



Friends Ivanhoe Park Botanic Garden Minutes Monday 17th September 2018

7.00 – 8.30 pm at Manly Bowling Club Raglan Street Manly NSW 2095

1. Acknowledgment to Country

2. Attendance – as per attendance sheet

3. Apologies – Judy and Geoff Lambert, Sandy Hudspith, Christine and Michael Kininmonth

4. Introduction of new members – The Chairman Lloyd Keen (LK) advised the meeting that Roger Dawson has accepted the position of Treasurer which means all the executive positions have now been filled.

5. LK introduced the guest speakers – Barbara Stack (BS) –Project Manager NBC, Catriona McKenzie (CM) consulting arborist and Lia Skountzas Landscape Architect with NBC who told the meeting about her background and that she is excited to be involved in the project.

BS updated the meeting and presented the completed site survey. Both the survey and the list of identified trees will be available to view on the website. The full survey plan will be on display at the next meeting.

CM reported that the plant identification is almost complete- some of the trees are hard to identify due to their size and origin. There will need to be a plant survey of the understorey as well. There are a large number of trees in the park. Many of the trees are unique and have origins in Northern Queensland Daintree and Brazil. There are some spectacular specimens like the Blue Quandong and the Fig near the wooden bridge.

Overall the condition of the trees is good although some are located too close to hard surfaces such as paths and some are suffering from incorrect management. More common species have several examples and could be thinned to allow space for larger trees to grow.

BS advised that once completed the tree Asset Audit should inform the group and the council on decisions for the next 5 -10 years. The quality and health of the trees and their location needs to be considered to inform the Management Plan. Any development in the Management Plan needs to take into account potential damage to existing trees. The future direction of the garden and plant design and care will follow the different identified zones in the garden – rainforest, bushland, areas to visit etc. Moving paths to develop areas and protect existing trees is an option.

The NBC is conducting an asset audit of the three previous council areas which will be completed by November. There could be an opportunity for funding for some initial maintenance work. The council and the Friends will work this to come up with the best outcome.

Question from the members re how soon the labelling of trees using the plant list and general signage for the garden will be done. There were concerns about the security of the labels. The council and the Friends will work this to come up with the best outcome.

BS was asked about how much the NBC was planning to change the nature of the garden to attract visitors to the detriment of the existing character of the garden. There was particular concern that informal areas will be paved over and that it was more important to interest locals in the ongoing care of the garden. It was acknowledged that Ivanhoe Park Botanic Garden is a special asset that needs to be maintained.

The Sensory Garden was identified as a good project to start with.

Denise Keen led a vote of thanks from the meeting to the NBC Team for all their work to date.

6. Working parties – LK advised that there needs to be more members before working parties are viable. Sandy Hudspith is liaising with other groups who may be able to volunteer but do not need to join as a member. Every-one will need an induction unless they have completed one in another group. David Hummerston NBC and past Manager and Supervisor of the garden has volunteered to conduct the inductions.

7. Gilbert Park – The NBC does not intend to include Gilbert Park in the IPBG Management Plan. However they will now conduct a tree audit of Gilbert Park and this group will be informed. The results and any changes to be made will be run past the Friends . LK has started a discussion for inclusion of changes to identify a kiosk in Gilbert Park for meeting tourist groups to lead them into the Botanical Gardens.. LK has raised Tower Hill Park with the council as another park that needs to be reviewed.

8. Stony Range Spring Festival – held over

9. Event Planning – Fiona Gray reported that she had a lot of ideas to consider but she felt more time was needed for the group to settle in before developing a plan. She felt that the priority was what was needed to be incorporated into the Management Plan and on how to recruit more volunteers. Fiona will follow up the Manly Daily to be included in their listings of meetings and events. She is also looking into fundraising opportunities.

10. Website – Liz Howe reported that the website up and running. It will include information on the garden, meetings, agendas and minutes from the meetings. Request that the FIPBG be included on the NBC website as are other groups.

11. Memorandum of Understanding – LK reported that it is to be signed this month. It has been reviewed by a solicitor and no concerns identified.

Meeting closed 8.35 PM