



Friends of the

Australian National Botanic Gardens



Meeting of Council of Friends of the ANBG

Tuesday 3 September 2013 at 1.30pm

Dickson Room, ANBG

Minutes

Attendance

Present David Coutts, Barbara Podger, John Connolly, Marion Jones, Lesley Jackman,.

Ex officio: Judy West, Peter Byron, Steve Speer, Anne Phillips, Jan Finley.

Apologies Anne Campbell, Glenys Bishop, Dennis Ayliffe, Alan Munns, Warwick Wright

1. Opening and Apologies

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

2. Minutes of meeting 6 August 2013

- Barbara Podger suggested some corrections to Items 3.3, 4.2 and additional wording in 5.5 in the circulated minutes of the August Council meeting
- The amended minutes of the meeting were accepted on the motion of Barbara Podger, seconded by Marion Jones

3. Matters Arising From Minutes of meeting 6 August 2013

3.1 Eucalypt Exhibition and Dahl Trust application

- The funding application to the Dahl Trust had been drawn up and submitted by Alan Munns in consultation with Steve Speer and David Coutts from information supplied by Warwick Wright.
- A grant of \$9000 was sought to be mainly used for graphic design
- A response was expected within 6 weeks.

3.2 In Flower This week

- Council agreed to move from weekly to fortnightly updates of the "In Flower this Week" hand-out sheet.
- There was to be a meeting on Friday to discuss the new procedures. Steve Speer will liaise with Barbara Daly

3.3 Plant Science group

- *BRC Review*
 - Survey and other information gathered by Bronwyn Copp was being processed prior to submission to ANBG management.
- *Plant Science Group organisation*
 - Council reviewed the establishment of the Plant Science Group and noted that it seemed to be developing in a promising way, with the aim being to provide an umbrella for the Friends participation in support of research programs at ANBG.
 - It was noted that the monthly talks that started as development for the BRC volunteers and focused essentially on plant taxonomy have now been broadened to a wider range of technical subjects of relevance to volunteers with an interest in plant science. It was agreed that these talks should now come under the umbrella of the plant science group and be advertised to a wide group of those who have indicated an interest in plant science. That would include the BRC volunteers, members of the plant science group, the guides, the seedy volunteers and others as appropriate.
 - It was noted that there has been some confusion in recent months about these talks and Council agreed that notice of the talks should be circulated as one email to all those interested and

headlined as plant science talks.

3.4 VIC Volunteers

- Council endorsed the following resolution proposed by Barbara Podger at the July Council meeting and seconded by David Coutts:-
- *Council is disturbed that the move to remove paid staff from the Visitor Centre on week days represents yet another cut in the resources for the ANBG which will impact on the public and on our volunteers.*
- *We are also concerned that Management is seeking to have volunteers operate the “meeting and greet” function in the Visitor Information Centre during the week.*
- *In the past the Friends have had a policy of not taking on functions that were previously undertaken by paid staff because of concerns that this would impact on future funding for those functions, and also that this could affect the relationship between paid staff and volunteers.*
- *At the same time, Council believes that it is important that information and assistance for visitors to the Gardens continue to be provided in a professional and welcoming manner. Since this service will no longer be provided by paid staff during the week, Council agreed to seek expressions of interest from members in volunteering in the Visitor Centre.*

4 General Business

4.1 Red Centre Garden

- There was discussion on the naming of the Friends pavement artwork and Council agreed that it should be referred to as the “ Red Centre Gathering Place”

4.2 Friends Liquor Licence

- Marion Jones reported on discussions with an ACT liquor licensing officer.
- Council decided to apply for a non-commercial licence as previously but to obtain written agreement from Floresco to excise the Eucalypt Lawn (or other areas) from their licence for the Summer Concerts and other functions as required.

4.3 Public Art Strategy

- A draft report has been prepared by Pamille Berg and Peter Byron will send it to Council members as an email attachment
- The document sets out procedures for the selection and implementation of Public Art works in the ANBG as well as identifying some likely sites.

4.4 AGM

- Judy West and Peter Byron reported that they would be unable to attend the AGM.
- The designated speaker, Andrew Young, is now also unavailable. It was suggested that Linda Broadhurst from CPBR might be able to give the occasional address (or perhaps Peter Cochran). Judy West agreed to approach Linda on this matter.
- Steve Speer would present the Executive Director’s report

5 Reports

5.1 Executive Director

- Judy West reported that there had been a reorganisation of the Management arrangements with a smaller group, consisting of Judy West, Peter Byron, David Taylor Steve Speer and Jim Croft, meeting on three Tuesdays in each month and the wider group of all section heads on the fourth Tuesday.

5.2 General Manager

1. Red Centre Garden

- Final construction work on paths etc. was taking place and the main pathway will be open to the public until the official opening shortly. Some areas will still be restricted and the Pavement Artwork and other features will be covered
- The final plantings are taking place
- The official opening will depend on the availability of the relevant minister but may be after the Bush Capital weekend
- The stocktake was proceeding well with the car park gardens being looked at. The eucalypt Lawn will follow, then the Rockery Garden.
- An entry for the ACT Tourism award for Eco-tourism was being drawn up. There had been an inspection by judges last week and they appeared to be impressed.
- The construction of the cafe pergola had started and would be finished by the end of September
- There had been 2 applicants for the plumbing position.

- Peter Phelan, who was in a short term position has been appointed as a horticulturist. He has experience at both Sydney Botanic Garden and Kew.
- The appointee from Uluru takes up the position of horticulturist next week

5.3 Friends Liaison

- ANBG did not get a Graduate trainee this time but the Seedbank did
- The orchid glasshouse has a great display at present and will be open to the public for a few weeks.
- ANBG will not have a exhibit at Floriade this year,
- The Red Centre Garden exhibition in the VIC will open on 23rd September.
- Translocation to the Williamsdale area of some endangered plants grown in the nursery is taking place.
- Botanic Birds, an ANBG Birds app, is now available for I pads etc.
- The new ANBG Tourism website will be up in a few weeks.
- Sunset Cinema will run in November and December this time.

5.4 Treasurer

- The monthly financial statement for August had been circulated.
- It was moved by Marion Jones, seconded by John Connolly that the accounts be received and payments approved. Motion carried
- Council approved the transfer of \$20,000 to operating funds from the Fixed term deposit maturing on the 2nd October with the remainder to be rolled over. (Moved Marion Jones, seconded David Coutts)

5.5 Secretary

- The list of correspondence for August had been circulated

5.6 Guides

- The Guides meeting on 13 August had endorsed the proposal to hold the 2017 Guides Conference at ANBG
- 19 new guides were undergoing their final assessments.
- Council agreed to provide shirts and name badges to the new guides. Andy Rawlinson had offered to obtain the shirts and David Coutts, the badges (Moved Marion Jones, seconded Barbara Podger)

5.7 Social Events.

- Jan Finley reported that the next Major Events committee to discuss the Bush Capital Celebration is on next Friday
- No sponsor for Summer Sounds Concerts had been lined up but it was still hoped to source some funding from an ACT Health.
- Council agreed to support the full concert series of eight concerts but would consider the extent of financial backing closer to the event when the amounts involved would be clearer.
- Jennifer Salkeld had indicated that band & sound system bookings could be delayed until November.
- Breakfast with the Birds is advertised in Fronds, on the website, in a Broadcast Email and Panorama. However bookings were slow so far.

5.8 Projects

- David Coutts reported that Adrienne Nicotra was proposing a further Alpine Project for an ARC application. A summary of what is proposed has been sought from Adrienne but had not yet been received.
- David expressed some reservation as the current project is still winding up and some of the outputs for the Friends and ANBG were not yet clear.. Kristiane Herrmann is monitoring this for the Friends.
- As ARC applications close in November, David Coutts thought that there was insufficient time to put a project together for 2013 and it may be better to wait until the 2014 round..

5.9 Photographic group

- Lesley Jackman informed Council that the group was going well and the exhibition at the Bush Capital Celebration was in hand. It a proving a little more difficult to get progress on the major exhibition planned for early next year but she was hopeful that could be brought together soon.

6. Friends Group Reports

The following Group Reports had been received

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| • Social Events | Meeting Report | 20 th August |
| • Volunteer Guides | Meeting minutes | 13 August 2013 |
| • Membership | August 2013 Report | |
| • Growing Friends | Meeting Report | 3 August 2013 |

- Thursday Talks Meeting Report 18 July 2013.
- Website Report 3 September
- Projects Friends Cascade Sign renovation

The meeting was closed at 3:50 PM

Minutes approved by Council 1 October 2013