

**Meeting of Council
3 April 2018
Dickson Room**



Minutes

1.0 Approval of Agenda, Attendance and Apologies

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 1 pm. The agenda was approved as circulated.

Apologies were received from: Judy West, David More, Wendy Antoniak, Christianna Cobbold, Barbara Podger and David Coutts.

Attendance:

Council : Lesley Jackman (Chair), Helen Elliot, Jonette McDonnell, Jann Ollerenshaw and Linda Beveridge
Gardens : Kerrie Bennison, Megan Donaldson

2.0 Minutes of Council meeting 6 March for approval

RESOLUTION

Moved: Linda Beveridge, **Seconded** Jonette McDonnell - that the minutes of the 6 March Council meeting, subject to minor edits, be approved as tabled.

Carried

3 Matters Arising from Minutes of 6 March 2018

3.1 BAG Exhibition Update

The Secretary (and Chair of the BAG Exhibition Committee) reported that the opening of the 2018 Botanical Art Exhibition was successful. The guest speaker, Graham 'Willow' Williams was a popular speaker. Sales to date of \$14,000 were gratifying. The President confirmed that the Friends had purchased two scraperboard artworks by Beth Roberts for the Gardens valued at \$480.

3.2 Thursday Talk Updates

Linda Beveridge reported that recent Thursday Talk attendances were good with no overflow. Efforts will be made to identify possible overflow issues with popular speakers. Subsequent to the meeting Linda confirmed the statistics for the 2017 calendar year: 3,396 attendees with \$5,371.15 door donations received.

4. General Business

4.1 Development Matters

The President noted that at its March meeting the Public Fund management committee had drawn a line under Public Fund expenditure on the Tree House. Letters from the President to all donors over \$200 had been sent consistent with the policy of acknowledging all Public Fund donations at the \$200-plus level. A broadcast email thanking members for their donations and seeking further donations before the end of the financial year would be sent out. Kerrie Bennison noted that the policy for acknowledging donations to the Gardens would be explored and clarified. There might well be merit in aligning ANBG and Friends policy on public attribution.

4.2 IT Matters

In David More absence the President was pleased to acknowledge the welcome news that two Friends with very relevant skillsets have volunteered to assist with the Friends' Database.

4.3 50th Anniversary

The President noted that the draft Calendar for the anniversary year; including such events as the Banksia Festival, Seed Bank Opening and Conservatory Opening had been circulated to Council members.

4.4 **Parliamentary inquiry into the National Institutions**

The President announced that the Friends would make a low key response to the inquiry covering the contributions the Friends make to the Gardens and endorsing the ANBG's efforts to obtain funding for the Master Plan. Kerrie Bennison added that Parks Australia, Visitor Experience Team, were looking into making a submission.

4.5 **Urgent help required to keep ANPC afloat**

The President and Treasurer noted that the Friends are current members of the Australian Network of Plant Conservation (ANPC); scope for further support was limited but discussion in Council considered that the request be forwarded to the Growing Friends and be included in a Broadcast email highlighting the ANPC's role in research and publication, for individual members to consider.

5. **Reports**

5.1 **ANBG Executive Director**

5.2 **ANBG General Manager**

Kerrie Bennison A/General Manager gave both reports. Key points were

- There were some reallocation of staffing responsibilities.
- Judy West is organising an event for promoting the Seed Bank Building with dinner at Pollen and a visit to the Seed Bank; a second event would follow if there was sufficient interest.
- Seb Lang would take on some of the Executive Director responsibilities while Judy West is acting Director of National Parks and would follow Kerrie Bennison as Acting General Manager.
- A Public Partnership Trust Fund involving DGR status had been establish to secure donations for not just the Gardens but for all National Parks.

5.3 **ANBG Friends' Liaison**

Megan Donaldson presented this report. Key points were:

- The Gardens had received \$2,000 to undertake events for National Eucalypt Day, 23 March.
- A number of recent events had been very popular: Ian Fraser book launch, Craft activities with the Bookshop, Sally Blake dyeing workshops, Bonsai event and the Gumnut tales.
- Upcoming events included Indigenous Plant Use Walk, Canberra Tree Week Symposium, Botanic Gardens Open Day.

Council noted that work was almost complete on the Who Did That Trail apart from some minor tasks to be undertaken by the Trades team and a booklet.

5.4 **Treasurer's report**

Council noted the monthly reports tabled by the Treasurer. The Treasurer commented that it had been a quiet month with new memberships rolling in and early art sales. A term deposit was maturing and Council needed to consider rolling it over for two or three months – the interest rate of 2% was the same. The Treasurer promoted a cautious approach given expenses due by the end of financial year. After some discussion it was considered that a three month renewal was appropriate.

RESOLUTION

Moved – Helen Elliot **Seconded** – Linda Beveridge: that the monthly financial statements be accepted as tabled and that the term deposit be rolled over for three months.

Carried

5.5 **Projects Committee – Norfolk Island PhD update**

No formal report was given. The Executive had determined that it was not cost-effective to send a Friends representative to the Norfolk Island PhD project workshop and agreed that Lydia Guja would take a brief, outlining the Friends involvement to support the research project up to \$15,000 for three years (totalling \$45,000). In addition, Friends' Special Interest Group volunteer involvement could include: Plant Science volunteers - assessing and measuring plant populations on Norfolk Island; Seed Volunteers collecting on Norfolk Island; and Growing Friends propagating seeds and plant material in Canberra. The Growing Friends would probably also be involved in providing an amended manual/protocol for the propagation of native plants for use on Norfolk Island. The extent of subsidy for Friends volunteer involvement was to be further considered.

Kerrie Bennison noted that this project was strongly supported by Parks Australia, of the 140 critically endangered plants in Australia 49 were on Norfolk Island. Priority listed funding was not available to secure the survival of these plants and this was a really wonderful project, promoting in situ protection and ex situ conservation support.

Electric Scooters: it was reported to the Committee that the mobility scooters, purchased by the Friends 13 year ago, were reaching the end of their operational life in that maintenance costs were close to replacement value (approximately \$4,000 each as quoted by Mobility Matters) and occupational health and safety issues had been raised over one of the scooters.

RESOLUTION

Moved – Helen Elliot **Seconded** – Jonette McDonnell: that the Friends purchase two mobility scooters (\$8,298) to replace the existing scooters with the unserviceable scooter being removed and the second scooter, if serviced and assessed as safe, being retained.

Carried

5.6 Photographic Group briefing

Brian Moir and Bill Hall of the Photographic Group outlined that the group had 100 members with 30-40 members attending their monthly meetings – with a guest speaker and a show and tell format. Activities included:

- an annual exhibition usually in October/November (for 2018 the dates were 21 November to 9 December);
- outings to Mt Annan Botanic Gardens and Jervis Bay with planned trip to Booderee National Park;
- early morning walks and evening walks;
- beginner’s photographic workshop, 19 May, open to Friends only;
- 2019 Calendar collaboration with the Botanic Bookshop, photographs submitted and shortlisted to 23 for consideration – income of \$300 to be allocated to Photographic Group activities. Calendar expected to be for sale from June 2018; and
- plans for a 2020 Calendar tentatively agreed.

Council discussion was supportive of Photographic Group activities. Discussion included access and use of event photographs by the Gardens and future consideration of public access/sale of photographs.

The ongoing issue of extended carparking permits for Photographic Group members was raised. The President agreed to discuss the issue with the Acting General Manager. Megan Donaldson agreed to take a consolidated list of members who had requested permits to the General Manager.

Megan Donaldson asked how the Gardens could further support the Photographic Group , eg ranger guided walks or lights on evenings. Brian Moir accepted these offers and undertook to get back to Megan with dates/events.

5.7 Public Fund

Public Fund Trustees met on 26 March. Three projects were approved by the Trustees totalling \$28,000: Ex Situ conservation of *Macadamia janseni*; X-ray micro-radiographic assessment of legacy collections of the National Seed Bank at ANBG, and equipment upgrades and improved capacity enabling Seed Bank volunteers. The management committee will shortly consider involvement in the Gardens’ 50th Anniversary in 2020. There was also discussion of the process by which ANBG projects were selected for committee consideration.

5.8 Web team liaison

The Council thanked Alan Munns for his service.

5.9 Broadcast Email

A broadcast email was to be issued at the end of the month, input to be forwarded to David More.

5.10 Membership

The Membership Report to end March was noted.

A New Members walk and morning tea was planned for Sunday 20 May.

- 6. Next meeting**
1pm on Tuesday 1 May 2018 in the Dickson Room.

Lesley Jackman
President