

**Meeting of Council
Tuesday 4th March 2014
Banks Building
Meeting Room**



Minutes

Attendance

Present David Coutts, Lesley Jackman, John Connolly, Marion Jones, Dennis Ayliffe, Warwick Wright, Anne Campbell, Glenys Bishop.

Ex officio: Judy West Peter Byron, Steve Speer.

Apologies Jan Finley, Alan Munn, Barbara Podger, Anne Phillips.

1. Opening

The meeting was opened by the President, David Coutts, at 1:35 PM.

2. Minutes of meeting, 4th February 2014

The minutes were taken as read and accepted with an amendment to item 4.5 on the motion of David Coutts, seconded by Dennis Ayliffe.

3. The curator of the ANBG Rainforest, Toby Golson, addressed the meeting on his forthcoming collection trip to Queensland and Northern NSW.

- He thanked the Friends for agreeing to fund his project proposal.
- Collection opportunities have been limited because of State permit procedures and it is highly desirable to establish and maintain partnerships with regional botanic gardens.
- Personal contacts were very important in maintaining such partnerships and greatly assist in the collection of material.
- It is considered that it was desirable to maintain a national perspective in the ANBG rainforest collection.
- His main collaboration will be with the Gladstone (Tandoon) and McKay Botanic Gardens.
- He also planned to visit the North Coast Botanic Gardens in Coffs Harbour, the Lismore Gardens and the Nandewar Range (Mt Kaputar NP)
- The trip will extend over 12 days in September / October.
- David Coutts said that the Friends would appreciate feedback on the trip. Toby suggested that he would be most comfortable with an explanatory walk through the Rainforest.

4 Matters Arising from Minutes of meeting of the 4th February 2014

4.1 Flora Explorer Review

- Steve Speer said that a review report should be ready by May.
- Glenys Bishop suggested that a proposal to change the Flora Explorer tour time to 11:30 AM might divert visitors from the 11:00 Guided Walk as result of it being visible and she was not in favour of such a change.

4.2 Review of VIC Volunteers' activity

- A meeting of the VIC volunteers to review the operation will be held on March 14th at 9:30 AM
- Council asked that consideration be given to moving it to a later time to allow Marion Jones to attend as an observer.
- A meeting involving the Friends Council, Volunteer Guides and other interested Friends to review the Volunteer VIC operation will be held on March 21st.
- A report should be ready for the Council meeting on April 1st.

4.3 Asteraceae Garden Report

- Don Beer tabled a report on the project's progress.
- The new garden will be quite large, extending from the south end of the Rockery Lawn towards the Rock Pool and below the Main Path.
- The old unsuccessful asteraceae beds will be given over to an extension of the monocots garden.
- Many of the plants are being propagated at the moment.
- Ideas for interpretative signs will be considered by the planning committee.
- The removal of tags on plants designated for removal along with updating of records has commenced.

- Site clearance is scheduled for mid-March.
- May / June to August will see construction of the Garden Beds, soil treatment, laying of paths and steps, etc.
- Plantings will begin in the spring.
- There will be a planting day including Friends.
- Suggested opening date is in mid-October.
- Don Beer was asked to keep Council informed of progress as appropriate.

4.4 Outdoor Display Screen

- David Coutts reported that he had obtained information on an outdoor computer programmable 48 inch display screen at an approximate cost of \$20,000.
- He undertook to investigate further options for referral to the Projects Committee.

4.5 Request for meeting with the new Parks Australia Director.

- No reply from Sally Barnes office had been received
- Judy West will follow up.

5 General Business

5.1 Summer Sounds Concerts Report

- Marion Jones had circulated a report on the overall financial result.
- There was still a query on a Lions club of \$50 per concert donation (\$350).
- The report on the Concerts from the Social Events Committee was to be sent to Council Members.
- ANBG will produce a report.
- *The meeting felt that the implications of the Friends liability to underwriting future concerts should be considered by Council urgently. Such a review should look at the overall purpose and philosophy of holding the concerts.*

5.2 Operational Manual

- Jan Finley had presented a report on progress for circulation to Council members.
- Further input from Council members by the end of March would be appreciated.

5.3 BRC Review

- The report was still pending

5.4 Public Art Implementation.

- Lynden Ayliffe had circulated the report of the committee meeting
- David Coutts asked if a Consulting Art Program Coordinator would be appointed. The meeting was informed that such a person would be sought as required and would probably be Pamille Berg or a similarly qualified person.
- A further meeting to look at implementation is scheduled for April 14th.

5.5 ANBG Site Masterplan

- There was discussion on the apparent lack of a site masterplan particularly as it impacts on future developments such as the Seedbank and Childrens Garden.
- Peter Byron said that it was recognised that such a plan was highly desirable. In fact, there was a broad outline in existence that could be the brief for a more fully developed plan.
- *The meeting expressed the view that the development of a site plan should be a priority.*

5.6 Australia's Garden Booklet

- There was discussion on the booklet particularly at the slow sales and the numbers left.
- The ANBG Bookshop had improved its display prominence but the meeting felt that it was unlikely that sales would improve dramatically.
- It was proposed to offer them at a discount at the Plant sale
- *Council agreed that each of the VIC Volunteers and new Guides be given a copy.*
- *The executive was asked to consider other ways to move both the booklet and the "Impressions" DVD*

5.7 Coach Tour to Southern Tableland

- Warwick Wright asked for approval to organise a bus tour on April 26th to visit Gardens on the Southern Tablelands. Cost would depend on the numbers but would be around \$66
- The tour would also be offered to ANPS and the Garden Design Club.
- *The meeting agreed to support the tour but it must be made clear it would be at the tourists own risk.*

5.8 Friends Annual Programme

- A draft of the Friends activity proposals for the year 2014 / 2015 was being circulated for comment prior to submission to ANBG management

5.9 MOU

- David Coutts drew attention to the need to revise the MOU with the setting up of the VIC volunteers group.
- David Coutts and Lesley Jackman were to examine the MOU to see if there were any other areas that needed revision or additions. Comments or suggestions from Council members will be welcomed.

5.10 2014/23015 Council Positions

- Council members were asked to make suggestions for filling Council positions at the next AGM.
- In particular a vice-president and a secretary will be needed.
- Renewals to appointments of the Public Fund trustees are due in May.
- A new chairman for the Public Fund will be needed.\

6 Reports

6.1 Executive Director, Judy West

- There are no plans for a spill of full-time positions at ANBG.
- There would probably be some more voluntary redundancy retirements
- There had been only one voluntary redundancy over the past 4 years.
- There had been no substantial changes at Parks Australia
- A horticulture position had been approved.
- External projects mostly linked to CSIRO, would continue.
- The Commission of Audit is still to report on the Department but P.A. does not anticipate a major impact.
- As part of interaction across the various parts of P.A. Tom North and Joe McAuliffe had spent time at the Christmas Is. NP
- Also, Catherine Jordan would be visiting Kakadu NP to catalogue material held in the library there.
- Judy West and Peter Byron had participated in the Enlighten Tours. Despite the rain it had been a success with only two no-shows.

6.2 General Manager, Peter Byron

- The lower boardwalk was to be renovated. Samples of some possible plastic paving material were shown to the meeting.
- Refurbishment of the main administration office area was proceeding. There would be some consolidation of office locations.

6.2 Friends Liaison

- The "Enlighten" tours were going well
- A "Bonsai" workshop is planned for 15th and 16th March.
- The ANPS plant sale is being held on 15th March.
- Leith Arundel had been appointed as ranger for the period of Bronwyn Cropp's redeployment.
- Helen McHugh has increased her hours by 5 per week.
- The Environment Monitoring Stations now appear to be working.
 - David Coutts asked for confirmation that the system will be collecting long time series data.
- The sound system for the Flora Explorer will be installed in the last week of March.
- Visitor numbers for January were 43,000 and 30,000 for February
- The 2013 School Visitations numbers were 120 local and 104 ex-Canberra.
- The venue usage was down, reflecting the economies being placed on Government departments

6.4 Treasurer

- The monthly financial statements for February had been circulated.
- *Marion Jones proposed that an EFTPOS terminal be acquired for an annual fee of \$200. This was seconded by David Coutts. This was agreed to by the meeting*
- *A term deposit was due to mature on the 2nd April. The executive was asked to discuss further reinvestment after considering future calls on funds*
- *It was moved by David Coutts, seconded by John Connolly that the accounts be received and payments approved. Motion carried.*

6.5 Secretary

- The list of correspondence for February had been circulated.

6.6 Friends Committees Reports

6.6.1 Photography Exhibition

- The exhibition had been well received.
- Around 30 had turned up for the opening.
- There was discussion on the possible sale of works and the question of handling of proceeds and commission to the Friends. It was decided to leave such matters to the exhibitors for this exhibition.
- A future exhibition was likely and conditions for sale of exhibits would be negotiated with the Photographic Group committee

6.6.2 Botanic Art Group Exhibition

- An invitation list for the opening was being put together for distribution by David Coutts
- John Connolly will purchase drinks and arrange glasses for the opening function.
- *It was decided that the Friends will again purchase a suitable artwork for addition to the ANBG collection.*
- *Selection was left to Lesley Jackman, Judy West, Lynden Ayliffe and a representative of the Botanic Art Group*

6.6.3 Projects.

- A revised list of books for the ANBG library had been drawn up after consultation with the Guides.
- Further comments from Anna Munro, ANBG Information Manager will be forwarded to Glenys Bishop.
- Alan Munns is updating the Projects page on the Friends website
- A symposium summarising the results of the Alpine Project will be held at ANBG, probably in June.

6.6.4 Plant Science Group

- Anne Campbell tabled a report on meetings of the group.

6.6.5 Social Events.

- The Twilight Dinner had been very successful with about 55 attending.
- A meeting discussing the Summer Sounds concerts had been held and a report was being circulated.
- The inspection tours of the Banks Florilegium at the National Library will take place on 19th March.

6.6.6 Website

- A report from the Website co-ordinator was tabled.
- The website had been updated.
- The committee was hoping to recruit a sixth person to ensure sufficient backup.
- Work is proceeding on implementation of secure access pages for non-public information etc.
- A dedicated website is being planned for the 2017 Guides Conference.
- *Steve Speer queried if deleted material from the website was archived for future reference. An answer will be sought from the website committee.*

6.6.7 Membership

- A report had been tabled. Membership was above 1700.
- Problems are arising with ANU Students using the Friends membership to gain parking.
- It was decided to await advice from ANBG management to see if there was a real issue and seek ways to address it.

The meeting was closed at 3:30 PM

Confirmed 1st April 2014

D Coutts

President