National Parks administrative arrangements were noted.
- The National Parks Science Forum will be held in Canberra during the week of 12 October 2015.
- The Friday Farmers' Markets at the Gardens have been well attended, the aim being to raise the Canberra community's awareness of the Gardens.

5.2 ANBG General Manager

- Pamille Berg will commence work on the tree house gazebo project in November.
- Visitation numbers over the past 4 months have increased by 23,000 over the same period last year, due to

better weather, a range of varied activities and an intensive radio campaign.

- The Sunset Cinema commences in November.
- Three ANBG staff are now accredited in tree surgery which will assist with the Gardens' maintenance.
- Several ANBG staff members are attending and presenting papers at the 7th biennial BGANZ Congress in Wollongong from 25-29 October 2015. The Congress theme is 'Connecting with communities'.

5.3 ANBG Friends' Liaison

- Planning is in hand for the ANBG Community Day on 18 October to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of the Gardens on the Crosbie Morrison Lawn.
- Information sessions for the 2016 intake of trainee guides were well attended: applications close on 31 October 2015.
- The Aboriginal Plant Trail has been completed, there is a printable map available on the ANBG website and hard copy is available at the Visitor Centre. The official opening is anticipated to be before year's end.
- Continuing problems with fixing the EMS equipment – it was agreed the Projects Committee will discuss this with Steve Speer.
- Other matters mentioned included the program of ANBG staff members' horticultural chats program, the 'Reflections' social media campaign on Instagram, progress with the Visitor App (produced by Parks Australia) and the Plant App (an attachment to the ANBG visitor app. The ANBG had a stand at a recent ACT Volunteers Expo.

5.4 Treasurer

5.4.1 Financial Report

- Marion Jones presented the September 2015 financial statement of receipts and outgoings. It was noted that expected payments for the Friends' 25th Anniversary celebrations will come in under \$1000, that the ANBG has not yet invoiced the Friends for the Plant Finder app, \$25,000 for the *Ex situ* project will not be required for some time and the suggested replacement of the BRC computers requires further discussion with the Friends' IT team.

Resolution: Council accepts the June 2015 financial statement of receipts and outgoings.

Proposed: Marion Jones. *Seconded:* Christianna Cobbold. **Carried**

5.4.2 Audited financial statements 2015

- Council noted the audited financial statements of the Friends of Australian National Botanic Gardens Inc for the year ended 30 June 2015.

5.4.3 Public Fund financial statement 2015

- Council noted the audited financial statements of the Friends of Australian National Botanic Gardens Inc Public fund for the year ended 30 June 2015.

5.4.4 OOS Resolution IT purchase

- Council noted the OOS approval of \$580 for repairing the current printer used by the Membership team (\$430) and purchasing a refurbished Canon printer(150) as a backup.

5.5 Friends Groups' reports

5.5.1 Major Events Planning Group

5.5.1.1 Friends 25th Anniversary 1 October

- The Friends 25th Anniversary event was a success. Friends' patron, Her Excellency Lady Cosgrove and Vice Patron, Mrs Marlena Jeffery, met a number of Friends' members, in particular life members and founding members of Council. The President thanked Jan Finley, Rita Maclachlan, Barbara Podger, Tricia Morton, Christianna Cobbold and their teams for contributing to the success of the celebration.

5.5.1.2 Social Events and Activities Report

- The report noted planning for the 2016 Summer Concerts, 2016 Enlighten and ANBG Community Day on 18 October.

5.5.1.3 ANBG Community Day 18 October

- The ANBG co-ordinator is working directly with the groups involved. Friends involvement includes Photographic Group tours 'discovering the Gardens through a photographer's eye', potting of seedlings by the Growing Friends, a demonstration of the work of Seed Bank volunteers, a pancake stand, Flora Explorer guides

driving visitors to the Red Centre and Asteraceae Gardens and a Friends' information stand.

5.5.2 The Sydney Guides Conference report

- Glenys Bishop, convenor of the 2017 Conference at the ANBG, provided an overview and reflections of the Sydney conference program. This included her presentation on the 2017 Conference in Canberra and meeting with the Sydney Conference organising committee.

5.5.3 Membership

5.5.3.1 Report

- Individual members stand at 2138.
- Membership renewal letters will be posted during the first half of October.
- The Spring Welcome and Walk for New Friends who have joined in the last six months will be held on 22 November and invitations to this will be emailed/posted towards the end of October.

5.5.3.2 Resignation of Barbara Scott

- Barbara Scott advised her resignation as Membership Secretary, effective December 2015. Les Fielke will continue to undertake database maintenance.

5.5.4 Schools Photographic Exhibition

- There are a good number of entries in the High School section, however only one College has put in an entry. Judging will occur on 12 October and Jan Finley will present the prizes in place of the President.
- Council will consider whether it is feasible to continue with competition in the future.

5.5.5 Project Committee – projects status report

- The report covered the current projects under consideration: Southern Annex, *Ex situ* conservation project, EMS, Aboriginal Plant Trail, Plant Finder App and replacement of BRC computers.

5.5.6 Science Group report

Members of the Plant Science Group will meet with Craig Cosgrove to discuss their proposed plans for scientific involvement in the development Southern Annex.

6. Next meeting: 2.30pm, Tuesday 10 November 2015, Dickson Room.

The meeting closed at 4.45pm

Lesley Jackman
President