

ADVISORY LETTER:

2020 NZ BIRD CONFERENCE - COVID-19 VIRUS PANDEMIC

Council is circulating this letter to all members of the Society and to presenters to provide advice in the event of possible postponement of the 2020 NZ Bird Conference in Christchurch because of the Covid-19 virus pandemic, and at the same time we wish to provide advice for refunding registration fees.

1. Refunds

If you are unable or do not wish to attend the conference, a full refund will be made for cancellations of individual registrations advised up to 1 May 2020. From 1 May 2020, no refunds will be made. In the event of cancellation and consequent re-selection of field trips, refund of the price difference will be made after the conference.

Council is continually monitoring advice from the Ministry of Health concerning the Covid-19 virus pandemic and will act in accordance with this. As at 13 March 2020, the Ministry of Health does not recommend altering arrangements for public events. However, the situation and the Ministry's response to it is changing all the time.

If a situation occurs where an official government recommendation is made to postpone, or cancel, public gatherings, the Society will postpone the Canterbury conference to a later date and **will make full refunds of all registration fees** that have been paid for the conference and field trips.

2. Disclaimer

In the event of other unforeseen circumstances (industrial or otherwise) that disrupt the conference, the organisers accept no responsibility. The information on the conference website and in the printed material is correct at the time of publication. However, the conference organisers reserve the right to change information if required and to adjust the conference programme accordingly.

In consultation with Regional Representatives, Council will consider when a future conference will be held in Christchurch if the NZ Bird Conference is not held this year because of the Covid-19 virus pandemic. At this stage no decision has been made on this point.

For more information please refer to the Ministry of Health website for "COVID-19 Advice for public events and mass gatherings." <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/> Information on this website is updated regularly.

Bruce McKinlay
President

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www.birdsnz.org.nz