



FFF BOARD MEETING TUESDAY APRIL 19TH

The Chair welcomed the attendees and opened the meeting at 7pm.

The Board meeting **was attended** by Virginia Young (Chair), Brendan Mackey (via Skype), Jane Olsen, Jonathan Miller, Paul Howorth, Peter Tait (arrived 7.15pm), Samara Constable, and Lyn Goldsworthy (Executive Officer - EO).

Apologies were received from Colin Butler, Gilles Rohan and Tony Capon

SUMMARY DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS

1. Finance

The Board received the Finance report, including the report of income and expenditure for January-March 2016. Income continues to be minimal; expenditure has been reduced to minimum; contract staff are providing a substantive volunteer contribution; the organisation is awaiting the results of a number of grant proposals; the member appeal generated a small but gratefully received response. As agreed at the previous Board meeting, the Board will review the Foundation's financial strategy at its June and August meetings.

The Board accepted the EO's offer to continue her current arrangement (one paid day/3-4 days' volunteer days/week) to end June 2016. The Board agreed to extend the OM contract of 2 days/week through to end June, and also thanked Samara for her substantive voluntary contribution.

2. Administration and Governance

- The Office Manager role was restructured to better reflect the potential needs of EO support, to "Officer for Research and Administration" (OAR) effective immediately.
- A 'living' office manual has been prepared to allow greater use of volunteers for administration tasks.
- The online donations and membership renewals process should be completed shortly.
- The Operational Plan for 2016 is being updated to reflect recent decisions in Fundraising, Membership and Communications Working Groups.
- A Board Charter and a Policy on Conflicts of Interest were approved.
- EO was instructed to prepare a draft Policy on Sponsorship to be considered at the next Board meeting.

3. Members

- The May edition of the Journal is on schedule.
- A new (approximately) monthly newsletter has been initiated to keep members informed of events, discussions and project updates. To keep costs down, this will be distributed online unless it is explicitly requested in hard copy.
- As Virginia Young had to defer her talk, the next member talk will be with Paul Tranter on 5th May, talking about the 'hurry virus', and CCACTR's Environment Exchange on Biodiversity offsets is scheduled for 28th April.

4. Fundraising

The Board reviewed the proposed 2016-2017 draft fundraising plan, which incorporates 'routine fundraising effort' (based on events, membership, donations and bequests) and 'ad hoc fundraising effort' (designed around tailored proposals to fund priority projects and development work).

5: Projects and Communications

- The Communications WG has developed a work-plan around key audiences to engage in the biosensitivity discussion.
- The draft Biosensitive Principles should be finalised in early May. They include a section where each principle is linked to relevant examples/practices, and it is expected that the document will be regularly updated as discussions are generated.

There was some discussion around the role of governance in the framework. It was noted that governance is largely implemented through legal system, which is largely bio-insensitive – there are no rights for nature under law. Various examples of progressive thinkers/projects promoting the need for inclusion of the rights of nature were shared, including Earth Law Alliance, Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature and the associated International Rights of Nature Tribunals and World Charter for Mother Earth, but it was acknowledged that these are aspirational rather than embedded in the existing legal system. The Board agreed that the rights of nature should be explicitly referenced in our principles.
- FFF is participating in discussions at ANU to scope out a proposal around 'Avoiding human and planetary Catastrophe; How can ANU help'. A roundtable is scheduled for late June.
- Discussions are proceeding on the establishment of a FFF display space at the Riverview West Belconnen development site.
- The Board agreed that the time for a 'bricks and mortar' "Biocentre" is perhaps passed, and that a more decentralised/distributed semi-virtual concept was more appropriate. Work is underway to develop a proposal to promote as an election ask with the ACT government
- Concerning the name of our "Biocentre", 'Forum/space for future of humans and nature' is gaining some support. Further suggestions are sought.
- Stephen Boyden has kindly agreed to the FFF using his soon-to-be published book as the basis of the first part of our proposed online biosensitivity course.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 21st June 6-7.30pm.

VY thanked the participants and closed the meeting at 8.20pm.