



## 31<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

17 October 2019 ANBG Theatre

### MINUTES

#### 1. Opening and Confirmation of Agenda

The meeting was opened by the President, Max Bourke AM, at 5.30 pm. The agenda was confirmed.

##### Attendance

Present: Forty members of the Friends signed the attendance sheet

Invited: Judy West, Executive Director ANBG; Peter Byron, Acting General Manager ANBG, Megan Donaldson, ANBG.

#### 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Dennis Ayliffe, Lynden Ayliffe, Jo Boothroyd, Jacqui Brown, David Campbell, Christianna Cobbold, Maureen Connolly, Marcel Dimo, Les Fielke, Jan and Philip Finley, Peter Heaume, Yvonne Kilgour, Lesley King, Colin Maclachlan, David More, Tricia Morton, Jann Ollerenshaw, Barbara Podger, Jennifer and Don Rowland, Barbara Scott, Doreen Wilson, Brigitta Wimmer.

#### 3. Acceptance of Minutes of 30<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 27 September 2018

No amendments were made to the circulated draft minutes.

##### RESOLUTION

**Moved** Wendy Antoniak **Seconded** Maurice Hermann that the Minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens Inc held on 27 September 2018 be accepted as circulated (Attachment A).

##### CARRIED

#### 4. President's Report

The President's Report for 2018-19 (Attachment B) covered the Friends' achievements and activities over the past year. The President noted the great range of good projects in science and education as well as development of projects that will roll out especially during 2020, and on into future years. They are a diverse use of funds raised by the Friends of the ANBG, via membership and donations. These projects include support for the Conservatory, research, and the new Banksia Gardens.

Max thanked Lesley Jackman for handsomely briefing him when handing over this role to him, which has been strong learning curve. He was also grateful the cooperative work of Council colleagues, the special interest groups and other Friends. Max acknowledged the engagement and collegiality shown by the Executive Director, Dr Judy West, the General Manager Peter Byron, and all the staff he met and worked with. It really is a pleasure to do so.

The Friends are all looking forward to 2020 as the Garden's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the Friends' 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There has been a lot of planning, and spending in preparation for it.

On a sombre note Max talked about the loss of huge numbers of plants over the years and loss is continuing. The ANBG plays a key role to reverse or stabilise this loss. He encouraged all Friends in joining the volunteer time and /or donations as firm basis for the next 50 years.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved** Max Bourke, AM **Seconded** Ian Primrose that the President's Report for 2018-19 tabled at the annual general meeting be accepted.

**CARRIED**

#### **5. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2019 included the audited financial statements for the Friends and the Friends' Public Fund (Attachment C). The Treasurer noted that in her fourth year as Treasurer, she is still awed by the dedication and time commitment that volunteers contribute to support the Gardens, especially the special interest groups. They help the Gardens and the Friends in different ways, including raising funds; Growing Friends' plants sales, the Thursday Talks, Summer Sounds, Booked Walks, and exhibitions by the Botanic Art and the Photographic Group.

Donations by Friends to the Gardens totalled \$100,325 including \$27,880 from the Public Fund. The Public Fund provided the Seed Bank with \$24,880 of new equipment as well as the x-ray assessment of legacy collections. This was in addition to \$3,000 for the collection of *Macadamia jansonii* seeds in far north Queensland. All worthwhile projects in support of the Gardens. The Friends also supported attendance by 30 Guides at the conference in Perth by reimbursing \$200 of the registration to each of them.

The combined Balance Sheet at 30 June 2019 states accumulated funds of \$514,388. However, it should be noted there is still a significant commitment to the Banksia Garden and potentially the new Conservatory.

Helen thanked all the Friends volunteers who work so tirelessly to generate income and profile the steadfast work of the Friends. Thanks also to the Garden management and staff who are very collegiate, Council members and of course other members of the Friends for their continuing their support and renewal of membership.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved** Helen Elliot, **Seconded** Alan Henderson that the Treasurer's Report, including the financial statements for the Friends and the Friends' Public Fund, for the financial year ended 30 June 2019 be accepted.

**CARRIED**

#### **6. Report by Executive Director**

Judy West explained that even though she had been Acting Director of National Parks for a good part of the year she remained closely involved with the Gardens and through the changes in executive leaders in the Gardens their relationship with Friends had remained excellent.

Highlights of the year included:

- The Ian Potter National Conservatory project has gone through an intense period of design and light modelling. Construction for the Conservatory is planned to commence in 2020 and be completed late 2021.
- Funding has been secured for the construction of the National Seed Bank (NSB). The NSB contributes to international, national and local plant conservation. During the year the NSB accessioned 128 collections of seed from 69 species from across Australia (ACT, NSW, QLD, and Norfolk Island).

- The completion of the Pomaderris Garden and the Conservation and Research Garden. Both feature a range of significant, rare and threatened species, augment the genetically representative collection available for research, future translocations and landscape enhancement.
- The web-based “Find a Plant” application was completed for public release (<http://www.anbg.gov.au/fap>) with funding support from the Friends.
- The volunteer program continues to be strong with more than 200 volunteers working in 16 different programs across the Gardens and the Australian National Herbarium (ANH). We successfully recruited 15 new Volunteer Guides. Volunteers are an invaluable resource to the Gardens, supporting activities in Visitor Centre Hosts, Volunteer Guides, Herbarium Specimen Monitors Seed Bank Volunteers, Nursery Volunteers, Growing Friends and more.
- More than 502,778 visitors, (a 2.1% decrease on 2017-2018 year). Student visitation increased to 15,334 from 14,487 the previous year, approximately 6% increase.
- Worked with new partners to deliver new and signature events; the most successful being the Carramar Koala Quest with the theme of conservation of native flora and fauna, Luminous Botanicus IV ‘s theme of shade of trees, and “Magic Garden” Concert No 9 of the Canberra Music Festival.
- The Flora Explorer 12-seater bus was upgraded, for these popular tours of the Gardens.
- The Gardens will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2020. A series of events, programs, and products will showcase the Gardens history over 50 years. Under the theme of “Celebrating Australian Plants” the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary provides a platform for staff recognition and public outreach, highlighting the Gardens as a world-renowned scientific institution, as well as a popular Canberra tourism destination.
- The construction of the Banksia Garden is well underway and with an opening planned for 28 April 2020.

Judy took the opportunity to acknowledge the importance of the Friends and its Public Fund for ongoing support of the Gardens, including thanking Max Bourke for his contributions as President.

#### 7. **Election of Office Bearers and Council members (for 2 years in each case)**

The election for Vice President, Secretary, and two Council members was chaired by the Executive Director, Judy West:

- Nominations were received for each of the positions of Vice President, Secretary, and two Council members. Personal profiles for nominees were included in the agenda papers.
- Judy West declared the following positions filled:
  - Vice-President – Linda Beveridge
  - Secretary – Jann Ollerenshaw
  - Council – Wendy Antoniak, and Peter Heaume

#### 8. **Appointment of Auditor for 2019-2020**

The Treasurer reported that she was extremely satisfied with the work undertaken by Jeff Brewer of MGI/Joyce Dickson and, after declaring a personal connection with the firm, recommended that the Friends continue to engage MGI/Joyce Dickson for the 2019-2020 financial year.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved** Helen Elliot, **Seconded** David Coutts that the appointment of Mr Jeff Brewer, Partner at MGI/Joyce Dickson, as the auditor for the Friends for 2019-2020 be accepted.

#### **CARRIED**

#### 9. **Award of Life Membership**

The President awarded life membership to the Friends to Dr Anne Campbell in recognition of her distinguished service to the Friends of the ANBG. Max outlined Anne’s long involvement with the

Friends. Anne has been a Volunteer Guide since 2008 and often contributed to the development of special walks, as well as to the Red Centre Guiding Handbook. In 2012/13 she worked on the development of the Eucalypt Discovery Walk. She was one of the original Flora Explorer drivers who developed the original route for the Flora tour. Her professional background enabled Anne to support scientific activities – a Botanical Resource Centre volunteer in its early days, and subsequently convenor of the Plant Science Group, and organised a trip for both that group and the Guides to visit the Plant Bank at the Australian Botanic Garden, Mt Annan. Anne served on Friends Council for four years and has been a regular volunteer at Summer Sounds and, more recently, at the Visitor Centre. She is now starting a new phase of volunteer work in Adelaide after her recent move there. The award was presented to her *in absentia*.

#### **10. Other business**

Marlena Jeffrey advised that she is standing down as the Vice-Patron of the Friends of the ANBG for family reasons. She was Patron from 2007 to 2011, and Vice-Patron since then. She has been impressed by the amazing developments in the Gardens over these years. She has strong affection for the Gardens and will continue to be a Friend. The Friends Council is very grateful for Marlena's support over these years and we look forward to seeing her at Friends' events into the future.

Max mentioned that we are still working on securing a patron and will hopefully announce that in the near future.

#### **Meeting closure**

The meeting was closed at 6.30pm. It was followed by Vice President, Linda Beveridge leading a presentation and discussion on ideas and suggestions to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Friends of the ANBG.



## 30<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

27 September 2018 ANBG Theatrette

### MINUTES

#### 11. Opening and Confirmation of Agenda

The meeting was opened by the President, Lesley Jackman, at 5.30 pm. The agenda was confirmed.

##### Attendance

Present: Forty-nine members of the Friends signed the attendance sheet  
Invited: Judy West, Executive Director ANBG; Dr Sally Box, Threatened Species  
Commissioner; Tiffeny Horwood, Acting General Manager ANBG, Megan  
Donaldson, ANBG.

#### 12. Apologies

Colin Allum, Mr and Mrs Martin Boling, Gai Brodtmann, Anne Campbell, John and Maureen Connolly, Les Fielke, Alan Henderson, Ian Hughes, Fleur Kelleher, Yvonne Kilgour, Svetlana Manns, Jill More, Rana Munns, David and Sue Murray, Valarie Oliver, Jennifer and Don Rowland, Barbara Scott and Dierk and Rosemary von Behrens.

#### 13. Acceptance of Minutes of 29<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 31 October 2017

No amendments were made to the circulated draft minutes.

##### RESOLUTION

**Moved** Christianna Cobbold **Seconded** Glenys Bishop that the Minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens Inc held on 31 October 2017 be accepted as circulated (Attachment A).

##### CARRIED

#### 14. President's Report

The President's Report for 2017-2018 (Attachment B) covered the Friends' achievements and activities over the past hectic year. Of note were the completion and opening of the Paperbark Treehouse, the fundraising campaign by Public Fund and growth in Membership. The President also highlighted some of the commitments to future activities of the Friends in the Gardens such as the Banksia Garden for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Gardens.

##### RESOLUTION

**Moved** Glenys Bishop, **Seconded** Dennis Ayliffe that the President's Report for 2017-18 tabled at the annual general meeting be accepted.

##### CARRIED

#### 15. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2018 included the audited financial statements for the Friends and the Friends' Public Fund (Attachment C). The Treasurer noted the regular fundraising activities of the Friends and the Public Fund campaign, she particularly noted the

successfully managed Australasian Botanic Gardens Volunteer Guides Conference and reflected on the significant increase in membership.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved** Christianna Cobbold, **Seconded** Barbara Podger that the Treasurer's Report, including the financial statements for the Friends and the Friends' Public Fund, for the financial year ended 30 June 2018 be accepted.

**CARRIED**

#### **16. Report by Executive Director**

Judy West explained that even though she had been Acting Director of National Parks since early in the year she remained closely involved with the Gardens and through the many changes in executive leaders in the Gardens their relationship with Friends had remained excellent.

Highlights of the year included

- Opening of the Paperbark Treehouse
- Commencement of the Seedbank fundraising campaign
- Increase in visitor numbers, especially school visits
- Progress on implementation of the Master Plan
  - Work with the architects to finalise the Ian Potter National Conservatory with construction due to commence in May 2019 and open for the anniversary in 2020
  - Completion of the Pomaderris and the Research and Conservation gardens
  - Northern Precinct Plan which would be a hub for the horticulture and trades depots and would include a new National Seed Bank building
  - New focus of the living collection to analyse and triage high priority species
  - Commencement of work for the Banksia Garden which would include rare and rarely seen species.

Judy took the opportunity to thank the impressive number of volunteers from the Friends and their contributions to the Gardens, she also thanked Lesley Jackman for her contributions as President.

#### **17. Election of Office Bearers and Council members (for 2 years in each case)**

The election for President, Vice President, Treasurer and three Council members was chaired by the Executive Director, Judy West:

- Nominations were received for each of the positions of President, Treasurer and the three Council members. Personal profiles for nominees were included in the agenda papers. No nomination was received for the position of Vice President.
- Judy West declared the following positions filled:
  - President – Max Bourke
  - Treasurer – Helen Elliot
  - Council – Lynden Ayliffe, Alan Henderson and David More

#### **18. Appointment of Auditor for 2018-19**

The Treasurer reported that she was extremely satisfied with the work undertaken by Jeff Brewer of MGI/Joyce Dickson and, after declaring a personal connection with the firm, recommended that the Friends continue to engage MGI/Joyce Dickson for the 2018-19 financial year.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved** Helen Elliot, **Seconded** Wendy Antoniak that the appointment of Mr Jeff Brewer, Partner at MGI/Joyce Dickson, as the auditor for the Friends for 2018-19 be accepted.

**CARRIED**

**19. Award of Life Membership**

The President awarded life membership to the Friends to David Coutts in recognition of his long and dedicated service to the Friends of the ANBG.

Alan Munns spoke in support of the award outlining David's long involvement with the Friends. He noted that David became a guide in 2002 and has been active with the Friends ever since, including playing a key role in Booked Guided Walks, founding of the Photographic Group, as a member and convenor of the Projects Committee, and had holding executive roles on the Friend's Council including as Secretary and President.

**20. Other business**

Thanks were given to the outgoing President, Lesley Jackman, for her years of service on the Friends Council.

**Meeting closure**

The meeting was closed at 6.30pm. It was followed by a talk by Dr Sally Box, Threatened Species Commissioner on her role as Commissioner and the work of the Threatened Species Commission.



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT FRIENDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS 2018/19**

What a year it has been for me and the Friends!

Despite my predecessor Lesley Jackman briefing me handsomely it has been a steep learning curve.

And on top of that much has been afoot. It may look like ducks on the pond but much paddling has been under way.

With 2020 looming as the Garden's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the Friends' 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary there has been a lot of planning, and spending. In the latter regard we have developed more simple Guidelines and encouraged more proposals from the Executive Director and for projects which meet the funding objectives of the Friends in support of Garden projects and I want to thank David Coutts and his team for managing this. We now have a raft of good projects in science and education as well as the development of projects that will roll out especially during 2020, but also on into future years.

One specific project of interest is to support the important work of Professor Adrienne Nicotra of ANU and a Trustee of the Friends' Public Fund, whom attendees at Thursday Talks will have heard. Adrienne in association with other universities and government agencies is carrying out a vital long-term project that will unlock secrets of plant behaviour in this rapidly changing environment. I think her work is absolutely crucial to dealing with the potential climatic disaster that is facing the world's plants.

As far as reporting on the health of the Association I am pleased to say that it is in robust good health from both membership and financial perspectives. As well it is delivering a huge range of "services" largely through its many Special Interest Groups who continue to do great work. I would like to say a special thank you to all the volunteers who dedicate so much time and expertise in support of the Friends.

The most 'public' of the Special Interest Groups, The Fronds Team and their beautiful publication, the Growing Friends and their massive sales, the Photographic Group and the Art Group are probably the best known and I thank them for their work. But the more low key Groups like the Seedy Vols, and the efforts of Wendy Antoniak to get out our Monthly E-Newsletter, along with the truly subterranean efforts of David More and others trying to keep our creaky IT system up to date, Jan Finley and her team that keep the Thursday Talks running deserve mention.

Members are for the most part not aware of the huge amount of work done by Lesley Harland and Pam Cooke, our Membership team who are totally 'behind the scenes' but keep us functioning as a membership organisation. Through them this last year, I was pleased to write to many people, for the most part, again, you would not be aware of, among our members who make significant tax deductible donations to the work of Friends which of course goes to the Gardens.

One activity which has been ongoing behind the scenes has been led by David More for a lengthy period and more recently by Alan Henderson, involves the search for a modern IT system for membership/donations etc. Sadly in the various 'beauty parades' that have been run, there have been a number of promising 'candidates' but further discussions with fraternal and other organisations have shown all of them to have failings which prevented them meeting our needs. Nevertheless the search goes on and I am deeply grateful for the participants in this working Group. We do want a good system for our needs.

The Council itself is a wonderful group of people at present who put in labour and intellectual firepower on a weekly basis to solve problems and deal with the running of the organisation. All of them step up when an issue arises to contribute in various ways. But I especially want to mention the Executive of Linda Beveridge, Jann Ollerenshaw and Helen Elliot who I am most in touch with, sometimes multiple times per day, and thank them sincerely for their support and guidance.

The upcoming new projects are very varied and will require us to spend some \$295,000 over the next 3 – 5 years, the highlights are:

- A Hearing Loop in the Theatrette, while I did NOT suggest this I certainly appreciate it and can assure you for us hearing impaired this is one of the best I have experienced.
- A special book on the Gardens for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year, written and heavily illustrated by Murray Fagg and others, you will want to buy many copies as gifts I hope.
- An iconic display of spectacular large plants near the entrance and in other prominent parts of the gardens, this great proposal came from the Staff of the Gardens and we hope will serve to emphasise to passers-by that THIS IS A BOTANIC GARDEN!
- A contract for a specialist science communicator to put together a program of science communication relevant to the Gardens. It is essential that we publicise much more the scientific work going on in this institution to all sorts of communities.
- A video exhibition wall outside the entrance to the Theatrette. This will be used to promote features of the Gardens on current display, to educate about activities both in and through the outreach of the gardens to visitors, many of whom use the 'facilities' besides this space.
- Our Public Fund will support interpretation for the new Banksia garden, to open in 2020. This will become a 'national resource' I am sure.
- The Public Fund will assist bringing an international speaker for the Australasian Seed Science conference in Canberra in April 2020 and other engagements thereby establishing the status of the ANBG in the scientific community.
- Finally the Public Fund will support a special seed exhibition in the Visitor Centre for the Seed Science conference and I hope this will generally lead to our Members as well as visitors getting a good handle on the importance of seed science and the role of the new Seed Bank we are working towards.

All these are in addition to support for the major capital project, The Conservatory as well as numerous smaller projects that lead to staff development and public education about the work of the ANBG. On top of these projects funds have been used to support the great work of some of our Special Interest Groups such as the Growing Friends upgrade for their shade houses, necessary as this site is now publicly exposed with the development of the Banksia Garden, and a new approach should lead to better management of the seedlings so valuable to their work.

I have to of course acknowledge the engagement and collegiality shown by the Executive Director, Dr Judy West, the General Manager Peter Byron, and all the staff I meet and work with. It really is a pleasure to do so.

A number of us feel that the Gardens tends to be or is perceived in need of more support from the Federal Government. It has had significant staff and funding cutbacks for general operations over the last decade. I know from my business experience you cannot run down your assets without eventually the operation losing its status and attractiveness to the public. To this end I have written to Minister Sussan Ley, Minister for the Environment, seeking the opportunity to put a case for increased support for the Gardens. This is a national asset at least as important as many of the other institutions in Canberra like the War Memorial and the National Gallery and it needs high level care.

So I trust that you the members are comfortable with the direction of the Friends organisation, and I am always open to critical comment. But from where I sit it has been a very busy year with some great outcomes. I thank you the Members, my colleagues on Council, and the Staff of the Gardens for achieving the outcomes laid out in our Management Plan.

I recently attended the Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) Annual Conference which was a rich and wonderful ideas packed event. But I must say that the Australian National Botanic Gardens and its staff are well up there in innovation. Just imagine what we could do with a few more resources!

Your Membership alone supports the projects we fund significantly, as does attendance at events and the icing on the cake is the tax deductible donations. Let us see if we can redouble our efforts for the next 50 years.

**Max Bourke AM**

President

9 September 2019.



**FRIENDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS INC**  
**Treasurer's Report for the year ended 30 June 2019**

It is my pleasure to present my fourth Treasurer's Report for the Friends.

Yet another busy year has passed and once again with the assistance of its many volunteers the Friends has successfully held a number of events, receipted income and just been available for contact and information. The Income Statement on page 2 details the varied ways we receive income, and apart from Membership fees which is our largest income source, the Friends are privileged to have the ongoing commitment from so many of the Special Interest Groups, such as Thursday Talks, the Growing Friends with their plant sales, Social Events (Summer Sounds and Wake Up with the Birds), as well as the Botanical Artists and Photographic Group who hold popular exhibitions each year in the Visitor Centre. Booked Walks managed by Harley Dadswell, is a constant providing income of about \$2,000 per year. The Friends' volunteers should be proud that their tireless efforts have been rewarded with about \$208,000 in income for the year which will, in the main, be donated towards projects proposed by the Gardens. Thank you to the Project Committee for reviewing these proposals and tabling them to the Friends Council for discussion and decision.

General expenditure was fairly much in line with previous years, as the Friends maintain a lean administration. Donations to the Gardens totalled \$100,325 including \$27,880 from the Public Fund. It was pleasing to donate the first tranche of \$26,758 (of the Friends \$100,000 commitment) towards the new Banksia Garden, as well as \$18,600 towards the new Conservatory for the Interpretation Plan. The Public Fund is a registered charity and receives tax deductible donations from members and the general public. This year the Public Fund received \$21,885 and tax deductible receipts were issued to all donors. As a result of these donations, the Public Fund could generously provide the Seed Bank with \$24,880 of new equipment as well as the x-ray assessment of legacy collections. This was in addition to \$3,000 for the collection of *Macadamia janseni* seeds in far north Queensland. All worthwhile projects in support of the Gardens.

The combined Balance Sheet at 30 June 2019 states accumulated funds of \$514,388. However, it should be noted there is still a significant commitment to the Banksia Garden and potentially the new Conservatory. In addition, Council has called for other, perhaps smaller projects, to be proposed by the Gardens. Council is confident that the accounts are in a robust financial position to continue, as per our Constitution, "*for the purpose of supporting the Gardens.*"

The Public Fund has accumulated funds of \$81,494 and will consider new projects to receive donations at its next meeting in July 2019.

The Friends' Financial Statements is consolidated and includes the Public Fund. However, there is Financial Statements for the Public Fund to provide transparency for our deductible gift recipient status and to assist in the various regulatory annual returns.

In conclusion, thank you to all the Friends volunteers who work so tirelessly to generate income and profile the steadfast work of the Friends. Thanks also to the Garden management and staff who are very collegiate, Council members and of course other members of the Friends for their continuing their support and renewal of membership.

Helen Elliot, Volunteer Treasurer