

**Meeting of Council
3 July 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: Christianna Cobbold, Rosella Hampshire and Patricia Morton.

Attendance:

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

Ex Officio: Judy West, Sebastian Lang, Megan Donaldson, Barbara Podger, David Coutts

2.0 Minutes of Council meeting 5 June for approval

RESOLUTION

Moved: Helen Elliot, **Seconded** Linda Beveridge - that the minutes of the 5 June Council meeting be approved as tabled with minor edits.

Carried

3 Matters Arising from Minutes

3.1 2019 Botanical Bookshop Calendar

The President announced that the 2019 Bookshop Calendar was now available, a very nice product with the photographs provided by the Friends Photographic Group. Payment for the use of the photographs had been received and was available for the Photographic Group's use. Discussions were underway for a 2020 Calendar – the 50th Anniversary year of the Gardens.

The President also mentioned that the family of the major donor were very pleased with the text of the Treehouse Attribution plaque. This announcement prompted general discussion on ways to further promote use of the Treehouse.

4. General Business

4.1 Development Matters

The President noted that \$35,000 was raised by the Public Fund during the financial year 2017-18 an increase on the previous financial year by \$11,000.

Judy West advised that the proposed National Seed Bank would cost approximately \$4m, National Parks had allocated \$2m in capital funding to the construction and at the fund-raising dinner they received \$750,000 in pledges. This meant there remained a shortfall and as soon as DGR tax status was granted the Gardens proposed to seek further donations for the National Seed Bank. Judy West asked Council to consider including a brochure seeking contributions with the membership renewal mailout.

RESOLUTION

Moved: David More, **Seconded** Linda Beveridge – that Council approve the inclusion of the Seed Bank fund raising brochure with membership renewals.

Carried

4.2 Draft report on interpretation concepts for the Ian Potter National Conservatory

The President thanked the Gardens for the opportunity to comment on the draft report. Discussion followed with generally positive comments expressed on the approach outlined. Some concern was expressed about the operation of digital equipment in a high humidity atmosphere and the patchy Wi-Fi reception in parts of the garden. This raised the need for alternative methods of information being provided, particularly of plant names and descriptions. As comments on the draft report were required by Friday 6 July the President asked

that comments be provided to the Executive no later than Wednesday evening so that a coordinated response from the Friends' Council could be prepared.

4.3 IT Matters

Written report was noted by Council and David More provided additional comments on the successful move of Friends' email addresses to Gmail. One consequence of the move had meant that the spam filter was allowing a few emails through, but the move has led to a considerably lower workload on the IT team. The report on the requirements of the membership database had been refined and had been distributed for comment. All comments should be directed to Jenny Kruse or David More directly. With potential web team absences during July Council was reminded that Cordelta could be called upon if required.

4.4 50th Anniversary

Banksia Garden Working Group Report

The Workings Group's report on progress was noted by Council.

2020 Seed Bank Forum

The President advised that there are currently two options on the table for Friends support of the Australian Seed Bank Partnership approach for support for the annual Seed Science Forum being held in Canberra in 2020:

- sponsoring a speaker from overseas; and
- funding catering for a reception.

A submission would be put to Council as this proposal was further developed.

4.5 AGM 2018

The President announced that an article would be in the August issue of Fronds about the AGM in September including a notice on nominations for vacant positions.

4.6 Paid administrative support for the Friends

The executive was working on a proposal to have a one-year trial of paid part-time administrative support. Similar organisations with fewer members and lower workload had paid administrative support and it was hoped that having support would attract candidates to Council roles. A job description and hourly salary were being considered.

5. Reports

5.1 ANBG Executive Director

Judy West made the following points:

- Recruitment for a fund-raising person, likely to be a contractor, was underway.
- The Swedish Embassy relationship with the Gardens was expected to grow in light of the 250th Banks/Solander anniversary in 2020.
- Being acting Director of National Parks has given Judy a better appreciation of the range of National Parks issues and had permitted her to inject an ANBG perspective into discussions.
- Judy and Seb would appear before the Joint Standing Committee on National Institutions on 16 August.

5.2 ANBG General Manager

Sebastian Lang made the following points

- Allocation of budgets for Garden's projects such as the Conservatory (Architect and Landscape Architect), Banksia Garden, etc were being finalised.
- The Gardens was looking to connect threatened species with the horticulture industry. Some interesting and novel approaches were being discussed.
- The 50th Anniversary working group was endeavouring to ensure a planned and structured approach to the celebration was developed.
- The upgrade of the horticulture precinct was underway
- The Theatre sound system was being fixed under warranty. Components had needed to be sent to Adelaide for repair.

5.3 ANBG Friends' Liaison

Megan Donaldson made the following points:

- Visitors to the Gardens through the gate had increased by 6.3% during the financial year to 511,000 people and those entering the Visitor Centre had increased by 2.4%.
- The 365 visitor surveys completed at the kiosk in the Visitor Centre showed a 90% satisfaction rate.
- Events in Gardens were continuing to be very popular: the Make Your Own Beeswax Wraps program was booked out and the Indigenous Plant Use Walks were in high demand.
- The Burrunju exhibition had been installed in the Visitor Centre.
- The Sri Chimnoy duathlon would be held on Sunday 29 July with the first run course circumnavigating the Australian National Botanic Gardens.
- The Gardens had been approached to join the AFFM (Australian Federation of Friends of Museums). Megan will let Council know the outcome of discussions.
- The Friends Around the Lake was expected to be reformed.
- The Rangers would be undertaking a stocktake of signage in the Gardens.

5.4 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer noted:

- That the draft End of Financial Year Report was to go to the Auditor shortly.
- Due to planned large expenditure on the Paperbark Treehouse project the Friends had made a loss of \$123,000 during the financial year.
- The final payment for the Paperbark Treehouse had been made and that the project had come in \$45,000 under committed funding.
- The interest rate on the recently rolled over Term Deposit had been increased to 2.5%.
- Funding of the School Photographic Competition needed to be confirmed.

RESOLUTION

Moved – Helen Elliot **Seconded** Wendy Antoniak: that the monthly financial statements be accepted.

Carried

5.5 Major Events Working Group

The President noted that the first meeting of the MEWG had discussed possible arrangements for the 2019 Summer Sounds Concerts. This led to discussion about the financial support that might be needed from the Friends for the 2019 concerts. The general feeling of the Council was that it was worth supporting as it was a popular calendar event and drew a younger crowd.

5.6 Social Events and Activities

In her written report, Trica Morton, sought a small amount of money for the printing of images of pollinators for the Friends only walks to be led by Dr. Roger Farrow on 'Pollinators at work in the Gardens'.

RESOLUTION

Moved – David More **Seconded** Linda Beveridge: that the Social Events and Activities report be noted and that \$300 be provided for the pollinator photographs.

Carried

5.7 Project Committee

David Coutts advised that there had been a very good meeting between the Project Committee and Gardens staff during which it was agreed that a template for proposed projects would be developed and that in place of ad hoc proposals there would be six monthly calls for projects coordinated by the Gardens for the Committee to consider.

David clarified a number issues raised in the tabled report which were noted by Council.

5.8 Broadcast email

David More advised that a draft broadcast email would shortly be sent Council Members.

5.9 Membership

RESOLUTION

Moved – Helen Elliot **Seconded** Jonette McDonnell: that the Membership report be noted and that up to

\$4000 be budgeted this financial year for Membership renewal expenses.

Carried

6. Next meeting

1pm on Tuesday 7 August 2018 in the Dickson Room.

Lesley Jackman
President