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## GENERAL MEETING

**8 February 2011 at 5:30PM**

**GROUND FLOOR, ActewAGL BUILDING,  
40 BUNDA ST, CANBERRA CITY**

No.	DRAFT MINUTES	ACTION BY
1.	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> John Mackay, Jim &amp; Chris Payne, D &amp; J Hyndes, Sherry McArdle-English, Shirley &amp; Graham Kaye, Joe Mifsud, Bev Kaiser, Bruce Rollins, Rachel Betts, Yvonne Hackman</p> <p><b>Attendees:</b> Jocelyn Plovits, Carmel Maher, Max Bourke AM, Margie Bourke, Colette Mackay, Jennie Widdowson, Trish Keller OAM, Cathy Robertson, Linda Muldoon, Roger Hnatiuk, Martin &amp; Sue Wright, Del da Costa, Sue Brown, Shirley Wilton, Di Wright, Roger Hnatiuk, Anne Meade, Marelle Rawson, Meredith Hinchiffe, Mary Hodgkinson, Ross Lapworth, Linda Muldoon, Anthony Widdowson, Campbell Macknight, Linda Beveridge, Alan Franklin</p>	
2.	<p><b>Minutes of last meeting</b></p> <p>The Minutes of 9 November 2010 were accepted with the following change - Del da Costa to be included in the apologies . A summary of the minutes will be placed on the website.</p> <p>There was no business arising.</p>	

<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Chair's Update</b></p> <p>Recently Jocelyn met with the Chief Minister regarding the business of the Friends. The Chief Minister was very interested in the Friends' activities and indicated that he would be available for the opening of the Festival of the Forest.</p> <p>A calendar of events is now on the website. As time goes on more information will appear on the calendar. Let us know if you are interested in volunteering for any activities by emailing to <a href="mailto:contact@canberraarboretum.org.au">contact@canberraarboretum.org.au</a>.</p> <p>Working Bees will no longer be cancelled because of rain. If the weather is inclement than the working bee will be changed to an information/research session in the Visitors' Centre.</p> <p>Shortly the Friends will be asked if they are interested in looking after a "knoll". The "knolls" will have "Troll" leaders and they will be responsible for the work done on the "knoll". Small groups will look after each "knoll". The work will largely involve removing woody weeds and replacing them with native plants and maintaining a record of the works.</p> <p>A new workgroup "Collecting for Herbarians" will be set up similar to a group at the Botanic Gardens. Leaves, fruits, flowers and bark can be collected. A mention will be placed in the next Newsletter.</p>	
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**Talk by Trish Keller - the Arboretum and Girralang Primary and the School Community**

Trish Keller OAM, is Principal of the Giralang Primary School, a school of some 200 students. The school is the first school Friend of the Arboretum though an associate membership. The P&C and School Board actively supported becoming a member.

Trish wants all her students to visit the Arboretum before the end of the 2011 school year. Jocelyn Plovits visited the school in 2010 to deliver one of her memorable, entertaining and hugely informative talks to the students. Each student received a copy of the National Arboretum Canberra book as a memento of the occasion.

Giralang Primary School has noted that 2011 is International Year of the Forest and in an effort to raise awareness of sustainable development of all types of forests, classes have chosen to call their classes after the rare, endangered or symbolic species of forest as described in the Arboretum booklet. Kinder classes are named Chinese Dogwood and Bottle trees, classes 1/2 Dragon Trees and Wollemi Pines, etc. Other rooms are named: Monkey Puzzle Forest (Library), Bunya Bunya Forest (Front Office), etc. This extends throughout the School.

During the year the school will have a focus on the study of forests and trees and use art and craft, science, music and singing activities to assist the children to understand the concepts surrounding sustainable development, biodiversity and horticulture. An area of the school is designated to showcase the International Year of the Forest and each class will have a panel to decorate featuring their forest to be displayed in the area.

The School's Arboretum project is in its infancy. Its goals and aspirations are long term, broad and encompassing and its benefits will be reaped by future generations. Trish indicated that she was hoping that Jocelyn would present to the next Principal's meeting.

Jocelyn thanked Trish for her wonderful work at her school promoting the Arboretum. Jocelyn invited parents/guardians of students to volunteer for the Festival activities.

5	<p><b>Planning for the Festival of the Forests</b></p> <p>Work is continuing on the roads in the Arboretum. The road up to the Himalayan Cedars and up to Dairy Farmer’s Hill is expected to be completed but the road continuing down from the Hill will not be finished until later in the year. Those areas which are completed will be used by the Friends for the Festival. It is hoped to have a cycling event which will conclude prior to the opening ceremony at 10:30am. Cycling will finish with a circuit on the newly paved Arboretum roads.</p> <p>There will be tethered balloons early in the day when there is hopefully little wind and then kites later in the day when the wind picks up.</p> <p>An exciting day in the forests with activities for the whole family featuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• wondrous, free, guided, fun walks featuring different forests - see how the forests have grown</li> <li>• Creative Spirits program of indigenous storytelling, tracking, music making, dancing and crafts</li> <li>• continuous free hop-on, hop-off bus tours, with guides to tell you about the site</li> <li>• passport activities for children</li> <li>• interactive displays including about the International Year of the Forest, sustainability and conservation</li> <li>• free crafts for the children</li> <li>• free kite making and displays</li> <li>• key exhibits from the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia</li> <li>• free shuttle bus access to activity points</li> <li>• guided walk and boat visit to arboreta and gardens starting at Royal Canberra Golf Course - cost approx \$20 - bookings essential on 62887656</li> </ul> <p>There will be a shuttle bus for walkers return trip to the Events Terrace.</p> <p>Welcome to country and official opening will commence at 10:30am.</p> <p>An event program will shortly be available on the website. There will be opportunity for people to be involved in the activities on the site and volunteers should email to <a href="mailto:contact@canberraarboretum.org.au">contact@canberraarboretum.org.au</a> to register their interest in volunteering. Volunteers should indicate which activity they want to participate in and what time they will be available. The program will be organised in two hour slots.</p> <p>It is planned that the new Arboretum book will be on sale for \$5 a copy.</p>	
6	<p><b>Volunteers training on site - 5 &amp; 6 March, 10am</b></p>	

7	<p><b>Other business</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Alan Franklin (Treasurer) indicated that there was \$2,511.25 in the Deposit Bearing Interest Account. Expenditure in this account has largely been for minor expenses and reimbursements to Council Members for such items as stamps and stationery. Incoming monies have been mainly memberships and donations. \$7,000 was transferred from this account to the Business Max-i investment account in October. The investment account balance stands at \$14,454.87. The Business Cash Reserve account has a balance of \$205.28 start up funds and has been set up to be used when we had tax deductible status. We are waiting for the Taxation Office and a separate ABN to enable this to proceed. The first half of the years' financial records will be submitted to the Auditor shortly.</li> <li>2. A revised version of the Arboretum booklet has been produced and extends to 65 forests approximately and also the bonsai collection.</li> <li>3. Cathy Robertson (STEP) explained that STEP has recently met with the Chief Minister and he has agreed to attend their opening. "Do it yourself 'biowise' gardening" will be promoted in the new subdivision. STEP is very interested in Blocks 31-34 and has been undertaking extensive mapping of the blocks. Eventually each tree will be identified and there will be a map of the site.</li> </ol> <p>Jocelyn thanked all the members for attending and for signing up on the volunteer roster for 20 March – the Festival of the Forests.</p>	
	The meeting closed at 7:10pm	

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