

**Meeting of Council  
5 June 2018  
Crosbie Morrison Room**

**Minutes**

**1. 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, Jann Ollerenshaw, Christianna Cobbold, Barbara Podger.

Attendance was

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

Invited Friends: David Coutts (Project Committee), Tricia Morton (Social Events)

Gardens: Sebastian Lang (acting General Manager ANBG), Peter Byron, Acting Chief Operational Officer, Parks Australia, Megan Donaldson (Friends Liaison), Sue Fyfe, and Boronia Halstead for the banksia garden.

**2. Minutes of Council meeting 1 May 2018 for approval**

**RESOLUTION**

**Moved** Helen Elliot, **Seconded** David More - that the minutes of the 1 May 2018 Council meeting be approved as tabled.

**Carried**

**3 Matters Arising from Minutes of 1 May 2018**

**3.1 Friends Submission to the JSC Inquiry into Canberra's National Institutions.**

The President appreciated the assistance she had received in preparing the Friends submission to the JSC Inquiry into Canberra's National Institutions. That submission is now on the Australian Parliament House website along with other submissions, including from the ANBG.

**3.2 New Members' Walk 20 May**

The New Members' Walk was successful with about 55 attendees, good weather, good catering and good guided walks. The President thanked the Guides and other volunteers who had contributed to its success and noted that Membership planned to run such walk annually in future, at this time of year, rather than the two walks of recent years.

**3.3 Publicising the work of the Biodiversity Science Section**

The President said that some of the BSS work would be mentioned in the next Fronds and would also be of interest for outreach activities such as the Thursday Talks.

**4. General Business**

**4.1 Ian Potter Conservatory Briefing – Peter Byron**

Although Peter Byron is currently acting in another position, he is continuing to oversee the Ian Potter Conservatory project that is part of his substantive role as General Manager, ANBG. Peter briefed the Council about progress to date, including the relocation of the conservatory because of water management and drainage issues with the previous site, focus on lighting (generally and for evening events), ventilation, and design for the layout and display of tropical collection planned for the conservatory.

He showed a copy of draft design concepts which was not for general distribution, and offered to send a draft report on the interpretation aspects to Council members. Joe McAuliffe is preparing a list of proposed plants and growing them in the ANBG Nursery. Peter indicated that tenders are likely to be considered in the second half of this year. He would like to see the opening of the conservatory to be the first significant event for 2020, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Gardens being opened to the general public.

The Friends are paying for a consultant's report on interpretation in the Conservatory, with Jann Ollerenshaw as the Friends representative on a working group. The draft report was expected to be provided to the Friends

for comment by 30 June. With the Treasurer absent in the last week of June, Peter Byron advised payment for the report was not required until July 2018.

#### **4.2 Update on the Banksia Garden – Boronia Halstead**

Boronia Halstead provided a verbal and written report on the banksia garden in her role as the Friends' liaison person. Site preparation has started. Although some existing banksia will be retained, most of the vegetation would be removed to enable light and reduce root competition. There will also be a fire garden using material, e.g. burnt banksias from Booderee National Park. A list of possible plants is being prepared, along with design for a display of banksia cones donated by Kevin Collins of the Banksia Farm in Western Australia. The banksia garden will be officially opened with a banksia festival. It was also suggested that banksia could be a theme for the 2020 Botanic Art exhibition.

#### **4.3 IT matters – David More**

Jenny Kruse has been asked to prepare the requirements for the Friends of ANBG membership administration. It will include for example, requirements for fundraising and membership records. There will be workshops of Friends volunteers and ANBG staff to look at the requirements, and consider analysis and priorities.

The recent Friends website security breach was of great concern, and David More thanked everyone for their efforts. The engagement of Cordelta was approved out of session on 4 May by 7 of the 8 Council members (Linda Beveridge was travelling overseas). We have a useful working relationship with Cordelta.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved** David More, **Seconded** Helen Elliot - that the following out-of-session resolution dated 4 May 2018 to hire Cordelta be confirmed:

That Council agreed to hire Cordelta until 18 May 2018 at a cost of up to \$5,000 to:

- conduct urgent work on the website of the Friends of the ANBG to stop the persistent hacking that has occurred recently; and
- monitor the website on an ongoing basis until 18 May, reporting any further attempted hacking and remediation efforts to the Council Executive.

Council will consider whether to develop an ongoing relationship with Cordelta at its June meeting.

**Carried**

#### **4.4 Development matters**

The plaque for donors for the Treehouse is making progress.

#### **4.5 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The President advised that special interest groups are being requested to relate their 2020 activities to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ANBG. There are currently two suggestions for a financial contribution to the 2020 Seed Bank Forum from the Friends on the table.

#### **4.6 AGM 2018**

The AGM will be held 5.30pm 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018. The President's position will become vacant along with two other Council positions, in addition to the currently vacant Vice President position. Council discussed matters relating to the AGM, including options in the event of no nominations for the President and also Vice-President position. The President undertook to follow up the discussion with an email to Council members.

### **5. Reports**

#### **5.1 ANBG Executive Director**

Sebastian Lang gave the reports for the Executive Director and General Manager. He spoke in general terms about the budget position for 2018-19.

The paving between the Visitor Centre and the Administration Building has been replaced on a trial basis. There are to be no cars or heavy machinery on the new tile work. A new route is being prepared for Flora Explorer.

Judy West, is acting Director of National Parks and she is in Kakadu for a Board meeting. One of the topics will be the research agenda.

#### **5.2 ANBG General Manager**

Covered in above item.

### 5.3 ANBG Friends' Liaison – Megan Donaldson

Key points in Megan Donaldson's report were:

- temporary signs work for the Banksia Garden and the Conservatory.
- Signs for habitat trees and the Armillaria fungus in the rainforest gully.
- Guides recruitment for an intake in early 2019, with some focus for Flora Explorer drivers and volunteers for the Visitor Centre. The current plan is advertisements in September, interviews in November.
- volunteer agreements for the 2018/2019 Financial Year are being developed.
- the ANBG is moving the Flowers Fruit and Foliage team to Schedule 1 of the MOU in light of their use of the EV and the need for related insurance cover.
- Forthcoming events include World Bee Day, Bush Blitz, and NAIDOC week. There will be no dinosaurs in the gardens this year because the National Dinosaur Museum has other priorities in 2018.
- VE is looking at running expressions of interest from external operators for various events at the ANBG.
- The Friends-funded mobility scooters have been very well received
- VE flagged a possible need for Flora Explorer to be replaced.

### 5.4 Treasurer's Report – Helen Elliot

Helen highlighted:

- the purchase of the two mobility scooters (\$8,298) and expenditure of \$4,488 for Cordelta to sort out the security breach of the Friends website.
- We are awaiting the request for final payment of the Treehouse project.
- The Public Fund has raised \$30,000 so far, which is double the amount over the same period in previous years.
- A Term Deposit of \$284,628 matures on 30 June, and it was agreed that it be rolled over for another 3 month period.
- Commitments, mainly to projects for the Gardens, are in the order of \$250,000.

#### RESOLUTION

**Moved** Helen Elliot, **Seconded** David More - that Treasurer's report be accepted.

**Carried**

### 5.5 Project Committee – David Coutts

David's report is attached. In addition it was reported that:

- the Plant Finder App will be presented to the Guides, and volunteer guides will be invited to test the Plant Finder App.
- a decision on the request for funding of the Norfolk Island PhD project under the Australian Postgraduate Awards program is due in July. There is a proposal for a small number of Friends to be involved as volunteers in some aspects of the project relevant to the activities of the Plant Science Group, Seedy Volunteers and possibly Growing Friends; this would need to be further developed once the decision on the PhD scholarship is known.

### 5.6 Social Events and Activities – Tricia Morton

Tricia reported that:

- A small committee is working with Jonette McDonnell to organise Waking up With the Birds on weekends during Floriade. It will be similar to last year: bookings for guided walks, no breakfast is included but people can arrange for breakfast directly with the café if they wish. There are enough leaders, and the guided walks may be not only in the main gardens but also along the Bushland Nature Walk.
- The Rainforest Walks on 7 and 21 June are fully booked.
- More walks will be arranged as special events for Friends.

#### RESOLUTION

**Moved** Jonette McDonnell, **Seconded** Linda Beveridge - that the Social Events and Activities report be endorsed and accepted.

**Carried**

**5.7 Photographic Group**

The Photographic Group sought approval for the annual exhibition to be held in the ANBG Visitor Centre Exhibition Space 21 November to 9 December 2018, with arrangements and expenditure of \$550 as set out in the report to Council. Helen Elliot will be the key Council contact for the exhibition opening.

**RESOLUTION**

**Moved** Helen Elliot, **Seconded** David More - that the proposed Photographic Group exhibition be endorsed and accepted.

**Carried**

**5.8 Membership**

The Membership report to end of May was noted, with total individual membership numbers now 2,399.

**5.9 Library**

The Treasurer reported that the Friends had unspent funds of \$1,700 from an amount allocated for books for the ANBG Library. She requested suggestions to be made for book purchases.

**6. Next meeting**

1pm on Tuesday 3 July 2018 in the Dickson Room

Lesley Jackman  
President