



Minutes

Monday 20 May 2019 7:00 – 8:30 pm
Manly Bowling Club, Raglan Street, Manly NSW 2095

- 1. Acknowledgment to Country** – Denise Keen
- 2. Attendance** – 16 members attended as per the attendance sheet.
- 3. Apologies** – Roger Dawson, Max Peterson, Robyn Lewis, Chris and Ishbel Searle and Judy Lambert.
- 4. Minutes of previous meeting** – The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th April 2019 were presented. It was moved by David Stead and seconded by Denise Keen that they be accepted. All were in favour.
- 5. Introduction of new members** – The Chairman Lloyd Keen welcomed several new members to the Friends group.
- 6. Garden Festival** – LK told the meeting that coverage of the event would be appearing in both Covered and Peninsular Living magazines. There has been universally positive feedback and the festival was attended by approximately 270 people. The CWA who ran the Devonshire Tea stall reported an excellent outcome, having sold 140 teas and all the cakes in their bake stall. The Scouts sausage sizzle also sold out. LK proposed that the Friends group run this at the next festival. He thanked both David Stead and Buck McFarlane for their assistance in setting up and he thanked all the members for all their endeavours, without it would not have been the success it was.
- 7. Sandy Hudspith introduced the guest speaker** – Melissa Ellis (ME) –CEO of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney (FRBG).

ME told the meeting that the FRBG has over 5 ½ thousand members and over 300 volunteers. Membership is increasing but attracting younger people was difficult. The NSW Government provided less than 50% of the funding to run the gardens and the remainder is made up by membership fees, donations and sales. Much of this is generated by plant sales by the Growing Friends Nursery. Some of the group's funding is used to send staff overseas.

ME advised that occasionally they received large donations by individuals and suggested that the FIPBG look to locate individuals who might assist us. She also spoke about events such as Artisans in the Garden in which art, mainly floral art, was exhibited for around three weeks. This also generated substantial revenue.

She stressed the importance of collaborating with local organisations. She also told the meeting that the annual New Year's Eve picnic on the harbour provided up to 1/3 of the group's revenue.

In the discussion which followed, it was agreed that having art work in Ivanhoe Park, particularly when those paintings depicted plants in the park, could provide significant benefits for FIPBG. Importantly we would need a suitable location to exhibit these. ME also stressed the importance of sponsorship by local clubs who generally donated a percentage of their revenue to local groups. Other ideas proposed were an event such as the tomato festival which is run by the FRBG group.

8. Working parties – LK advised that the working bee conducted on Saturday 18th May had been successful. This work focussed on the south western corner of the park where there were mainly Australian native plants. Several bags of weeds were removed from the garden beds. He is currently seeking a location to store our tools.

LK tabled a plan which included working bees run each month on Saturday and one on a weekday. In order to do this we need to have a person responsible for managing the working bees and able to undertake induction of untrained members.

9. Grant Applications – Tony Lewis spoke to both the grants for which the FIPBG group has applied. These include a NBC grant under their Community, Arts and Culture Grant scheme for an amount of \$12,900 and a NSW State Government grant under the My Community Project scheme for \$59,000. In the case of the second grant, this will be decided by a community vote so, if we are judged suitable to be included in the voting process, the group will need to actively encourage voting within the community.

10. Web Development – Liz Howe spoke about the development and the setting up of a members' only page which detailed the work schedule. DK congratulated Liz on the excellence of her work which was appreciated by all attendees.

11. Members and Membership Secretary – LK detailed the increasing need for a membership secretary as the Friends group grew. He tabled a paper which set out the role of the person. It is hoped that we might attract one of our members to volunteer to take this on, even if only for a trial period.

LH told the meeting that we currently have 49 paid up members while our mailing list now extends to 121 people. Buck McFarlane suggested that it was time to hold a workshop to discuss and agree on what the Friends group was all about. This suggestion was welcomed by the meeting.

12. Speaker for the next meeting – SH was concerned that we may be able to get a speaker. She requested that, should this occur, Tony and Robyn Lewis be prepared to deliver the presentations they each made at the inaugural festival. Tony responded positively. .

Meeting closed 8.35 PM



Garden Working Bees.

Plan for FY 2020

Run two garden working bees a month for groups of a minimum of 5 to a maximum of 15 volunteers. Likely times a month are on a Saturday 9.00am to 11.00am and another on a Wednesday 10.00 am to midday. Members can go to either or both.

The work will include weeding, planting, tidying up and plants sales.

Volunteers must be FIPBG members of family members. They must be inducted for insurance purposes.

How can we achieve the results –

To achieve the result – Initially we will need 2 supervisors to organise and run things

Their goals will be –

- Conduct two clean- ups a month
- Each to conduct one of the two clean -ups each month as well as some required training as well
- Liaise two weeks beforehand with councils' nominees' staff and decide what each month's target will be
- Setting up members inductions
- Meeting monthly with and keeping the President up to date with needs and schedules
- Organise invitations to members to go out t through Liz sending and responding to working schedules
- Occasionally attending executive meetings to discuss members ideas and suggestions
- Managing storage of equipment as well maintaining the equipment
- Arranging to put forward to the executive meeting orders of new equipment