

**Meeting of Council
10 May 2016
Dickson Room**



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Attendance

Present: Lesley Jackman (Chair), Jan Finley, Rita Maclachlan, Helen Elliot, Sue Serjeantson, Barbara Tyler, Jeff Brown, David Cox.
Ex officio: Peter Byron, David Coutts, Steve Speer.
Co-opted: Glenys Bishop, Alan Munns, Barbara Podger.
Invited: Judy West, Martin Henery (6.6.1.4), John Fitzgerald (6.6.1.4).
Apologies: Christianna Cobbold, Rosalie Hampshire, Barbara Podger.

Opening

The meeting was opened by the Friends' President, Lesley Jackman, at 2.30 pm.

3. Minutes of Council Meeting 5 April 2016 – for confirmation

- Item 5.5.1 Correct spelling of Beth Heyde. The amended Minutes of the 5 April Council meeting were taken as read and accepted.

Resolution: Council accepts the Minutes of the 5 April 2016 meeting as amended at item 5.5.1.

Proposed: Barbara Tyler *Seconded:* Jan Finley **Carried.**

Minutes of special Council Meeting of 6 May 2016 – for confirmation.

Resolution: Council accepts the Minutes of the special meeting of 6 May, noting that these are confidential.

Proposed: Jan Finley *Seconded:* Rita Maclachlan **Carried.**

4. Matters arising from Minutes of 5 April 2016.

4.1 Schools Photographic Competition

Letters will be sent to all local schools this week and to state-based art and photography teachers.

4.2 Handover Ceremony for Botanic Arts

- The Botanical Art Groups' exhibition opened on 18 March at the Visitor Centre. The two artworks purchased by the Friends as gifts to the ANBG were presented to the Executive Director of the ANBG, Dr Judy West by the President of the Friends at a brief ceremony before the Thursday Talk on 21 April. The artworks will be displayed in the Dickson Room, where other art works donated to the ANBG can be viewed.

5. General Business

5.1 Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (AAFBG)

- The AAFBG held its annual conference in Geelong on 29 April to 1 May. The President of ANBG Friends, with some others from Council, attended the conference and AGM; they appreciated the opportunity to meet representatives from other Australian botanic gardens. There were 85 conference attendees from 22 gardens, mainly from regional Victoria. The President talked to the meeting about the conference and AGM and G. Bishop showed a DVD promoting the Guides Conference to be held in Canberra in October 2017. Dennis Ayliffe, who had initially been nominated for a general Committee position, was elected President of AAFBG.

5.2 In Flower This Week (IFTW)

- In the past, ANBG staff have provided support for IFTW and it has been considered a Gardens' project rather than an activity of the Friends, according to the MOU between DNP and ANBG Friends. Ros and Ben Walcott have proposed IFTW should be a Friends' activity, with a new name and design artwork.
- Council approved in principle that In Flower This Week should be moved from Schedule 1 to Schedule 2 of the MOU between the Friends and the DNP. Other matters including a possible name change should be discussed by Steve Speer and Ben and Ros Walcott at a handover session next week. Some quality control provisions, such as proof-reading the handout and referencing the Australian Plant Name Index (APNI), should be built into this highly regarded project.

5.3 Life Membership

- Council resolved to adopt the document *Life Membership-Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens*. The document will be reviewed after two years, as are all documents.

Proposed: J. Finley *Seconded:* R. Maclachlan. **Carried**

5.4 Public Art Project

- The preferred designer of the Public Art Project has indicated his willingness to provide costs for his suppliers, including any in-kind contributions. Following a workshop to clarify details of the work, contracts will be drawn up as for any construction work.

5.5 Friends' Strategic Plan 2016-20

- Jan Finley discussed the development of the Draft Strategic Plan and invited Council members to provide any comments on the strategies in the draft plan by 27 May.

Resolution: Council will consider the draft Strategies included in the Draft Strategic Plan 2016-2020 and advise Jan Finley of suggestions/amendments by 27 May 2016.

Proposed: H. Elliot *Seconded:* D. Cox **Carried**

Public Fund

5.6 Management Committee Appointments

- The terms of all current appointees to the Public Fund expire on 31 May 2016. Two trustees, Beth Heyde and David Headon have advised they will retire. The President invited Louise Maher and Alan Henderson to become trustees, as agreed at the April Council meeting; both have welcomed the opportunity. Both Marion Jones and Geoff Hay will continue on the management committee for twelve months.
- The members are B. Podger, H. Elliot, M. Jones, A. Henderson, L. Maher, Geoff Hay and S. Serjeantson, with the Chair to be decided by the trustees.

6. Reports

6.1 ANBG Executive Director

- For the ANBG's proposed Ian Potter Conservatory there were 39 Expressions of Interest from architects. A meeting on 11 May will decide on the four teams that will be invited to progress their bids. A media release on Monday 16 May will announce the four short-listed teams.
- Planning for the landscaping aspects of the master plan involved a workshop with TCL and ANBG staff held on 10 May, focusing on a nature play and other areas.
- Parks Australia will employ a partnership development officer who will work to the Executive Director of the ANBG but with a remit broader than ANBG

6.2 ANBG General Manager

- The Bushland Precinct Track has been delayed by certain ACT government requirements but will be progressed in this financial year with \$60,000 from Austrade, provided on a dollar-for-dollar basis.
- A further \$60,000 has been requested for 2016-2017 from Austrade for the Conservatory.
- The free wi-fi in ANBG will be fully commissioned by mid-June, for ten years, through Inet and the CBR-free initiative. ANBG will provide the hardware.
- Parks Australia is essentially maintaining the budget at current levels.

6.3 Friends Liaison

- The 'Who Lives Here?' walk will receive a major upgrade in this financial year.
- A number of staff movements were advised.
- The on-line booking system should launch soon.
- ANBG held a workshop on 9 May to discuss strategic directions in education in the Gardens. Steve Speer advised that different strategies were discussed for local schools with curriculum-based activities and for tourist schools. A questionnaire will go to schools in an attempt to increase the relevance of their visits and potentially increase the number of participants.
- Sally Blake, artist-in-residence, has received funding from the Australia Council for the Arts for her work in extracting dyes from eucalypt bark and leaves.
- The inaugural BGANZ Botanic Gardens Open Day will be held on Sunday 29 May, with a focus on Art in the Gardens

6.4 Friends' AGM

- Council discussed arrangements for the 2016 Friends' AGM, including the date (19 October), guest speaker (on the Conservatory), life membership award (nominee has agreed to accept) and Council vacancies. Jan Finley will step-down as Vice-President but continue as a Council member, Rita Maclachlan will step-down as Secretary but would be happy to continue as Public Officer and Barbara Tyler will not seek re-election. A notice of the AGM, including vacancies will be included in the next issue of *Fronde*.

6.5 Treasurer

6.5.1 Financial Report

- Treasurer, Helen Elliot presented the April 2016 financial statement, noting receipt of \$7,355 from Plant sales. Council noted the recent successful tour by the Photographic Group (32 people) and the pending tour to the Mount Annan seed-bank by the Plant Science Group (17 people). Council also approved payment of a shortfall of \$58 for the \$1200 PG bus trip.

Resolution: Council accepts the Friends' financial statement of receipts and outgoings for April 2016 and approved payment of the \$58 shortfall for the \$1200 PG trip.

Proposed: H. Elliot *Seconded:* R. Maclachlan **Carried**

6.5 Friends' Groups' Reports

6.5.1 Projects Committee

6.5.1.1 The Friends' new computer sited in the ANBG Botanical Resource Centre (BRC) is now fully operational. D. Coutts proposed several initiatives to enhance use of the BRC.

- The Environmental Monitoring Stations (EMS) remains an aspirational goal, but the source code for the stations is now available and it may be possible to recover historic data as well as making the EMS operational. D. Coutts will request an estimate of IT costs if the original computer code is received.
- The Bushland Precinct Track flora surveys have been completed and D. Coutts is liaising with S. Speer about the signage and interpretation aspects of the project.
- For the Plant Finder database, it will be some time before the contractor can begin work.
- D. Coutts will update the list of Friends' projects and include completion dates, based on the

dates of the final invoices.

6.5.1.2 Presentation on the *ex situ* conservation project

- The *ex situ* conservation project involves practical action to improve the long-term viability of Australian plant species through improved management of *ex situ* plant and seed collections.
- John Fitz Gerald and Martin Henery presented a written report summarising progress in updating collection records, improving methods for collection of material and selecting the list of 20 target species for conservation. The first collections will be of *Westringia kydrensis* and *Zieria citriodora*, found east of Cooma, in June 2016. Friends' funds will not be required for this field-work as the area can be accessed in day trips.
- In selecting the 20 target species, plant groups that could be collected on a single field-trip were prioritised in the interests of efficiency.
- Council agreed that members of the Plant Science Group should be approached to see if any would be interested in being involved in field trips.
- Dr West also reported on work on threatened species being conducted under the auspices of the Threatened Species Commissioner. This will involve looking at all nationally-listed plants in national parks under the EPBC. The national parks will increase their effort in this area by for example doing some factsheets, especially on Norfolk Island. A prioritisation tool will be developed for use in national parks. The report is due early in 2016-17 and would be a good topic for a Thursday Talk.

6.5.3 Social Events and Activities Committee

- Tricia Morton has agreed to be Convenor of the Social Events and Activities Committee, at least in the short term, following her return to Australia in late June. She has requested the assistance of a deputy Convenor. The next major function will be the Friends' Dinner on 27 October.

6.5.4 Guides Conference Sponsorship

- The meeting participants thanked Glenys Bishop for her paper on sponsorship for the October 2017 Guides Conference and accepted the report, agreeing that:
 - The proposed sponsors are appropriate and acceptable,
 - The sponsorship packages are appropriate and acceptable,
 - The letters are sent from the President of the Friends.
- P. Byron confirmed that ANBG had no issues with the proposed sponsors.

6.5.5 Membership

Report

- The number of individual members remains over 2000. Activity for the month was steady with new memberships reflecting the new intake of guides. R. Maclachlan will liaise with L. Harland to enquire on the numbers of new guides yet to take up membership of Friends and report back to Council.

Next meeting: To be advised. There may not be a quorum for a meeting on 7 June.

The meeting closed at 4.30 pm.

Lesley Jackman
President.