

**Meeting of Council
2 May 2017
Dickson Room**

Minutes

1.0 Opening and Confirmation of Agenda

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 1 pm. The agenda was confirmed.

2.0 Attendance

Present: Council – Lesley Jackman (Chair), David More, Jonette McDonnell, David Coutts, David Cox, Rita Maclachlan, Helen Elliot,
ANBG - Peter Byron, Steve Speer, Rosalie Hampshire
Invited Friends - Barbara Podger, Glenys Bishop

Apologies: Judy West, Jan Finley, Christianna Cobbold, Alan Munns, Tricia Morton

3.0 Minutes

3.1 Minutes of Council Meeting 7 March 2017

An amendment was proposed to Item 5.5 of the March minutes concerning the proposed trip to Singapore which would now read

5.5 Singapore Visit Proposal

Council noted that David Cox and Lesley Jackman, along with the President of the Friends of the National Arboretum, had met on 3 March with those interested in this proposal. It was informed that the member who has made this proposal does not want to arrange this trip himself and his role would be limited at the most to helping with the activities in Singapore. He is also discussing how the trip might work with the representative of the Arboretum, who has led successful trips for the Australian Garden History Society, and it was felt that we need to know what might emerge from that discussion.

It was felt that the Friends of ANBG should not get directly involved in organising such a trip and involvement should be limited at most to publicising the trip if an acceptable model emerges. Council agreed to review this matter at their April meeting.

The revised wording of Item 5.5 was circulated out of session and approved.

Minutes of Council meeting 4 April

Amendments were proposed to the draft minutes for Items 5.1, 5.5, 6.7 and 6.8. These amendments will be circulated to Council members before the June meeting and the minutes formally approved at that meeting.

4.0 Matters Arising from Minutes of 4 April 2017

4.1 Handover of photographic and botanical artwork gifts to ANBG

Council noted that this presentation will take place at the Thursday Talk on 11 May.

4.2 Launch of Fanny Karouta Manasse Book

Council noted that the launch of Fanny's book, entitled *Discovering Australian flora*, will take place at the Bookshop at 11am on Saturday 27 May. Ian Fraser will do the launch. Tom Butt has asked that the Friends publicise the event and ask for RSVPs to the bookshop. It was agreed that the Friends would supply some wine for the launch.

5. General Business

5.1 Public Art Project

Council was informed that the proposed set of meetings to present the final plans and estimates for the Project would be held on 19 May. That would include briefing of the Friends Advisory Group (FAG). Timing of these meetings and documentation should become available in due course.

Council agreed that a Special Council meeting would be arranged for 23 May to consider necessary decisions on support for the Treehouse project

5.2 AGM

Council discussed options for the 2017 AGM, which needs to be held before the end of October. It was noted that the guides conference will take place in October. It was felt that the AGM should be held after the Guides conference finishes on 19 October if possible. Dates of 24, 25, 26 and 31 October were noted, with some preference expressed for 31 October. Lesley Jackman will follow up on room availability and this matter will be considered at the June Council meeting.

It was noted that on the basis of current information there will be one vacancy for a general Council member and possibly for the position of Secretary. David Coutts indicated that he might be able to continue as Secretary for a time if necessary, especially to assist a new person to fit in to the role, and he will give further thought to that. Members were asked to keep a look out for potential new Council members.

Council discussed possible candidates for life membership and there was a preference agreed. The President will follow up with the people concerned.

5.3 IT matters

David More briefed Council on progress with upgrading the IT arrangements for the Friends. It was noted that cloud based file sharing for the Friends on Google Drive has been set up and Team Drives have been created for several sub committees. Accounts have been created for the test phase volunteers but David has still to finalise the necessary instructions. This should move forward in the next week or two.

David is also looking at use of the Charity Tick logo on Friends communications but its use on printed material needs to be discussed with the Friends team and the visual designers.

5.4 AAFBG

Council noted that arrangements for the AAFBG AGM, to be held at ANBG on 20 May, are well in hand. Council members were invited to register if they wished and to let Lesley Jackman know in that case.

RESOLUTION

Moved David Cox **Seconded** David Coutts that Lesley Jackman be the ANBG voting delegate at the AGM
CARRIED

Council was informed that the AAFBG journal (Eucalypt) had just been released and a link would be established on the Friends website.

5.5 Singapore visit proposal

There was an extensive discussion of the proposal for a guided tour to Singapore, with a range of views put forward. While there was significant support for the concept of such tours it was felt that there remain issues for the Friends that raise uncertainties, such as the possible risks if problems emerge and the resources that might be necessary to support such a tour. There were some views that this type of project would offer something additional to Friends members, as happens in some other gardens. It was also felt that given the tour was proposed for March 2018 there would not be sufficient time for the Friends to organise the necessary support and deal with any issues that come up. One issue was that if any such program were to be established a volunteer (preferably on Council) would need to be found to provide the necessary input and support.

RESOLUTION

Moved David Cox **Seconded** Helen Elliot that Council finds this proposal interesting for longer term consideration but feels that the timing of March 2018 is too short to allow the offer to be taken up at this stage.
CARRIED

Lesley Jackman will convey this view to the proposer of the tour and to the Arboretum (who have also been considering it). For the longer term the Friends will consider seeing if a suitable volunteer can be found to oversee such activities, perhaps initially through a call in a broadcast email. David Coutts will follow up to get a better idea of how other gardens view and handle such matters.

5.6 Insurance

Helen Elliot informed Council that she had discussed Association Office Bearer Insurance with the Friends insurance broker. The insurance application is to be completed and the insurance broker will then canvass quotes to meet our needs. The information will be brought to Council when available.

5.7 Patron's Invitation to Government House

The President informed Council that 5 Friends members have accepted the invitation to the music concert at Government House on 18 May.

5.8 Gift of Florilegium prints to ANBG library

Council agreed to consider meeting the cost of restoration of these two historic prints. Lesley Jackman will follow up with Anna Monro at the library to ascertain what cost might be involved.

Additional item : Volunteering and Contact ACT

Council noted recent information that had come through from Volunteering and Contact ACT (VCA). It was felt that there may be useful information and support from this organisation and Helen Elliot was asked to check if the Friends have a current membership.

6.0 Reports

6.1 ANBG Executive Director

6.2 ANBG General Manager

The General Manager's verbal report was noted. Key points included were

- Initial design work for the conservatory had shown a need to upgrade the power system which will add to overall cost. This will cause some delay and building will now not start before early 2018 for mid 2019 completion.
- There will be a launch on 11 May at 10am for the BGANZ Open Day to be held on 28 May and members of Council were invited.
- Repair of the rainforest bridge damaged earlier in the year is almost complete
- The wedding bridge in the rainforest now needs replacement due to timber deterioration. Funding is available and work should be completed in June.
- The pomaderris garden development is about to get underway, with 4 large trees to be removed. Some of this timber may be used for the treehouse. This garden should be planted in Spring 2017.

6.3 ANBG Friends' Liaison

The Friends Liaison manager's verbal report was noted. Key points included were

- The Friends will be participating in the BGANZ Open day on 28 May with a stall and some activities by interest groups
- There will be plant use walks and a workshop for the Heritage festival until 7 May
- A meeting will be held with site concessionaires to discuss mutual support and marketable products

6.4 Treasurer's Report

Helen Elliot informed Council, that the profit from the recent BAG exhibition was \$5555 from sales commissions and raffles. The Ryan donation will allow 7 pairs of binoculars to be purchased with an additional \$28 to be contributed by the Friends.

RESOLUTION

Moved David Couatts **Seconded** Helen Elliot that the Treasurer's report from April be accepted.

CARRIED

6.5 Project Committee

Council noted the report by David Couatts on projects that are active or under consideration. In particular

- Theatrette Projector
 - Council approved expenditure of an additional \$891.84, taking the total cost to the Friends to \$7891.84
- Crosbie Morrison projector
 - Council noted the quote of \$8281.48 for this projector but agreed it should be put aside for the time being at least.
- Stereo Microscope for VIC

- Council was informed that there is a need for carpentry work in the VIC at a cost of \$5000, taking the total cost for this project to \$10000
- It was agreed that funding up to \$10000 be provided for this project
- Outdoor monitor screen
 - It was agreed that this project be put aside for the time being pending further information from the gardens on possible sites and total cost

RESOLUTION

Moved David Coutts **Seconded** Helen Elliot that the additional expenditure on the projector and microscope be agreed as indicated above.

CARRIED

6.6 Guides conference

Council noted the report by Glenys Bishop on developments with the conference. In particular

- Registration should be able to go live within two weeks
 - 192 guides from outside Canberra have indicated interest so far
 - 6 Arboretum guides have indicated interest in attending
 - Some of the 192 will not come and with guides from Canberra the total numbers should be close to the limit of 175.
- Discussions are being held with the bookshop and Jindii on possible support and cooperation
- There has been success in arranging good speakers for the conference.
- Glenys also indicated that the program had been adjusted to allow conference delegates extra time to move between the Shine Dome and the Gardens and the committee is exploring options to assist those who feel unable to walk that distance.

6.7 Social Events and Activities Committee

The Friends involvement in the BGANZ Open Day has been dealt with under Item 6.3.

6.8 Public Fund

Council was informed that Ian Morrison and Adrienne Nicotra had agreed to appointments to the Management Committee. Rita Maclachlan agree to oversight lodgement of the necessary forms with the authorities, in consultation as necessary with Ian Morrison in due course.

6.9 Membership

The Membership Report for March 2017 was noted. The New Members walk is now scheduled for Sunday 18 June.

7. Next meeting

1pm on Tuesday 6 June 2017 in the Dickson Room.

Lesley Jackman
President