

**Meeting of Council
6 February 2018
Crosbie Morrison 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 Rosalie Hampshire, Peter Byron, Barbara Podger and Tricia Morton.

Attendance was

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

Invited Friends: David Coutts, John Connolly and Maurice Herrman for Growing Friends briefing.

Gardens : Judy West, Stephen Speer, Damian Wrigley and David Taylor for Banksia Garden item.

2.0 Minutes of Council meeting 5 December 2017 for approval

RESOLUTION

Moved David more **Seconded** Christianna Cobbold - that the minutes of the 5 December 2017 Council meeting be approved as tabled.

Carried

3 Matters Arising from Minutes of 14 November 2017

3.1 Photographic Group 2019 calendar

The President confirmed that the photographic group was working with the bookshop to prepare this calendar.

3.2 ACNC Report

Wendy Antoniak informed Council that the required report had been lodged and Council thanked Wendy for organising this so promptly.

4. General Business

4.1 50th Anniversary

David Taylor joined the meeting to discuss the proposal for the Banksia garden. He informed Council that there would be a meeting on 7 February to discuss the anniversary, including the Banksia garden in particular. Council noted a summary paper that had been circulated for the meeting. In particular this indicated that a lot of work has been done at the nursery to grow suitable banksias for the garden, which will be located in the Banks loop area.

It was agreed that the Friends should nominate a liaison person to work with the Gardens as this project goes forward, as was done with the Asteraceae garden. Council was informed that the Projects committee had reviewed the project at its recent meeting and supported the Friends contributing to the project as long as Council is satisfied on the planning and costing.

RESOLUTION

Moved Wendy Antoniak **Seconded** Jann Ollerenshaw that the Friends support this project up to an amount of \$100,000.

Carried

It was agreed that Public Fund should be briefed on this project at its next meeting in March and a fund raising campaign for this project be considered.

Christianna Cobbold will talk to thWAS e guides about interest in being the liaison person for this project.

4.2 Public Art Project

Attribution

The President reported, that once the Public Fund had determined its final contribution to the treehouse from the fundraising campaign at the March meeting, the Friends would finalise the attribution plaque that had been agreed to mark the contribution of the Friends, organisationally and individually to the project.

Moral rights issues

Steve Speer briefed Council on the approach taken by the Gardens to interpretation of the treehouse, in light of the fact that the designers had asserted their moral rights and indicated that interpretative material was acceptable around but not on the structure. The Gardens indicated that for the time being at least such material would be in the surrounding area but not on the structure. Steve Speer said that a plan for such interpretation is being developed and agreed that the Friends would be given ample opportunity to comment on these plans. Initially Jonette McDonnell and David Coutts will be consulted.

The President also drew on explanatory material on moral rights issues developed by the Australian Copyright Council to explain the way in which moral rights apply to the treehouse project.

David Coutts expressed his personal disappointment that interpretive signage is not allowed on the treehouse.

4.3 Friends Action Plan

Council noted the 2017 Action Plan prepared by Jan Finley that had been circulated for the meeting. It was agreed that updating the 2017 Plan should be looked at in the context of considering resources and priorities for 2018. Members were asked to email suggestions to Lesley Jackman for discussion at the March Council meeting, keeping in mind overall resources and who would do whatever work might be required.

4.4 IT matters

Council noted the paper circulated by David More. Key points were

- A 2 page table is attached to the paper that summarises the state of play for all IT issues.
- Email services are being updated and transferred to the G-Suite system
- The membership online system is the highest priority
- David More will talk to Judy Ford at the Gardens about the database they are using.
- The registration for the BAG exhibition is also a priority and Jann Ollerenshaw indicated there may be a volunteer to help with that
- The option of using paid services for some IT support still needs to be considered and should be raised at the March Council meeting

5. Reports

5.1 ANBG Executive Director

5.2 ANBG General Manager

Judy West gave both reports. Key points were

- There continue to be a number of senior changes at Parks Australia and ANBG. As part of this Judy West will be acting as Director of National Parks and Peter Byron will also be acting at Parks for some time yet.
- The nursery has been working on producing forms of some of the plants in the Gardens for possible sale through outside nurseries.
- ANBG will be involved in work through the Tropical Herb Research Centre in Cairns on threatened species. This is one outcome of the visit by Toby Golson in 2017. This should lead to a display in the conservatory in due course.
- The BGCI has launched a global assessment of tree species and it is felt Eucalypts need more consideration. This will work through BGANZ and ANBG and CANBR will be the key focus.

5.3 ANBG Friends' Liaison

Damian Wrigley gave this report. Key points were:

- There had been 3 tree falls in recent weeks. An additional assessment of the trees is being carried out

in the context of the ongoing risk program.

- Ice creams and drinks are being made available in the VIC and this seems popular.
- Helen Cross is acting in the administration role for Tamara.
- Summer sounds was quite successful.
- The ANBG website has been updated.
- The National Seed Bank is going well.

The proposal by a member of the Friends to introduce a relay system for the Thursday talks, in response to the sell-outs in some cases, was discussed. It was agreed that the Dickson room was not available due to heavy alternative paid usage and there isn't really any other space that is suitable. It was decided not to take this any further at the moment but rather look at the possibility of recording some talks for YouTube. Lesley Jackman agreed to let the member know of this decision.

5.4 Major Events Working group (MEWG)

5.5 Social Events and Activities Committee (SEAC)

The only significant event has been the Summer Sounds concerts. Tricia Morton had provided a short summary of the numbers, which indicated that total revenue over the 4 weeks was \$13883.55, which will give a positive return to the Friends of nearly \$4000.

It was noted that a full report will be available for the March Council meeting.

5.6 ANU O week 14 February

It was noted that Megan Donaldson at the Gardens is working on volunteer rosters and Barbara Podger is putting together handouts.

5.7 Treasurer's report

Council noted the monthly reports tabled by the Treasurer. It was underlined that new memberships are going very well and the summer concerts brought a small profit for the Friends. The issue of purchasing further paintings for the Gardens at the coming BAG exhibition was raised and a figure of \$750 mentioned. There was some concern about available display space and it was agreed this would be discussed with the Gardens before the arrangements were confirmed at the March meeting of Council.

RESOLUTION

Moved – Helen Elliot Seconded – Christianna Cobbold that the monthly financial statements be accepted as tabled for the meeting

Carried

5.8 Growing Friends

John Connolly and Maurice Herrman were introduced to Council as the new convenors of the Growing Friends, replacing Kath Holtzapffel. A table was passed around summarising the group's activities. Some key points noted were

- The group works within the Gardens totally and sources its material from the Gardens.
- Some plants are allowed for cuttings and some are not, depending on their provenance.
- Arrangements are made with Gardens staff to take necessary cuttings from selected plants.
- There are approximately 50 members, most of whom are active at least to some degree.
- Records are now on the Gardens computer system
- The facilities used are old and some investment may well be required in the next 12 months
- There will be a small increase in the prices for plants at this sale.

Council was positive to some investment if needed and asked that an estimate be supplied by late February for consideration as part of the 2018 action plan at the March Council meeting.

It was noted that next plant sale would be the first Saturday in April.

5.9 Projects Committee

Council noted the report by the Projects Committee on their meeting held on 14 December 2017.

50th Anniversary

- The Banksia Garden had been dealt with under item 4.1.
- Council was informed that the first step will be to engage a consultant to prepare an interpretation plan for the conservatory. That is estimated to cost up to \$15000 and the Friends were asked to meet that cost. Any further commitment by the Friends to the interpretation will be considered once the overall plan and costs are known.
- A Friends member from Council was requested to be on the steering group for the interpretation plan and Jann Ollerenshaw was nominated.

RESOLUTION

Moved Wendy Antoniak **Seconded** Jann Ollerenshaw that the Friends commit up to \$15000 for the consultant to prepare the conservatory interpretation plan and Jann Ollerenshaw be nominated as the Friends member of the steering group.

Carried

Plant Finder App

Work to bring this project to the point of public release is continuing. The next stage will be a trial before release involving some Friends volunteers. Hopefully that can take place within the next few weeks.

Research Funding

The Norfolk Island project is still working to identify the key researcher but hopefully that can happen soon.

The Council agreed that once the Norfolk Island project is out of the way (in relation to funding) it would like to look at further research scholarship type funding.

Lichen project

Council noted a final report on this project and agreed the final step is to coordinate public release and awareness raising through the usual mechanisms.

Aboriginal plants

David Coutts informed Council that the project committee had discussed a possible project involving plants used before European settlement by the aborigines, as set out in the recent book Dark Emu by Bruce Pascoe. Council noted that David hopes to work up a personal proposal for the Gardens and the Friends in the not too distant future.

5.10 BAG Exhibition

Arrangements for the exhibition were discussed and agreed, including invitations lists, a running sheet, the guest speaker (Graham Williams) and drinks.

5.11 Public Fund

The release by the Minister (Kelly O'Dwyer) on the outcomes of the 2017 review of opportunities for DGR reform was noted and it was underlined that the actual arrangements being put in place are still to be firmed up. It looks as though the Friends may not in future need a special Management Committee for the Fund, but that needs to be confirmed in due course.

For the time being the retiring Management Committee members will be reappointed for one year, after which the best course of action should be clearer.

5.12 Membership

The Membership Report to end January was noted, especially the good take up of new memberships.

5.13 Broadcast email and Fronds

Council agreed that a broadcast email to members should be sent out in February and asked David Coutts to prepare that.

Council was informed that Barbara Podger had asked that any material for the April issue of Fronds be supplied to the editors as soon as possible.

- 6. Next meeting**
1pm on Tuesday 6 March 2018 in the Banks Building

Lesley Jackman
President