

**Meeting of Council
10th November 2015
Dickson Room**

Minutes

Attendance

Present: Lesley Jackman (Chair), Jan Finley, Christianna Cobbold, Sue Serjeantson, Barbara Tyler, David Cox, Jeff Brown

Ex officio: Glenys Bishop, Peter Byron, David Coutts, Rosalie Hampshire, Barbara Podger, Judy West.

In attendance: Annalisa Millar, Megan Donaldson.

Apologies: Rita Maclachlan, Alan Munns, Marion Jones

1. Opening

The meeting was opened by the Friends' President, Lesley Jackman, at 2:30 pm.

2. Minutes of Council Meeting 6 October 2015

No amendments were made to the minutes; they were taken as read and accepted.

<p>Resolution: Council accepts the minutes of the October 2015 meeting <i>Proposed:</i> C Cobbold <i>Seconded:</i> J Finley Carried.</p>
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3. Matters arising from October 2015 Meeting Minutes

3.1 Floresco menu

Seven members of the Council attended a test meal at Floresco prior to the Council Meeting. A selection from of the new menu was served and comments provided. Generally all thought the menu was an improvement although the serving sizes were large. A response from Floresco to the letter of complaint regarding the menu, service and pricing was circulated in the papers for the meeting and will be forwarded to the original complainants. The new menu will be mentioned in the next issue of Fronds.

3.2 Out-of-session resolution: co-opting of Marion Jones to serve as Interim Treasurer.

The appointment of Marion Jones as Acting Treasurer was ratified out-of-session by Council members after the Annual General Meeting on 8 October.

<p>Resolution: Council agreed to co-opt Marion Jones to the position of Treasurer of the Friends of the ANBG in the interim (under section 7.3 of the Friends Constitution) pending the appointment of a long-term successor.</p>
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<p><i>Proposed:</i> Jan Finley <i>Seconded:</i> Rita Maclachlan Carried.</p>

4. General Business

4.1 Parking review outcomes

The consultations that had been held with the special interest groups indicated that overall the new parking permits were working well. The access to extended hours for selected volunteer groups is not being abused. Françoise is to produce new passes for 2016 and the ANBG will consider a request from the Botanical Art Group (BAG) parking coordinator to provide her with blank passes so that she can allocate passes to BAG

members who need them.

4.1 Update on Registration Process for new *Constitution*

Work on lodgements for the *Constitution* is continuing.

4.2 New Constitution

Council Organisational Manuals, Part A and Part B, have been up-dated to comply with the new *Constitution*.

4.3 Public Art

- Lesley Jackman is working on a policy framework, and also investigating some fundraising database options for, the fundraising campaign that is expected to be developed for the public art project. She is likely to report further on this at the next meeting. Lesley has been discussing with the ANBG Partnership Development Manager a fundraising strategy that would embrace corporate sponsorship as well as a campaign directed to individual Friends. She is confident of success with seeking corporate sponsorship, given Annalisa Millar's excellent track record with the 2016 Summer Concerts.
- Lesley introduced the Terms of Reference (TOR) that have been drafted, with input from the ANBG, for public art project's Steering Committee and also the Friends advisory group. Following a brief discussion about the partnership arrangements between the Friends (including the Public Fund) and the ANBG, Council approved the TOR as presented and the proposed composition of the two committees. Consistent with the partnership arrangements agreed for the project, the TOR propose that that Steering Committee will be comprised of the General Manager and Manager Major Projects for the ANBG and the Friends by the President and the Treasurer. The Friends Advisory Group will be comprised of the Executive Committee of the Friends and the chair of the Public Fund, plus one additional person, proposed to be Lynden Ayliffe.

Resolution: Council accepts the terms of reference for the ANBG/Friends Steering Committee and the Friends Advisory Group, as proposed in the paper prepared for Council.

Proposed: J. Finley *Seconded:* S. Serjeantson **Carried.**

- Following a request from the ANBG to increase the level of Friends underwriting of the treehouse/gazebo project from \$200,000 (ex GST) to \$250,000 (ex GST), Council discussed this request at some length and agreed to support it.

Resolution: Following a request from the ANBG to increase the level of Friends' underwriting of the treehouse/gazebo project, Council noted:

- (a) the cash and in-kind commitments made to date to the project amounting to \$170,000 in cash, subject to satisfactory conclusion of the design phase, by the Friends (\$100,000), ANBG (\$40,000 in cash and \$40,000 in kind), and Public Fund (\$30,000 in cash plus tax deductibility); and
- (b) the proposal that the fundraising campaign directed at the Friends' membership intended to fill the gap between cash commitments and the upper limit of the Friends' underwriting contribution also be accompanied by a corporate sponsorship drive.

Council agreed to increase its level of underwriting of the project from \$200,000 (ex GST), capping it at \$250,000 (ex GST), involving a maximum cash commitment from the Friends of \$180,000.

Proposed: C. Cobbold *Seconded:* D. Cox **Carried.**

4.4 New Members Walk

A walk is organised for 22/11/2015.

5. Reports

5.1 ANBG Executive Director

- Dr Judy West will take a voluntary redundancy from CSIRO. She is not able under APS rules to transfer to the Department of the Environment immediately but will take five months leave with a view to returning to the Department and the Gardens at the end of that period. During this period of leave Judy will volunteer in the Gardens, and be involved with the Master Plan.
- Her acting replacement will be Ms Lara Musgrave.

5.2 ANBG General Manager

Peter Byron advised:

- The ANBG is seeking a new name for the Master Plan.
- The design brief is being finalised for the first stage of implementation of the Master Plan.
- There may be a design competition for the conservatory.
- A second lake pump filter is being installed to improve the system.
- Wi-Fi is to be installed by Christmas. The ANBG is to fund some infrastructure. Wi-Fi will be available around the VIC, the Café, the lower gardens near the Café, the Red Centre, and the Eucalypt lawns.
- Under a kangaroo fertility experiment, some kangaroos have had collars attached. More information on this is available ACT Connect.

5.3 ANBG Friends Liaison

Megan Donaldson advised:

- Sunset Cinema was due to begin last week.
- The music program for the Summer Concerts is now locked in and the Major Sponsor is happy with the selection.
- The ANBG will hold a Volunteer Recognition Ceremony on 5 December (10.30am).
- The ANBG is discussing the wine table for the Summer Concerts with the café.

5.4 Financial Report

In the absence of the Acting Treasurer the President spoke to the financial report for October 2015.

Resolution: Council accepts the October financial statement of receipts and outgoings. <i>Proposed:</i> C Cobbold <i>Seconded:</i> J Finley Carried.

5.5 Friends' Group Reports

5.5.1 Project Committee

- Council noted the report from John Fitz Gerald on the latest developments with the ex situ conservation project.
- The Environmental Monitor Station is still not working. The Gardens has budgeted \$2,500 for repairs of hardware/software. David Coutts will work with the Project Committee to look into options for repairs.
- Council agreed in principle that the Botanical Resource Centre (BRC) should continue to operate. The Project Committee will investigate the costs and what will be involved in the upgrade of the two existing computers, and also consult the Herbarium on the BRC.
- Council agreed that the late Roger Good, an alpine scientist, should be recognised for his contributions to the Gardens by a donation to the Alpine Garden Development Fund established in his memory. It was further agreed that the Project Committee would discuss with the ANBG the use to

which this donation would be put, possibly signage for the alpine garden. The Convenor of the Project Committee will discuss the payment with the Acting Treasurer.

Resolution: Council agrees to donate \$1,000 in memory of the late Roger Good to the Alpine Garden Development Fund established by the ANBG in his memory.

Proposed: C Cobbold *Seconded:* J Finley **Carried.**

- Council agreed that Steering Committee members for future development of the bushland precinct be: Dennis Ayliffe, Linda Beveridge, Anne Campbell, Kristiane Hermann and David Coutts.

Resolution: Council accepts the Projects Committee's proposal for the future development of the bushland precinct.

Proposed: C Cobbold. *Seconded:* J Serjeantson. **Carried.**

5.5.1 Major Events Planning

Council noted the report of the Major Events Planning Group.

5.5.2. Botanic Art Group (BAG) 2016 Exhibition

Council noted that the 2016 BAG Exhibition will run from 19 March until 17 April 2016.

5.5.3. Social Events and Activities Committee

- Council noted the report of the Social Events and Activities Committee.
- Council approved draft Terms of Reference for a Volunteer Strategy Sub-committee to develop recommendations for attracting and managing volunteers for Friends activities.

Resolution: Council agreed to the Terms of Reference for the Volunteer Strategy Sub-committee to develop recommendations to attract volunteers and to meet future expectations.

Proposed: C Cobbold *Seconded:* B Tyler **Carried.**

5.5.4. Membership

With the departure of Barbara Scott, Lesley Harland is to take over as convenor of the Membership team and Pam Cooke will join the team. With Les Fielke's departure arrangements are being made to handle both hardware and software requirements.

5.5.5. Photographic Group

Council noted that David Cox has replaced Graham Brown as Convenor of the Photographic Group.

5.5.6. 14 November plant and book sales

Council noted that the Growing Friends will hold its spring plant sale on 14 November and there will also be a sale of pre-loved botanical books at the same time.

5.5.7. Guides report

Christianna Cobbold reported:

- That interviewing was in progress to recruit and train 20 new guides.
- That new shirts were needed for the guides and recommended that a small group be established to

investigate options and costs.

- That a working group will investigate how to recognise the efforts of retiring guides.
- The guides will run five booked walks for five days in November for the Australian Native Plant Society's conference, which will raise \$1,000 for the Friends.
- That a request be made to Council to fund wine to a similar amount as spent in previous years for the guides' Christmas party. Council agreed to this request.

Resolution: Council agreed that a Guides' Sub-committee investigate options for the design and cost of new shirts for guides.

Proposed: C Cobbold *Seconded:* D Cox **Carried.**

5.5.8. Schools Photographic Competition

Cecelia Melano, Barbara Tyler and David Cox will review the 2015 competition and develop recommendations for the 2016 competition for Council's consideration.

5.5.9. Plant Science Group (PSG)

Council noted the report of the PSG.

Date and place of next meeting - Tuesday 1 December 2015 at 2:30 pm, Dickson Room. The meeting will be followed by Christmas drinks, which will be attended by Ms Lara Musgrave, Acting Executive Director.

The meeting closed at 5:00 pm.

Lesley Jackman
President