



CONFIRMED MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 8 May 2018 at 5.30pm

held in the Margaret Whitlam Pavilion, National Arboretum Canberra

1. Welcome

The Chair, Trish Keller OAM, welcomed all to the meeting and made the Acknowledgement of Country.

2. Attendance and Apologies

Attendance – Mary Arnold, Paula Barnett, Richard Bear, Lauren Brown, Sue Brown, Debbie Cameron, Jenny Cantlon, Meryl Causebrook, Rick Causebrook, Bob Chapman, Cilla Chapman, Del Da Costa, Tony Daukus, Janet Duncan, Carol Ey, Rob Ey, Sue Genner, Sandra Linsley, Margaret Bourke, Max Bourke AM, Liz Clarke, Jeanette Hahn, Bronwyn Halbisch, M Hawes, Helen Hemphill, John Hemphill, Meredith Hinchliffe, Roger Hnatiuk, Janet Kay, Trish Keller OAM, Christine Keogh, Naomi Landau, Colette Mackay, Michael Maher, Joanne Maples, Ange McNeilly, Jan Morgan, Linda Muldoon, Christine Payne, Jocelyn Plovits, Alan Read, Maureen Read, Andrew Russell, Scott Saddler, Ian Sayers OAM, Jane Scammell, David Shorthouse, Lainie Shorthouse, Carolyn Thomas, Vicki Thompson, Hans Van Haalen, Cherie Whan, Anthony Widdowson, Jennie Widdowson, Mike Woolley, Vicki Woolley. [56]

Apologies – Malise Arnstein, Yvonne Kilgour, John Mackay AM, Lorraine Nicholls, Jim Payne, Nick and Tabitha Plovits, Marelle Rawson, Shirley Wilton.

3. Acceptance of Minutes of 2017 AGM and Matters Arising

Margie Bourke moved and Carolyn Thomas seconded that the minutes of the 9 May 2017 Annual General Meeting were accepted without amendment. Carried.

There were no matters arising.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Richard Bear, had circulated the 2017 audited financial statements, which incorporated the National Arboretum Canberra Public Trust Fund. These statements had been accepted by Council.

At 31 December 2017, there was a surplus of \$16,542 and cash at bank of \$87,615. Membership fees totalled \$15,003 (vs \$15,477 in 2016). The Friends remain in a strong financial position with money in the bank.

The Trust Fund showed a surplus of \$15,786 with cash at bank of \$104,840.

The Treasurer advised that as at 30 April 2018, the Friends held cash at bank of \$44,464 after major expenditures. There is also a term deposit totalling \$35,885.

The Treasurer thanked the auditor, Christopher Harding, for completing the audit pro bono. Council had gifted him a free parking pass. Thanks were passed by acclamation.

The Treasurer noted he was stepping down from Council but that he had enjoyed the past five years and will continue as a volunteer with the Bonsai team. And he thanked Lynley Rees, Assistant Treasurer, for her assistance over the past year.

Richard Bear moved and Jocelyn Plovits seconded that the Financial Statements for the Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra Inc and incorporating the National Arboretum Canberra Public Trust Fund be accepted; and that Christopher Harding be appointed auditor for 2018. Carried.

5. Chair's Report

Trish Keller OAM, as Chair of the Friends at the 2017 Annual General Meeting, offered her third Report. The full report appears at an appendix to these minutes.

6. Election of Office Bearers

Jocelyn Plovits acted as Returning Officer. She declared the relevant positions vacant.

Position	Status	Nomination to date
Chair	Trish Keller OAM	
Deputy Chair	Mike Woolley	
Treasurer	<i>Vacant</i>	Lynley Rees
Secretary	Del Da Costa	
Publications Editor	<i>Vacant</i>	
Donations and Sponsorships Manager	<i>Vacant</i>	
Social Media Manager	Cherie McLean	
STEP Member	Lainie Shorthouse	
National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Aust. Member	Mike Woolley	
Ordinary Member (up to 5 Members)	<i>Vacant</i>	Mary Arnold Helen Hemphill Sandra Linsley Jan Morgan Hans Van Haalen

Trish Keller moved and Richard Bear seconded the nomination for Lynley Rees as Treasurer. Colette Mackay moved and Bronwyn Halbisch seconded that the five nominations for Ordinary Members be accepted. All these nominations were unanimously elected. Jocelyn noted that Council can co-opt other Members.

7. Award Presentations

The **Volunteer of the Year Award** was given to Jan Morgan for a broad spectrum of volunteering activities such as the U3A courses, guided walks of Arboretum trees found around Canberra, seed provenance and hosing overseas tours which focus on forest found at the Arboretum.

Trish presented the **Sterling Service awards** to Ange McNeilly, Ian Sayers OAM, Christine Keogh, Sue Sheridan and Kenn Basham.

Colette Mackay was awarded a **Life Membership** award in 2018 for her work with the Friends for over 10 years in various roles, most recently the Donations and Sponsorships Manager.

In recognition of volunteering as a Guide for more than **60 shifts**, the following were presented with a certificate:

- Robyn Callaway - 79 shifts
- Sallyann Ducker - 60 shifts
- Helen Hemphill - 65 shifts
- Anna Kieltyka - 75 shifts
- Lorraine Nicholls - 64 shifts
- Carolyn Thomas - 74 shifts
- Agnes Walker - 75 shifts

Trish sincerely thanked the four people stepping down from **Council**, noting they have all made a huge contribution to the Friends and the Arboretum: Richard Bear, Rob Ey, Colette Mackay, and Linda Muldoon.

8. Other Business

Jan Morgan promoted her October tour, Autumn Colours of Eastern USA and circulated fliers (information on Friends website).

Sandy Linsley presented the Guide-secure area on the Friends website. This will be a wonderful resource for Guides providing a central repository for information on forests and also offering consistency of training resources.

The meeting closed at 6.25pm.

After wine and cheese was offered around, Trish introduced the Guest Speaker for the evening.

Dr Chris Davey worked for over 40 years as a Scientific Research Officer with CSIRO on vertebrate pest and conservation issues.

Over that period his work involved projects on small mammal trapping, behavioural studies and radio tracking of various mammal and bird species. He has conducted specific studies on the Bush Stone-curlew, Wedge-tailed Eagle, various species of shearwater and waterfowl, Gould's Petrel, Lord Howe Island Woodhen and Superb Lyrebird.

He is an active member of the Canberra Ornithologists Group, a past President, having held that position for 5 years, and remains a member of the committee.

Chris is now actively involved in studies on Superb Parrots with the ANU and Latham's Snipe and Bush Stone-curlew for the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust.



CHAIR'S REPORT TO 2018 AGM

It is with great pleasure I offer you my Report as Chair of the Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra to this 2018 Annual General Meeting.

Thank you for your attendance this evening and I'd like to acknowledge:

- Scott Saddler, Exec Director NAC
- Christine Callen
- Liz Clarke, Director – Events Canberra CMTEDD

Membership – updated Friends' membership leaflet and prices

The new Friends membership leaflet was approved by Council, as well as the increased prices for membership. The date of implementation will be 1 June 2018. It has been 4-5 years since our previous price increase. Information will be circulated via the next Newsletter (ie E-newsletter/Update) and AGM.

We are always looking for new members - recent membership numbers are trending down: April 2017=720, October=737 highest, April 2018=677.... so spread the word and/or take some of the new brochures and hand them out. Just the other day at the launch of the current photo exhibition by Dr Brendan Nelson we were talking about the Friends at the AWW and our Friends. Was he a Friend? We gave him the brochure and voilà! The very next day his membership application was received!

Friends Position re Property Donations (public art)

There has been considerable conversation and correspondence over this issue with Andrew Taylor Trustee for the Greater Good. With much assistance and taking the lead role in working our way through this issue, our previous Chair Jocelyn Plovits, has helped us. The latest letter on the matter has come from the Chief Minister and I will read a couple of significant paragraphs ...

Friends activities over the past year are many and have included, not in any order BUT

The most recent - and one in which many of you, your family members, members of the public and NAC staff and others participated - the planting of the understorey plants for the Friends Garden on Dairy Farmers Hill. What a wonderful location we have been allocated and will be our pride and joy for many years to come.

The plants ...

2,250x *Rhagodia spinescens*

900 *Westringia fructosa* 'Smokey'

450x *Correa glabra*

450x *Poa Labillardieri*

They already look magnificent under the Snow Gums ... Spring augurs well!

Warm Trees 18 is well under way, with our previous Chair, Jocelyn Plovits leading the way with her merry band of knitters and the generous support of the New Zealand High Commission.

The Friends Guided Tour to Singapore - thanks to Friends Margie and Max Bourke AM - was a wonderful experience.

If you have read the latest Friends newsletter you will have had a taste of the tour by reading the various articles and seeing the photos. As one who participated I can only say, again, thanks to the Bourkes for their great idea, their personal involvement in the superb organisation over many months, even a year and the great experiences we were able to participate in through their comprehensive knowledge of the people and places of Singapore's amazing places.

And the fundraising component of the tour cost yielded close to \$11,000 for the Friends coffers. There have been ideas discussed about how these funds would be utilised. A recent Council agreed to adopt an annual grant process whereby the Council agree each year on an amount to donate to the NAC for the purpose of running public activities. Further it agreed to the amount of \$5,000 to be donated now as a start and then would consider further amounts annually. If possible, at least 20% discount should be available to Friends for attending these activities.

Working Bees

The Worker Bees thoroughly enjoy their Tuesday and Thursday hours spent in the various forests or areas such as the Pod Playground. WB manager is Ryan Mallard who was the inaugural Jake Keller Scholarship holder and now NAC employee within the Horticultural team. It is a joy to see him so happy in his work!

Jayne Roberts, 2017 *Jake Keller Scholarship* winner, overseen by Owen Bolitho, manager of the NAC Hort team had an interesting project as part of her work at the NAC. in the English Oak Forest. The Worker Bees were invited to observe the blasting of 60 holes in preparation for the planting of the oaks. Some of us were given the opportunity to push the plunger what a blast that was!!! Preparing the *Bush Tucker Garden* beds in the STEP Forest, Forest 20. Layers of soil, layers of mulch, spreading, shaping, edging, more mulching.

Other and various

Mike Woolley and I met with Mel O'Hanlon, proprietor of the Curatoreum several times to determine a policy for selling Friends' products (e.g. calendars and the Arboretum Book) at the NAC. This policy has been ratified by Council and it's a win-win for all concerned.

The link with the Canadian High Commissioners wife, Fay Maddison and her fairy world in the story, '*Natasha's Wood*' continues. There are opportunities on our website for Canberra's young artists to engage with this story. Cherie is regularly adding the art content to these web pages. Eventually when the book is published, the Friends will benefit from the profits.

On-going learning for Guides – at the meeting on 17 April, Sandy Linsley, gave the meeting an up-to-date look at the secure new website for the Guides. This will be easily accessible for the Guides and regularly updated to ensure currency and consistency of information. She, Lauren, Spero, Cherie and others have been working closely for months to make this a reality. Thanks to Sandy and her team for what is already a great resource!

Market Stalls run by the Harvest Group during the year. What amazing produce they bottle!

The last market Stall was a great success to the tune of \$2,069 a couple of weekends ago. So a huge vote of congratulations to the Harvest team.... I attended their round-up meeting and was amazed at the energy, the organisation and the goodwill and good humour that abounds within the group.

They, the Harvest Group, have some produce recently made for the next market day, on for Mothers Day this Saturday.

Seasonal and other Talks are always popular - over the year they have included Jackie Warburton from the ACT Cactus and Succulent Society; Eric Davies, the Bee Man; Michael Mulvaney speaking about the Canberra Nature Map; and the STEP Forest Walk and Talk by David Shorthouse. There were others who contribute their time for our enjoyment and learning.

Friends Sponsored events... The Spoon Smith, Jeff Donne from Pambula on the South Coast ran two sold out spoon carving workshops and a garden rake workshop for children. Many happy participants left with hand carved spoons from our very own Himalayan Cedar and we will look at inviting him again next year.

Alison Pouliot travels all around the world presenting Fungal Ecology workshops and we were lucky enough to have her visit the Arboretum and present two workshops to enthusiastic participants including a walk to our Cork Oak forest to explore fungi at the Arboretum. Both workshops were sponsored by the Friends allowing discounted prices for member participants.

Also thanks to our CEO Lauren Brown who takes the bookings and can crunch the numbers at a moments notice. The Friends will continue to support ongoing lifelong learning and work with the Arboretum to bring a variety of workshops and events to interest all our Friends.

Guides...where would we be without them!

Volunteer Database

New Volunteer database called Better Impact was launched by the Community Engagement Officer in November 2017. This allows the guides to roster themselves on shifts and provides an easier way for the Community Engagement Officer to keep track of volunteer numbers, volunteer hours and statistics. This will eventually be available to all volunteers. Our Community Engagement Officer, Lauren Brown, has done some number crunching and the latest figures at the April 17 Council meeting were

Total Terrace Talks=485

Total visitors on Terrace Talks=1810

Total Forest Walks=54

Total Visitors on Forest Walks=388

Event assistance=56 – school holiday activities, event in the Cork Oaks

Guiding=2608

Many thanks Guides - keep up the good work on all your walks and talks. Keep attending the blended Guides and On-going learning sessions - there is so much valuable content for us all.

At this rate, it looks like the Friends Volunteer Hours in 2018 will surpass easily the 2017 hours. Watch this space for the numbers,,,,...

National Volunteer Week is coming up on 21 – 27 May. Our Community Engagement Officer works with many other cultural institutions including the National Gallery of Australia, National Library of Australia, Geoscience Australia and many others to offer a huge range of free activities and tours open to volunteers of all the participating institutions. This is one way of saying thank you for all the hard work our volunteers put in as well as seeing what other volunteers are involved in across Canberra. Currently we have over 200 volunteers and last year, as you know, we collectively gave over 20,000 hours! This year our team of wonderful Bonsai volunteers have been nominated for a team award in the ACT Volunteer of the Year awards. Looking forward to hearing the results later this month.

The unveiling of the plaque to 'Adam's Forest' was a family and close friends gathering on 5 May when Adam Burgess's wife and daughters unveiled this cleverly created bespoke plaque. Adam himself had taken these cuttings and had a mate nurture them. In time, this bank of white crepe myrtles now known as Adam's Forest, will complete a panorama of white when seen from the bottom carpark.

Our **website** is continually being updated to keep you informed. Please keep an eye on it. As you all know there is so much happening in this wonderful place we don't want you to miss out on hearing about the latest. Sandy Linsley is going to show us the new website presently.

The Friends are grateful to Scott Saddler, Executive Manager of the NAC and his team who regularly address our gatherings and provide the latest information which keep us informed. We are then able to pass on to our many visitors who ask so many questions. We have the answers! Thank you Scott and your team!

I offer our grateful thanks to the Friends who work from home ... those wonderful unseen Friends who process the parking passes and the memberships and field questions with aplomb, those who write submissions, the knitters, and flower makers ...

The National Arboretum Book – decisions will be made regarding these over the next few Council sessions. We have a number of Arboretum Books in store in the container(143 cartons = 13 books =1859 books, plus the ones in the storeroom) and while they sell at a steady rate according to Mel at the Curatoreum- she keeps track of every sale, perhaps it is time to reduce the price...please send comment to Council if you have an opinion on this.

The 2019 calendar... our Publications Editor, soon to retire but has generously agreed to to take the lead. Its another watch this space.....

Colette Mackay over many years has taken responsibility as *Manager of the Sponsorship and Donations* program. We thank her very much for the role she has played in this remarkable fundraising pursuit. There is a handout about donating seats and/or tables. Please have a look at it. There are currently six seats and two picnic tables awaiting installation.

Interesting invitations as Chair - Some of you will recall Rolfe Hartley from Engineers Australia briefed us regarding the design of a sculpture of a cochlear implant to go in to the Pin Oak Forest...at a lunch recently he announced the winning entry 'Freefall' by Queensland engineering firm, Bligh Tanner. This is planned to be the centrepiece of the 2019 Centenary of Engineers. Meantime a model of the installation and design boards will be displayed in the entry to the VC...look out for those.

I have received other invitations to talk about the Arboretum from the Friends perspective and they include The Brindabella Bushwalkers Group at Hackett, conversations with Brisbane Botanic Gardens Volunteer Guides officers here for their National Guides Conference, Weston Creek View Club at the Southern Cross Club

I find there are so many opportunities to be an Ambassador for the promoting the Arboretum which I wholeheartedly embrace...I'm sure you do too ... so keep up the good work and thank you again for being such enthusiastic, wonderful and generous Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra. 'You are' as I said to end my report last year, 'Gold, pure Gold!'

Thank you very much.

Presentation of certificates of appreciation for Council members stepping down -

Each of these Council members has made a huge and unstinting contribution to the Friends and on behalf of you all I would ask that you join me in a round of applause.
Colette Mackay, Linda Muldoon, Rob Ey, Richard Bear

Volunteer of the Year to...Jan Morgan

**Life Membership Award to Colette Mackay
Sterling Service Awards - 5**

Ange McNeilly, Christine Keogh, Sue Sheridan, Kenn Basham, Ian Sayers, OAM