

**Meeting of Council
Tuesday 11 November 2014
Dickson Room**

Minutes

Attendance

Present: Lesley Jackman (Meeting Chair), Jan Finley, Marion Jones, Rita Maclachlan, Dennis Ayliffe, Ian Primrose, Sue Serjeantson.
Ex officio: Barbara Podger, Peter Byron, Steve Speer, Anne Phillips.
Visitor: Toby Golson
Apologies: Christianna Cobbold, Barbara Tyler, David Coutts, Alan Munns, Glenys Bishop, Judy West.

1. Opening

The meeting was opened by the Friends President, Lesley Jackman, at 1:30 PM. She welcomed new Council members and advised an induction session will be organised for them in early 2015.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

2.1 Minutes of Council meeting 7 October 2014

Motion: That the minutes of the Council meeting of 7 October 2014 be accepted subject to minor changes being made.

Proposed: Dennis Ayliffe. *Seconded:* Lesley Jackman. *Carried.*

2.2 Draft minutes of Friends 26th AGM

The draft minutes of the 26th AGM were noted.

3. Matters arising from Minutes of 7 October 2014

3.1. Major Events Planning Group report & Social Events and Activities Committee report

- The Social Events and Activities Committee reported that planning for the 2015 Summer Concerts and Enlighten 2015 are well advanced.
- *Summer Concerts:* Entry charges for the Summer Concerts had been discussed by Council at the 23 April and 6 May 2014 meetings when the Committee was asked to give the matter further consideration. In this report the Committee recommended to Council that entry charges be as follows:
 - Adults – \$5.00
 - Concessions – Pension Card Holders and Students - \$2.00
 - People aged 17 years and younger – Free.
- Council endorsed the Committee's recommended entry charges noting they were amendments to the original proposal of \$5 an adult, \$2 for students, free for children accompanied by an adult.
- *Enlighten 2015* is being organised by the ANBG with assistance from the Friends.
 - Dates: Friday 27 February, Saturday 28 February, Sunday 1 March, Friday 6 March, Saturday 7 March and Sunday 8 March.
 - 10 March is to be held as a cancellation date (i.e. if one of the specified dates is cancelled).
- Public bookings will be organised by ANBG. Cost \$25 per person (including booking fee of \$1.00).
- Friends contribution (not including guides):
 - One person listed on the Liquor Licence to be present when alcohol is sold,
 - two Friends to serve champagne (drinks) and chocolates on each night,
 - Friends to be paid \$5.00 per ticket sold for champagne (drinks) by the ANBG and Friends can sell additional drinks.
- Council endorsed the Friends contribution to Enlighten 2015.
- *Enlighten - Event for Friends around the Lake and Friends of the ANBG:* Council noted arrangements for the event which is to be held on Thursday 5 March 2015:
 - The invitation is to be issued by the President.
 - Friends are to provide:
 - One person listed on the Liquor Licence to be present when alcohol is sold,
 - two Friends to serve champagne (drinks) and chocolates on each night,

- one person to help as host, if more than 100 people attend,
- Friends to provide one champagne (or drinks) and can sell additional drinks.
- Details relating to costs to be discussed at the next Major Events Working Group meeting.
- Bookings to be organised by Friends and discussed at next meeting of the Social Events and Activities Committee.
- Tickets to be sold by Friends.
 - Tickets cost \$22 (event not open to the public, so people must be members of the Friends or one of the Friends around the Lake organisations).
- The Friends liquor licence application is being prepared. It is no longer required for all members of council to be listed on the application others can now be included but, as previously, one person on the licence must be present on all occasions when liquor is sold. It was agreed that some Council members as well as the some members of the Social Events and Activities Committee should complete liquor licence application forms for the Treasurer to lodge with the Office of Regulatory Services.

Resolution: Entry charges for the 2015 Summer Concerts will be Adults – \$5.00, Concessions – Pension Card Holders and Students - \$2.00, People aged 17 years and younger – Free.

Action: Some members of Council and of the Social Events and Activities Committee to complete and provide liquor licence application forms (Non-commercial Liquor Permit Application Renewal) to the Treasurer for submission to ACT Government.

3.2 Sponsorship report

- ACTEW Water has signed a contract providing a \$5000 sponsorship for one year. The President and Peter Byron have represented the Friends and the ANBG in sponsorship discussions. The deal will add value to the summer concert series. The key message will be about encouraging people to have fun with water. Much of the implementation is the responsibility of the ANBG. The Friends have an important role in promotion, including a *Fronds* article, inclusion of ACTEW's logo on the Friends website item on the concerts, a link to ACTEW Water's website and mention in broadcast emails. The President will work with the ANBG team and ACTEW Water on implementation.
- Discussions were advanced with Goodwin Aged Care Services for naming rights sponsorship of the Summer Concert series. The lead in discussions has been taken by Peter Byron and the Friends President. Council members expressed their support for the direction being taken.

Action: President to prepare a *Fronds* article and undertake website liaison for ACTEW sponsorship of the Summer Concerts.

3.3 Alpine Project Report

- The report Australian *alpine plant research, conservation and management* was released at the Friends AGM on 21 October. This brings together the outcomes of a four year project supported by the Friends, as presented at the symposium at ANBG on 12 June. Copies were available to Friends at the AGM. It is now on the Friends website and can be downloaded there. David Coutts is arranging for hard copies to be mailed to Friends who express an interest. Council noted the project lays the groundwork for future projects undertaken by the Friends.

3.4 Schools Photo Competition awards

- The President awarded prizes on 18 October at the 18th Annual Friends Schools Photographic competition. Entries (217) were reduced this year, however the standard remained high. An evaluation will be undertaken of the 2014 competition by the competition committee and efforts made to increase participation in 2015.

4. General Business

4.1 Friends parking

- A daily limit of three-hour free parking for Friends is to be introduced on 1 January 2015. Parking passes are being issued with the membership renewals. The ANBG will provide three hour parking bays for members of Friends. There will be a transition period for the new arrangements in January.
- Parking exemptions for Friends volunteers have been agreed with the ANBG General Manager under the two schedules of the MOU between the ANBG and the Friends. These are:
 - **Friends volunteering for the Gardens as listed in Schedule 1 of the MOU:** ANBG will provide the equivalent of ANBG staff passes valid for 12 months from 1 January 2015 for 'volunteers' listed in the MOU's Schedule 1. ANBG will arrange these passes and also supply passes to Friends who join these groups after 1 January 2015. The passes will be provided through the volunteer supervisors. Passes will be available for

volunteer guides, BRC facilitators, *In flower this week* coordinator, Alpine Collecting Project Volunteers, Research volunteers, Outreach volunteers for special events (Floriade etc), Seed bank volunteers, Seed collection volunteers, Visitor Centre Volunteers, Orchid Volunteers.

- **Friends volunteering in activities listed under Schedule 2 of the MOU:** Friends involved as 'voluntary workers' listed in the MOU will also receive staff parking passes. The convenors of each special interest group or committee will be asked to provide lists of their 'active' members for forwarding to Peter Byron and copied to Mario Catanzariti. Peter or Mario will advise the President when they will be ready for collection, by the various convenors or the individuals concerned. This is expected to be early December. Passes will be available for: Growing Friends, Botanic Art Group, Photographic Group, Projects committee, Social Events and Activities committee, Summer concerts volunteers (many of these will have staff passes as voluntary guides etc but any other Friend who volunteers for the concerts can use the standard Friends parking permit with the three-hour exemption), Schools photo competition coordinator, Thursday Talks committee, Friends Council, including co-optees, *Fronds* committee, IT coordinator, Website committee, Membership, Visiting Outreach (Pat and Warwick Wright), Plant Science Group.
- Council supported the proposal as it provides good coverage for active Friends members. Council agreed the arrangements should be monitored to determine whether any Friends groups were disadvantaged with a review of the operation of the arrangements after six months. One group that may be affected are members of the Canberra Ornithological Group (the group is the member of the Friends, not the individuals). Additionally the arrangements will need to be communicated quickly to the Friends, through *Fronds*, a broadcast email, information on the Friends website and a link to it from the ANBG website, plus briefings to Special Interest Groups to be conducted after this Council meeting. Detailed information about the exemptions under the new arrangements will be placed in the Friends Lounge as *Fronds* will have limited room for this detail and a number of Friends are not on email.

Resolution: Council supports implementation of exemptions for Friends volunteers under the new ANBG parking arrangements effective from 1 January 2015 with a review of the operation after six months.

Action: President to arrange information on Friends exemptions for the new parking arrangements to be communicated through an article for *Fronds*, a broadcast email, notice on the Friends website (linked to the ANBG website), briefings to Special Interest Groups, a notice in the Friends Lounge.

4.2 ANBG staff representative

- The meeting was the last for ANBG staff representative Anne Phillips. Council thanked her for her contribution, particularly her linkage between Council and the Living Collection.
- As yet the ANBG has not identified a replacement. Council agreed the staff representative has a valuable role and would like to see the tradition continue. Peter Byron undertook to send out a staff email seeking expressions of interest for the ex officio role on Council.

Action: Peter Byron to seek expressions of interest for an ANBG staff representative on Council.

4.3 Projects

4.3.1 ANBG Plant collection trip report Queensland and NSW

- Toby Golson (ANBG) provided a verbal report summarising the results of a 12 day field collection trip to Queensland and northern NSW, supported in part by a \$4k grant from the Friends. Over 4000 km was covered, 92 collections were made including 27 nationally listed endangered species. The trip was primarily to Gladstone consolidating the ANBG's partnership with the Gladstone Tondoon Botanic Gardens. The Gardens are home to an impressive species of plants from the Port Curtis Region and Tropical North Queensland. The Lismore Rain Forest Botanic Gardens and the NSW North Coast Regional Botanic Garden were also visited. Regional gardens provide an excellent resource for the ANBG, providing a cost effective means to increasing the national collection.
- Toby Golson put forward two proposals to acknowledge the Friends support: an article in *Fronds* and guided tours of the Rainforest gully for visitors and guides in the winter months. Both proposals were accepted.

Action:

- Christianna Cobbold, ANBG Guides convenor, to liaise with Toby Golson on winter guided walks of the Rainforest.
- Barbara Podger to liaise with Toby Golson on an article for *Fronds*.

4.3.2 Asteraceae Working Group report Asteraceae Garden opening.

- Key points of Don Beer's report of the Asteraceae Working Group included:
 - Construction and planting were on track.

- Interpretative signs, the decisions on placement of the main signs may need revision after the garden opening in the light of established patterns of visitor movement in the area.
- Planning for the official opening on 24 November.
- Promotion of the garden by way of the Friends Thursday lecture, *Fronde* and *Campsis* articles.
- The production of the ANBG guides handbook should be ready for the official launch.
- Don Beer's liaison role was acknowledged as being very valuable for Council keeping abreast of the garden's development.
- The Asteraceae Garden will be officially opened at 10.30 am Monday 24 November. The President has been in touch with Government House regarding the Friends patron, Her Excellency Lady Lynne Cosgrove, undertaking the official opening. Council members will provide food for morning tea. In case of inclement weather, the function will move to the Crosbie Morrison Building.

Resolution: Council acknowledges Don Beer's valuable liaison role in the development of the Asteraceae Garden project.

Action:

- Peter Byron to send the Friends President a copy of Asteraceae Garden signage indicating Friends support for the garden's development.
- Dennis Ayliffe to present a status report of Friends projects for the December 2014 meeting.

4.4 Public Art feasibility study

- A recent meeting between Pamille Berg and some steering committee members for the public art feasibility project discussed the linkage of public art to the ANBG master plan, the nature (interactive, attraction to children, stories/themes, a single work of art or a collection of objects) and integration/placement in the Gardens.

4.5 Council meeting times

- It was agreed future Council meetings will commence at 2.30 pm (instead of 1.30 pm) on the first Tuesday of the month, except for November when meeting will be on the second Tuesday.

5. Reports

5.1 Executive Director and 5.2 General Manager

- In the absence of the Executive Director, Peter Byron spoke to items. He reported as follows:
 - Master plan funding has been received from Parks Australia and tenders selected, these being Taylor Cullity Lethlean (TCL), landscape architects (Adelaide) and Tonkin Zulaikha Greer (TZG), architects (Sydney).
 - TCL prepared the master plan for the Adelaide Botanic Gardens native garden and wetlands and Cranbourne's Australian Garden.
 - TZG designed the National Arboretum's Whitlam Pavilion and Village centre.
 - The ANBG is looking at infrastructure needs, (not changing the Living Collection), a 20 year plan consolidating maintenance, administrative facilities, cafe and library.
 - ANBG has undertaken workshops with neighbouring institutions (CSIRO and ANU) and will broaden their stakeholder group consultation in the near future; these include staff and the Friends President. A public consultation will be held on 7 December from 11am – 3pm.
 - ANBG will develop a draft master plan and undertake a further public consultation. This process is expected to be completed by June 2015.
 - The Minister and Parliamentary Secretary are supportive.
 - Parks Australia under National Director, Sally Barnes, will soon commence a strategic review of the Agency's key functions, a new strategic plan is anticipated to be in place in mid 2015.
 - ME Lighting commences upgrading the Garden's lighting on 12 November with completion in December ready for the Summer Concerts.
 - The Asteraceae Garden development is on track to be completed one week prior to the official opening on 24 November.
 - Jindii EcoSpa will move into the Franklin Building, the fit out will have a native plants theme. The Spa has a program of activities that includes planting trees and fund raising for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.
 - The ANBG is an entrant in the ACT tourism Awards; judging is on 3 December.
 - Judy West and Peter Byron will attend the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014 in Sydney; the Congress meets every 10 years. Parks Australia is co-hosting the congress with NSW National Parks.

Action: President to develop a broadcast email to Friends regarding the ANBG public consultation on new ANBG master plan.

5.3 Friends Liaison

- Steve Speer advised the summer events dates have been confirmed, including Delicious after Dark.
- He advised the list of nominees for 2014 volunteers awards would be sent to the President seeking advice about

the status of potential awardees, whether they are active or not. The awards ceremony will be held on 1 December with the National Parks Director, Sally Barnes, as guest speaker.

Action: Steve Speer to seek advice from the President about the status of potential volunteer awardees.

5.4 Treasurer

- Council noted the receipts and outgoings for October 2014. The President stated she had cited the bank statements for the month of October.
- The Treasurer advised that Friends membership numbers have increased in 2014. She noted her concern with the costs incurred with the membership process and suggested savings could be achieved if direct debit is stated as the preferred method for membership payments that online payments via the website should be investigated in the near future. The President agreed to raise the issue with the Membership Team, noting that parking permits are mailed.

Motion: That the financial statements for October 2014 be accepted.

Proposed: Marion Jones. *Seconded:* Jan Finley. *Carried*

Action: President to discuss refinements to the membership process with the Friends Membership Team.

5.5 Secretary

- The correspondence report was noted.

5.6 Friends Group Reports

5.6.1 Membership Team

- Membership renewals have been prompt during October prior to 1 November expiry and there is an increase in new memberships over the previous year. The report was noted.

5.6.2 Photographic Group

- The Photographic Group submitted a request to extend the range of subjects to be included in their 2015 exhibition to images taken outside of the ANBG and that images be available for sale. The types of images would be similar to those taken in the Gardens, i.e. plants, flowers, wildlife, natural landscapes, including images taken at other Botanic Gardens. The Group considers the wider range of images will maintain the interest of its members and may promote sales.
- Council agreed that
 - photos of native flora and fauna from other locations could be included;
 - the President and Treasurer discuss with the Group early next year about arrangements to sell photographs in the exhibition and the banking arrangements for this.

Action: President and Treasurer to discuss the Photographic Group's proposal for its 2015 exhibition with the convenor of the Friends Photographic Group.

5.7 Next meeting

2.30pm Tuesday 2 December 2014, Dickson Room.

The meeting closed at 3.25 pm.

Lesley Jackman
President.

