

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, Christianna Cobbold and Tricia Morton.

Attendance:

Council : Lesley Jackman (Chair), Helen Elliot, David More, Jonette McDonnell, Jann Ollerenshaw, Wendy Antoniak and Linda Beveridge

Invited Friends: David Coutts and Barbara Podger

Gardens : Jo Harding, Sabrina Sonntag and Peter Byron

2.0 Minutes of Council meeting 6 February for approval

RESOLUTION

Moved David More, **Seconded** Helen Elliot - that the minutes of the 6 February Council meeting be approved as tabled.

Carried

3 Matters Arising from Minutes of 6 February 2018

3.1 Public Fund reappointments

The President confirmed that the Public Fund Management Committee members (Barbara Podger, Helen Elliot, Louise Maher and Alan Henderson) have all agreed to be reappointed for another year.

3.2 O Week

Wendy Antoniak informed Council that the O Week stall at the ANU went very well 'it was fun'. Volunteers talked about the gardens and its resources and amenities. There was a quite some interest in joining the Friends and many brochures were handed out – free coffee offer was accepted by about 40 people.

4. General Business

4.1 Tree House

Jonette McDonnell reported that there was a small amount of funds left over (Peter Bryon to confirm) that could be spent on signage linking the Tree House with the 'Who did that trail'. Talking tubes are still to be installed. The Guides are in the process of designing a walk through the area.

The President noted that the launch of the 'Who did that Trail' went very well. Louise Maher's podcast was worth listening to and WIN TV was present.

The President added that the donors attribution plaque, in keeping with other signage, would be progressed following the Public Fund management committee meeting on 26 March.

Peter Bryon confirmed that though the Treehouse was designed to sway, and had a structural engineer's certification as to its integrity, additional bracing was to be installed and a string on the top was to be replaced after a weld failed.

4.2 IT Matters

David More advised that he had access to the Vega system and was to set up meetings with Lesley Harland to discuss its applicability. Membership database and email system remain key priorities though he has had to reshuffle his work into short bursts of activity. Investigation of additional support for David and the possibility of purchased assistance was again supported by Council.

David More reported that the recently purchased scanner for the Point of Sale system worked very well and could be used for other functions including, for example, stocktaking.

RESOLUTION

Moved – Helen Elliot **Seconded** – Jann Ollerenshaw that David More be reimbursed for the purchase of the Scanner.

Carried

4.3 50th Anniversary Meeting

The President reported that she attended the meeting, now Chaired by Megan Donaldson, and that a Calendar for the anniversary year; including such events as the Banksia Festival, Seed Bank Opening and Conservatory Opening; would be shortly circulated..

4.4 Annual program of Friends events and activities

The President apologised to the Gardens representatives that the annual program of Friends events and activities was delayed but would be forwarded shortly.

4.5 Friends Action Plan 2018 – Key Priorities

Discussion of the key priorities was moved to the end of the meeting so as not to hold up Gardens staff.

Report on completion and progress of projects in 2017 was discussed briefly noting the heavy demand on members during the year in particular the Guides Conference. Proposals for 2018 were discussed: in particular the IT upgrade needs were prioritised, a paper requested on the scope of the volunteering history project and the need to acknowledge significant public fund donors was recognised. A revised Key Priorities table will be prepared and presented to Council.

5. Reports

5.1 ANBG Executive Director

5.2 ANBG General Manager

Jo Harding A/General Manager gave both reports. Key points were

- There continue to be a number of senior changes at Parks Australia and ANBG though some of this will be resolved when appointment of the new Director of National Parks is in place. After the long weekend Karen Maloney will be Acting General Manager. The departure of Steven Speer has left a gap that staff are picking up but some shortfall is being experienced.
- The gardens has put in a capital works bid (four year plan which would deliver a more strategic approach) mostly maintenance based but did include bids for a new horticulture depot, IT requirements and equipment for the Seed Bank.
- Recent closure of the rainforest was for urgent tree work and searching for a suspected European Wasp nest.
- Carpark and road access disruption is due to the installation of new communications cabling.. (The President asked if the Friends could be advised of future major disruptions so that this could be broadcast, especially if they might impact on popular events.)
- The sale of select ANBG plants is getting closer with the legal agreements being finalized.
- A number of important events in the Gardens are projected for May: Visit of the President of Mauritius, BGANZ Open Day launch (Governor-General) and Tree Week symposium with a tree climbing competition for arborists.
- Three artists in residence have been selected in conjunction with Craft ACT and Namadji.

Peter Byron added:

- That managing the conservatory project will go out to tender in August with construction expected before the end of the year. The location has ‘lurched’ uphill to avoid an ACTEW pipeline.
- A Joint Senate Committee enquiry into Canberra national institutions would include the ANBG and the Friends may wish to contribute a submission – the President agreed.
- The Growing Friends could be assured that the construction of the Conservatory would not disrupt or affect their operations
- The consultancy for Interpretative signage for the Conservatory would go to select tender and the Friends will be involved in commenting on the brief.

5.3 ANBG Friends' Liaison

Sabrina Sonntag presented this report. Key points were:

- Eucalypt Day, 23 March, would involve stories and adventures for children
- School Holiday program was being developed, but the Gardens were not resourced to do as much as last year.
- Enlighten tours were popular as were the desserts provided by Pollen.
- ANBG Photographic Workshop booked out.
- Earth Festival will be held in the Gardens 21-22 April with market stalls and workshops.

5.4 Major Events Working group (MEWG)

5.5 Social Events and Activities Committee (SEAC)

The report circulated from Tricia Morton on the summer concerts was noted with thanks.

5.6 Treasurer's report

Council noted the monthly reports tabled by the Treasurer. The Treasurer also noted that the Guides tour to Sydney would use the Friends bank account on and in/out basis to accept fees and pay for bus hire. The issue of purchasing further paintings/photographs for the Gardens has been discussed with the Gardens and a continuation of the collection practice agreed. An amount up to \$750 was agreed.

The photographic workshop to be held in May could result in a contribution \$90 per person enrolled to the Friends after payments for signage, books and \$25 per person fee to the Gardens.

A chart showing public fund donations over a number of years was passed around for information.

RESOLUTION

Moved – Helen Elliot **Seconded** – Wendy Antoniak: that the monthly financial statements be accepted as tabled for the meeting and the allocation of up to \$750 for purchase of paintings from the Botanic Art exhibition be agreed.

Carried

5.7 Policy and Procedures Manual – the Guides

In Christianna Cobbold's absence the President advised that the amendments appeared to be minor. It was asked if all guides are members of the Friends and it was strongly suggested that any that are not be encouraged to join.

5.8 2018 AAFBG Conference

The President encouraged everyone to attend the Conference in Benalla. At the AGM the President would represent the Friends with the Treasurer as backup. The President also proposed that the Friends approve funds to cover travel expenses for Dennis Ayliffe.

RESOLUTION

Moved – Helen Elliot **Seconded** – David More: that the Friends reimburse Dennis Ayliffe for travel expenses, if claimed.

Carried

5.9 Projects Committee

Council noted the report by the Projects Committee on new proposals. The Committee will meet to discuss next steps and priority of projects with probable referral of some projects to the Public Fund committee.

Jo Harding undertook to check on progress with the Plant Finder App. It was noted that the doctoral student for the Norfolk Island research project has been identified and planning in coordination with the University of Queensland NESP project is well advanced.

5.10 BAG Exhibition

Jann Ollerenshaw reported that arrangements for the exhibition and opening are well in hand. It was welcomed that Jindii had offered to have some paintings on display.

5.11 Broadcast Emails and Friends phone messages

The President sought volunteers from Council to undertake:

- remote checking of the Friends Phone (Jann Ollerenshaw and Wendy Antoniak agreed to undertake weekly checking Thursday and Sunday respectively)
- broadcast email compilation and distribution as an interim measure for six months (David More agreed with Jonette McDonnell’s assistance)

5.12 Plant Science Group

Council noted the report tabled by the Plant Science Groupon on their activities for 2017, any questions should be referred to the Convenor, Anne Campbell.

5.13 Membership

The Membership Report to end February was noted.

5.14 Growing Friends

Council considered the estimate of maintenance expenditure for 2018/19 tabled by the Growing Friends.

RESOLUTION

Moved – Jann Ollerenshaw **Seconded** – Linda Beveridge: that the Friends allocate up to \$3,000 over next 12 months to the Growing Friends to meet maintenance expenses.

Carried

5.15 Secretary Arrangements

Council thanked David Coutts for his work as Acting Secretary during the transition period since November 2017. Jann Ollerenshaw will take up the full role from the end of the month.

6. Next meeting

1pm on Tuesday 3 April 2018 in the Dickson Room.

Lesley Jackman
President