



Friends of the

Australian National Botanic Gardens



Meeting of Council of Friends of the ANBG

Tuesday 7 May 2013 at 1.30pm

Banks Building, ANBG

Minutes

Attendance

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

Ex officio: Peter Byron: Steve Speer, Anne Phillips, Alan Munns.

Apologies Judy West, Jan Finley

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

2. Minutes Confirmation

- There was discussion on the wording of Item 5.11 in the circulated April 2nd Council minutes, (See 3.1 below)
- The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd April 2013, with amended wording of item 5.11, were accepted on the motion of John Connolly , seconded by Glenys Bishop

3. Matters Arising From Minutes

3.1 Volunteers' membership of Friends

- There was discussion on the requirement of volunteers associated with Friends' groups to be members of the Friends.
- It was pointed out that some volunteers, for example, some of those working in the seedbank, had been recruited from outside the Friends membership.
- There was general agreement amongst Council members that the current operation of the Volunteer Guides would be difficult if the guides were not Friends members.
- Short term specific project volunteers recruited from universities etc, for example, for the stocktake; could be given some form of complimentary membership.
- This will be discussed at the forthcoming Council discussion on volunteering and membership issues.
- Council agreed that all volunteers to Friends Groups as set out in the MOU, are expected to be members of the Friends. (Moved by David Cou tts, seconded by Lesley Jackman)

3.2 *Eucalypt Walk opening, Friday 17th May*

- Invitations were going out with RSVPs on Monday May 13th
- Tea, coffee and cake would be provided by the Friends in the Ducrou Pavilion
- An urn, mugs & plates etc will be taken to the pavilion by Gardens staff.

3.3 *2014 Eucalypt Exhibition*

- Warwick Wright tabled a proposal for the exhibition to be staged in the VIC from mid-August to October 2014.
- The exhibition will have 18 themes and material will be assembled by a wide range of experts, some of whom had already begun sourcing information for it.
- Quotes from 3 graphics designers would be sought.
- The cost estimate will be drawn up for submission to Council by the end of June.
- There was some opinion that the number of topics covered should be in keeping with resources available.
- David Cou tts stressed that, while expenditure should be kept reasonable, the quality of the exhibition should not be compromised
- An application for funding from the Dahl Trust would need to be in. by 1st September with pre-registration before then. Alan Munns to liaise with Warwick

- Council resolved to support the exhibition and the proposals submitted by Warwick Wright
- 3.4 *Murray Fagg's Books*
- The sale had netted \$1234
 - Unsold books have been offered to the Volunteer Guides.
 - Those remaining could be used as prizes at functions or placed in the Friends library.
 - Council expressed its thanks to Murray for the donation and to Mike Johnson for conducting the sale.

4. General Business

- *Orchids*
 - Peter Byron reported that a Volunteer Role Description, similar to that of the Seedy Volunteers, had been drawn up for the Orchid Volunteers
 - It was proposed that the Nursery staff would look after maintenance of the glasshouses and pest control whereas the volunteers would tend to the care, fertilising and propagation of the orchids.
 - There was still dissent from the Orchid Volunteers and, in an attempt to resolve the issue, Judy West and Peter Byron will set up a meeting with representatives of the Orchid Volunteers, probably in June. David Coutts asked to be included in such a meeting.
 - David Coutts said it was desirable that the Orchid Volunteers should continue to look after the orchid collection as a group of the Friends and perhaps linked to the Plant Science group,
- *2013 AGM*
 - The proposed date for the AGM is Tuesday 24th September 2013.
 - Suggestions for a speaker, perhaps from a scientific background, would be welcomed.
 - David Coutts suggested that Andrew Young might be a suitable choice and he agreed to approach him.
- *Seniors Information Hub – Office of the Aging*
 - It was decided not to be involved with the Seniors Information Hub at the Retirement and Lifestyle Expo
- *Discussion on volunteering, membership fees and recruitment.*
 - As the fees had not been changed for about seven years, it was felt that a modest increase should be considered.
 - It was decided to hold a roundtable discussion to look at issues such as volunteering, membership categories, fees and member recruitment etc.
 - Apart from elected Council members, it may be appropriate to invite convenors and one or two members of Friends groups.
 - The meeting would be scheduled in mid-June.
 - Issues in the operation of some groups, such as succession could also be addressed.
- *Plant Science Group*
 - 4.2. Anne Campbell reported that 23 people had joined and these had been invited to the BRC facilitators lecture on 6th June
 - 4.3. David Coutts had spoken briefly at that lecture about plans for the group.
 - 4.4. Two more talks had been arranged by Murray Fagg
 - 4.5. It was hoped that, at the next meeting, Bronwyn Copp would talk on the BRC review and Paul Carmen will give an update on the Plant Stocktake
 - 4.6. Margaret Webber is looking after communication for BRC talks, Murray Fagg is organising talks and Anne Campbell is working as the group's co-ordinator.
- 4..6. *Friends of Black Mountain*
 - Linda Beveridge had circulated information on a weeding programme on Black Mountain that took in the unplanted parts of ANBG with the suggestion that Friends of ANBG may be interested in assisting.
 - The work-parties are held on the first Saturday of the month
 - It was agreed to advertise this in the next broadcast email and on our website
- 4..7. *Friends Lounge Maintenance*
 - Marion Jones reported that Doreen Wilson is looking a replacement, at least temporarily, to look after the Friends Lounge.
 - This would involve keeping up supplies of coffee teas and UHT milk and checking once a week that the lounge was tidy.
 - As Doreen also takes mugs, coffee tea etc from the lounge to the guides meeting on the third Tuesday on each month and cleans up afterwards, Glenys Bishop offered to look for a Guide to do at least this.
- 4..8. *Floresco*
 - David Coutts noted that there were more poor reports on the performance of the cafe in "Urban Spoon"

Peter Byron indicated that ANBG does monitor such reports and many comments on “Trip Adviser” were more favourable.

5. Reports

5..1. *Executive Director*

- In the absence of Judy West this item was covered in 5.2.

5..2. *General Manager*

- In the last month the ANBG has concentrated on next year’s budget.
- Emphasis is being placed on limiting the impact of cuts on core and visitor services.
- The revenue derived from entry fees to the various National Parks is down, impacting on P.A income
- The Department is looking for voluntary redundancies with around 150 positions to go.
- The briefing of Council on the ANBG budget will have to be put back until July.
- The letter from the Friends to the Minister is being dealt with by Malcolm Thompson, Departmental Deputy Secretary.
- The autumn plantings in the Red Centre Garden had been carried out.
- The observation platform will be installed in the week starting May 13th.
- The opening is still planned for October.
- The slab for the “Meeting Place” had been poured.
- A hazard burn had been successfully carried out in the ANBG southern annex
- Tom North & Lydia Guja had had a successful seed gathering season and expressed their thanks to the Seedy Volunteers
- Tom North has also just returned from a seed harvesting trip to Norfolk Is.
- It was suggested that there could be an update to the website on the seedbank and the Friends involvement
- Lydia Guja is taking some time off to finish her PhD thesis.
- Another horticulturist is to be employed.
- A new plumber had been employed and would commence within a couple of weeks.
- A call to staff for new project proposals is being made.
- Kaiya Browning has resigned.

5..3. *Friends Liaison.*

- Helen McHugh is back three days a week.
- Katie Penman and Jo Keogh will fill in for Julie Akmaciac while she is on leave.
- Emily Burnett has completed her graduate placement at ANBG
- Thanks were expressed to all who assisted in the Family Picnic Day.
- It was commented that the Floresco food charge were a bit expensive, considering it was a family day.
- The Bird Walks and Flora Explorer trips were very well patronised.
- Plant Fascination Day is on 18th May and May 22nd is International Biodiversity Day and a plant trail focussing on plants appropriate to these two themes is being drawn up by Jennifer Salkeld.
- A Horticulture workshop is set for 27th May with six bookings so far,
- Applications for the Volunteer Guides course closed on May 6th with 26 applicants
- Interviews will be held in the next two weeks and the course will run for ten days, two per week, starting in July
- Andy Rawlinson had appeared on ABC talking on guiding and showcasing the Flora Explorer,
- ABC Gardening Australia programme will have a segment on the ANBG in May.
- A Caring for Country Worksop is being held on May 9th. It will deal with seed production orchards for endangered woody grasslands. A representative from the Friends is attending.
- A stamp series featuring botanic gardens including ANBG has been issued by Australia Post.
- Bronwyn Copp has commenced the BRC review.
- The report on the 2013 Summer Sounds Concerts had been circulated

5..4. *Treasurer*

- The monthly financial statement had been circulated.
- The final results for the Summer Sounds concert were tabled.
- The results for the Art Show were also tabled.
- A statement on payments for the Red Centre Garden project was also tabled.
- The EFTPOS machine had cost \$300 for two months. An appraisal from the BAG group was awaited but the Plant Sale had not used it, preferring the older docket system. This was somewhat influenced by

- the concurrent booksale. In future more detailed training would be given
 - It was moved by Marion Jones, seconded by John Connolly that the accounts be received and payments be approved. Motion carried
- 5..5. *Secretary*
- The correspondence list for April was tabled
- 5..6. *Projects*
- The mid-year call for project proposals was being made.
 - There had been no reply from the manufacturer concerning the request for information on the availability and cost of the “ChatterVox” amplifier. Also no information was received from the Arboretum.
 - Warwick Wright offered his personal ChatterVox for appraisal.
- 5..7. *Public Fund*
- The Fund trustees will meet on Monday 13th May.
- 5..8. *Membership*
- The Membership report for April was received. Membership stood at 1355, slightly up on the same period last year.
 - A morning tea and guided walk will be held for new members on Sunday, May 19th at 10:30 AM
 - Approval for printing of the new parking permits was given. (Barbara Podger; Marion Jones)
- 5..9. *Thursday Talks*
- The programme for September to November was being finalised.
 - Don Beer will give the “Centenary Chat” on June 6th. His topic will be the history of ANBG
- 5..10. *Newsletter & Broadcast Emails*
- The next Fronds issue will go out in August, with a focus on the Red Centre Garden.
 - Deadlines for articles is 11th June, Short articles, 2nd July and ”What’s On” 9th July.
- 5..11. *Guides*
- Planning of the new guides training course by Helen McHugh in consultation with Glenys Bishop and Jane Keogh was proceeding.
 - Three information sessions had been held and there were 26 expressions of interest.
 - It was planned to have the training sessions on Saturdays and Wednesdays over five weeks starting in early July.
 - Steve Speer indicated that the ANBG would cover the costs of training material, copying etc.
 - Glenys Bishop expressed her satisfaction with the current arrangements.
- 5..12. *Social Events & Activities*
- Barbara Podger drew attention to the Bush Capital Celebration The major event committee was proposing a two day weekend event mainly on the Eucalypt Lawn at the beginning of November.
 - A bush barbeque and dance; hosted by the Friends, will be held on the Saturday night,
 - The target is 400 persons with a cost of \$60 to \$65.
 - There will be a fall-back date in case of bad weather.
 - It was agreed that this would a “Friends around the Lake” event. This would greatly expand publicity for the event.,
 - There are number of other function suggestions from Jennifer Salkeld that will be circulated
 - Possible Fund raisers are
 - A drinks table to run during the two days.
 - A raffle – glamping (Luxury camping) as prize?
 - Any suggestions will be welcome
- 5..13. *Growing Friends*
- The Plant sale had gone well with receipts totalling \$4126.
 - The Sales table had not used the EFTPOS machine, as mentioned by the Treasurer
 - There were some comments by Council members on the small size and numbers of plants being offered.
 - There was a request for Council to provide distinctive shirts (similar to the Guides’ and badges,
 - Council decided that the shirts would be too expensive but that the acquisition of a number of generic “Volunteers” badges would be provided if the GF wished. Such badges could also be available for general usage when required.
 - David Coutts will pass this information to the Growing Friends
 - Council was informed that there had been some confusion with the GF’s Banks Room booking at their last meeting. Steve Speer was asked to contact the Growing Friends to resolve any issues

5..14. *Website*

- The website has now been running for a year,
- Updating of material is being undertaken on a regular basis
- Checks are being made to verify that links to other websites are functioning correctly

5..15. *Botanic Art Group*

- The report of the 2013 Botanic Art Show had been circulated,
- The nett return to the Friends was \$3235.
- The Botanic Art Group members were congratulated on their excellent display.

5..16. *Photography Group*

- 14 had attended the last group meeting and a speaker list for the year .had been mapped out,
- The group is working on a photo exhibition for the Bush Capital weekend.
- The group will mount an exhibition in the VIC next year.

5..17. *Other Business*

- Breakfast with the Bird Walks will be held again this year.
- Warwick Wright requested some “gifts” to the Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens to mark their centenary. It was agreed to send some suitable items.
 - David Coutts will discuss this further with Warwick

The meeting was closed at 3:50 PM

Minutes Approved by Council

4th June 2013