

## Notices of Motion

### Introduction

On behalf of Council, I move three **Notices of Motion** to amend the Constitution of The Ornithological Society of New Zealand Inc. The existing rules concerning membership administration require amendment following technical improvements made in 2020 that now provide a more secure and efficient basis for managing the records of members, in particular for a proposed change to the timing of invoicing of annual subscriptions.

### Background

A revised computer-based membership management system substantially improves earlier arrangements for keeping members records and for invoicing of subscriptions. Although it is not evident when viewing the Society's website, members can be assured that significant technical improvements have been made that now provide a more secure and efficient basis for managing the records of members. The new system uses the 'MembershipWorks' computer software, widely used by companies and others for securing and managing personal records.

Improvements introduced by the new system are:

- Renewal of the annual membership subscription can now be made on the anniversary of when a member joined the Society, rather than on 1<sup>st</sup> January of each year as has been the case since the Society was founded in 1939.
  - ✓ Two benefits of this approach are gaining a more even spread of income to the Society during the year, and a more even workload throughout the year for the membership secretary.
  - ✓ Another benefit is reduced costs to the Society because of smaller print runs for 'Notornis' and 'Birds New Zealand' through not having to hold extra copies for people joining during the year.
- Some membership categories have been simplified although the major membership classes defined in Section 5 of the Constitution are unchanged.
- An annual subscription can now be paid (a) through the Society's website, including the option of using a credit card to make a payment, also to make a donation, and (b) an option is provided to arrange an automatic annual renewal of a subscription. Renewal of a subscription and the payment of a donation can continue to be made by a direct credit payment through the banking system.
- Members can quickly and easily update their own personal details, such as changing names, addresses and phone numbers.
- New members may join directly through the Society's website and can also use a credit card to make a subscription payment.
- Regional Representatives can quickly assemble lists of members in their own regions and view the membership status and contact details of local members.
- Registration of members attending an annual conference is simplified, including for the payment of fees. This improvement will greatly assist Regional Representatives and the Executive Officer when organising a conference, including listing members and others registered to attend, reconciling fees paid with conference registration, and listing the financial status of members at the time of the AGM.
- Improved ability to make a donation to the Projects Assistance Fund and to buy a membership Gift Voucher.

The introduction of membership renewals on the anniversary of when each member joined the Society requires amendments in Section 6 of the Constitution, specifically Clauses 6.2 and 6.3, and the repeal of Clause 6.5.

### **Notice of Motion**

It is **moved** that Clause 6.2 requiring that “*The annual subscription shall be payable on or before the first day of January in any year*” be amended to read:

6.2 The full annual subscription shall be payable on the anniversary of when a member joined the Society whereupon they shall be entitled to receive any publication of the Society and to exercise all the rights of their class of Membership for one year.

### **Notice of Motion**

It is **moved** that Clause 6.3 requiring “*No Member shall be entitled to receive any publication of the Society or exercise any of the rights of Membership unless their subscription has been paid by the last day in February in that financial year*”, be amended to read:

6.3 No Member shall be entitled to receive any publication of the Society or exercise any of the rights of their class of Membership unless an annual subscription has been paid within eight weeks of the anniversary of the Member joining the Society.

### **Notice of Motion**

It is **moved** that Clause 6.5 requiring “*Any person joining the Society during the financial year shall pay the full annual subscription for the class of Membership which they have joined and shall be entitled to all the rights of Membership of that class for that financial year*” be repealed.

### **Explanations**

A new membership management system introduced in 2020 makes significant technical improvements over the earlier arrangements for the administration of members’ records including altering the timing for invoicing for subscriptions. The new system provides a more secure and more efficient basis for managing the records of members. Improvements include provision for payment of the annual subscription on the anniversary of when a member joined the Society thereby gaining a more even spread of income during the year, achieving a more even workload throughout the year for the membership secretary, and cost savings on printing of Society journals because of smaller print runs for ‘Notornis’ and ‘Birds New Zealand’ through not having to hold extra copies for people joining during the year.

Section 6 of the Constitution concerns the payment of subscriptions by members of the Society.

Amendment of Clause 6.2 provides authority for the annual subscription to be payable on the anniversary of when a member joined the Society, rather than on or before the first day of January in any year (as at present). Furthermore, this amendment also specifies that a member shall be entitled to receive publications of the Society and to exercise all the rights of their class of Membership for one year.

A change in Clause 6.3 amends the entitlement of members to receive any publication of the Society or to exercise any of their rights of Membership unless an annual subscription has been paid within eight weeks of the anniversary of their membership, rather than payment made by the last day in February in any financial year.

Consequent to amendments of Clause 6.2 and 6.3, it is proposed that Clause 6.5 be repealed because it is no longer relevant.

Bruce McKinlay  
President