



**Meeting of Council
Tuesday 10th July 2012
1:30 PM Banks Meeting Room**

Minutes

1. Attendance

David Coutts (Chair), Anne Campbell, John Connolly, Lesley Jackman, Marion Jones. Andy Rawlinson, Warwick Wright,

Ex officio: Alan Munns, Anne Phillips, Judy West and Steve Speer.

Apologies: Barbara Podger, Dennis Ayliffe, Peter Byron, Glenys Bishop.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of Council

The minutes of the Council meeting of 5th June 2012, were confirmed (moved, Anne Campbell, seconded, Marion Jones).

3. Matters arising from Minutes of meeting of 5th June 2012

3.1 Centenary

- Jennifer Salkeld is reworking the programme for the “Bush Capital “ weekend event to fit the reduced grant of \$15,000.
- The Science and Innovation Working Group of the Centenary programme had met last Wednesday at ANBG.
- Some Thursday Talks during 2013 would be themed to the Centenary as would the Summer Sounds Concerts.
- A number of VIC exhibition with the Centenary themes are proposed.

3.2 Friends Office & Storage Space

- New shelving has been installed in the Friends Office and there had been a general clean-up.
- The storeroom in the Ellis Rowan Building, offered by Peter Byron, still has café stuff in it.
- David Coutts said that we could share the space if suitable partitioning to ensure mutual security can be arranged.
- Steve Speer would discuss the matter with Floresco.

3.3 Eucalypt Walk

- Anne Campbell had circulated an update on the proposed signage and a request for funding.
- The original Dahl Trust application covered 12 signs
- Although 22 eucalypt species had been chosen it was decided that no more than 15 should be included with the signs wordage is being reduced from 125 to 75. This was at the insistence of Sabrina Sonntag.
- The website wordage would be reduced from 400 to 250.
- Request for funding for additional 5 signs (3 for species, 2 general) was \$3,575.
- Funding for the production of a Brochure of \$1,186 was also requested.
- It was agreed that the sub-committee be asked to review the wordage size, particularly for the web page, and the number of species being covered in light of the feeling that there should be more rather than less. Increased expenditure to \$10,000 would be approved. The Public Fund will be approached to look at financing this with due acknowledgement. The name could be a Eucalypt trail rather than “Walk”. Trees should be good specimens.

3.4 Wattle Book Launch – 1st September

- The arrangements were as reported at the last Council meeting except that David Coutts would give the introductions.
- The Wattle Day Association has proposed that the Sing Australia Choir would sing in the foyer.
- The Wattle Day Association had also asked whether they could distribute sprigs of wattle. They would not be permitted to bring flowers into the Gardens but it may be possible for the ANBG to supply some sprigs.
- The request to sell “Wattle Day Badges” would have to be referred to the Rangers for a permit.
- Warwick Wright has some display panels that could be used.

4. General Business

4.1 Projects

- The funding of \$ 7709.26 for the new theatre projector was approved by council in a email vote as was funds for a computer to operate it (approx \$900)
- To overcome the problems with the environmental measuring station, it is being hardwired for power and an optical cable is being run to the VIC booth. Hopefully this will be a cure.

4.2 In Flower This Week

- Betty Wood and Ben Walcott had stepped in to look after this during the absence of Barbara Daly.
- It was noted that a plan for maintenance of “In Flower this Week” in the longer term should be addressed.

4.3 Payment of Visitors / Speakers

- The general policy of not paying for visitor/speaker expenses was affirmed but the Friends would be prepared to contribute to expenses in cases where the person was of great and relevant value to ANBG.
- Warwick Wright offered to approach Roger Farrow to see if Dr Grimshaw’s travel arrangements can be altered to include Canberra without cost to the Friends. If so he would be invited to speak at the Thursday talk.

4.4 Insurance

- A quote for liability insurance had been sought from AON Risk Brokers but the policies offered were not satisfactory.
- It was decided to continue the existing policy from Marsh Brokers. (M. Jones, J. Connolly)

4.5 AGM

- The AGM was set for 25th September 2012
- Suggestions for a speaker were to be sought. Robyn Archer and David Headon were possibilities.

4.6 Friends Around the Lake

- It was suggested that Breakfast with the Birds or, possibly, a Rainforest Walk could be offered to other Canberra Friends Groups. David Coutts was to discuss this with Louise Muir.
- About 20 of our Friends went to the function at the Portrait Gallery.

5. Reports

5.1 Executive Director

- Budget is tight but there will be no staff cuts.
- Casual positions will be very restricted. This will impact on the nursery and the living collection areas.
- Each unit of the Gardens will have some operating costs cuts.

- Much of the operating costs relating to the Living Collection is for tree surgery and alternative financing of this is to be explored.
- Managing staff work-loads will be addressed.
- To address the current diversion of repairs and maintenance money to operation expenses, a reassessment of the cost basis of the Gardens finances, particularly in relation to the living collection, will be undertaken for submission to the Finance Department. It is hoped to have this completed by October.
- A spreadsheet of actions required in the Management Plan has been prepared. It sets out who is responsible for actions and, initially, will concentrate on the first three years.
- Increased fees should bring in about an extra \$236,000.
- David Taylor has been appointed Curator.
- Red Centre Garden is progressing with the last delivery of rock due in a few days. This will release the expensive large machinery. Sand deliveries will then start.
- Because of costs of hard cover publication ABRS will produce future volumes of “Flora of Australia” only on-line. Printing from the website will be possible.
- Judy West will be attending a meeting on “World Flora On-line” being held in St Louis, Missouri next week.
- The ANPC conference is being held in late October and ANBG will be contributing some papers.
- A group looking at sponsorship and fund raising has been set up within Parks Australia management.
- Floresco seems to be going well and seemed to be responsive to requests and suggestions.
- Murray Fagg’s position will be advertised but will have a different focus.
- Anna Munro will be looking after General Enquiries in lieu of Murray Fagg.
- The viewing platform design is being completed and will go to tender.

5.2 General Manager

- The General Manager’s report is incorporated in the report by the Executive Director at 5.1 above.

5.3 Friends Liaison

- Flora explorer is going well although numbers are variable, probably dependent on weather.
- The “After Dark” walks are well patronised. Walks are booked out for the next month and greater frequency is being considered.
- There were indications that regional visitors were coming and the booking agent was to supply postcodes from bookings to track the visitor mix.
- Spring walks with an indigenous theme were being planned.
- Running the walks in summer was being considered but the required later start may make this difficult.
- Discussions were taking place with the café with the aim of combining dinners with the rainforest lighting walks.
- Science Week is in early August and some funding has been obtained from National Science Week .
- A Family Science Day, in conjunction with CSIRO Discovery, is being held on 12th August with inspections of the nursery, seedbank and cryptogam herbarium. There will also be experiments set up along a “Family” trail. Some volunteers from the Friends may be required.
- A Science Trail is planned for the 19th August with some interactive activities throughout the Gardens. If any of these work well they may be made on-going.
- There will be some horticultural workshops on 12th & 19th August looking at composting and healthy soils.

- There will be science talks in the café. On Friday 10th August it will be on climate change. This will be combined with the Café's 5:00 PM Happy Hour that they are keen to set up. It will be called "Equal Parts, Wine & Science".
- A couple of similar events labelled "Hamburger Science" will be aimed at Youth. These will be advertised in "Fronds".
- The next workshop on the "Climate-Watch Trail" with Rachel Maitland is on July 25th at 11:00AM.
- There are some problems with website compatibility of the QR codes proposed for the trail signs to be resolved.
- The revised trail will be available on the Climate Watch website and will be circulated to participants before the workshop.
- Paula Banks is developing Bird App and the text has been sent to Tony Lawson and Jenny bounds for comment.
- Paula is also working on a Tourism plan for the Gardens. This will be part of an overall strategic plan being formulated by Julie Akmacic.
- The Bequest pamphlet has been produced.

5.4 Treasurer

- The treasurer tables the income and expenditure statements for June.
- A duplicate payment to the Fronds Printer was corrected.
- The draft of the annual statement for the year 2011/2012 was tabled. A few amendments will be incorporated and it will be forwarded to the auditor.
- The President stated that he had inspected the bank statement for June and approved it.
- Council reaffirmed that mid-term membership applications will apply through the following year only after 1st August.
- Council approved the accounts and the payments, (M. Jones, J. Connolly).

5.5 Secretary

- The list of correspondence for June had been circulated and copies of the letters and emails were tabled.
- The secretary reported that the pull-up display banner had been found in the Theatre cupboard.

5.6 Public Fund

- The Trustees had met and noted that there had been no outgoings in the last year. The secretary had written to Pauline Wicksteed thanking her for her contribution.

5.7 Membership

- The membership report for June was received. Total membership stood at 1332 (about 1700 individuals).

5.8 Thursday Talks

- The Bernard Fennesey lecture will be on August 16th.
- The Talks programme for the rest of the year will be in the next Fronds.
- The committee is talking with Jennifer Salkeld about the 2013 Talks to be themed with the ACT Centenary.
- Warwick & Pat Wright had given 6 external talks since April. The last was given at short notice to the CWA on July 4th. Warwick will be giving a talk at the AFBG Pt. Augusta conference.

5.9 Newsletter

- The Newsletter is on schedule for August 1.

5.10 Guides

- Glenys Bishop had indicated that planning a new training course should start soon, particularly as the lead time would be at least a year.
- Steve Speer said that the ANBG would not be able to pay for an external person to run a course but he indicated that Helen McHugh would coordinate the course when she returned from maternity leave in March 2013.
- The recruiting of University students as guides was seen as having positive and negative outcomes, particularly relating to longer-term commitment.
- Marion Jones put forward a suggestion that drivers for the Flora Explorer be recruited and put through abbreviated training. This was to be investigated further.
- These matters will be discussed at the next Guides meeting.

5.11 Social Events

- Alan Munns reported that there were two Friends-only functions, one to the Parliament House Gardens and the other to the Nursery. These will be advertised in Fronds.

5.12 Growing Friends

- Spring plant sale set for 10th Nov 2012.

5.13 Website

- The site is being kept up to date.
- An invoice for \$5381.75 had come from Siobhan Duffy. Payment was approved. (M.Jones, D. Coutts)
- A further charge of \$500 to \$800 was forthcoming.

5.14 Botanic Art Group

- Lesley Jackman and Lynden Ayliffe are to find a spot for the painting purchased at the Art Show.

5.15 Photography Group

- Lesley Jackman reported that about 19 had turned up to the last meeting, including a few new members.
- The Gardens are planning a photographic display of "Families and Friends in Botanic Gardens" and the Group will be producing photos of the ANBG for this.
- The Group will have its own exhibition in the VIC in early 2014.
- Davis Coutts said that the Garden History Society had indicated some interest in obtaining flower photos. This was to be followed up.

5.16 Schools Photography Competition

- Steve Speer reported that the competition was all in place. A judge will have to be found. Graham Warden was suggested as a possibility.

Approved by Council
7th August 2012-08-09

D. Coutts
President

Next Meeting of Council:- 1:30 PM Tuesday 7th August 2012
In the Banks Building ANBG