

Minutes of the 80th Annual General Meeting of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand (Inc.)

held in Wellington on 1 June 2019 at 4pm.

Present

More than 120 members and friends.

Welcome

The President, Bruce McKinlay, welcomed all to the AGM with special recognition of former Presidents and Fellows of the Society who were present.

Apologies

Chris Robertson, Willie Cook, Delia Small, Geoff Foreman, Raewyn Foreman, Biz Bell, John and Stella Rowe, Jill West, Gwenda Pulham, Sharon Alderson, Gillian Allen, Betty Seddon, Karen Baird.

Motion: *That the apologies be accepted.* Bruce McKinlay/Les Feasey Carried

Recent Deaths

The meeting recalled with sadness the recent deaths of members; Ashley Cunningham, Carol Davies, John Simmons, Colin Hill and Trevor Trought.

Minutes of the 2018 AGM

Motion: *That the minutes of the last AGM, as circulated, be accepted as a true and correct record.* Bruce McKinlay/ John Stewart. Carried.

Matters Arising

A motion had been passed at the 2018 AGM requiring Council to review and rewrite the Society's Conservation Policy. While this had been done, and published in the Dec 2018 issue of Birds New Zealand, there was discussion on whether it was sufficiently proactive.

Motion: *That Council establish a conservation sub committee that identifies and explores ways in which Birds NZ activities can contribute to the conservation of NZ birds.* Peter Frost/Viola Palmer

The motion was supported by arguments that the current policy does not go far enough to advocate for conservation and that this was necessary to grow membership. On the other side a case was made for objectivity but noting the need to work up our data and to publicise our achievements. The President noted that the motion had not been notified and therefore could not be put to the vote however, the issues would be referred back to Council.

Treasurer's Report

When reading the Treasurer's Report Paul Garner-Richards summarised the key features of recent revenue and expenditure, noting also a trend that expenses are slowly getting ahead of revenue.

Motion: *That the Treasurer's Report and financial statements be accepted and that Council arrange for them to be independently reviewed and then published.* Paul Garner-Richards/ Keith Woodley. Carried.

President's Report

Key issues reported by the President were:

- Recognition of the generosity of financial partners,
- Development of the New Zealand Bird Atlas Scheme,
- The quality of the our publications, *Notornis* and *Birds New Zealand*,
- The continuing high value and benefit of the Scientific Committee, Records Appraisal Committee, Checklist Committee and other technical programmes,
- Continuing to foster a close relationship with Young Birders,
- Prudent financial management of the Society,
- Progress with implementation of rebranding of Birds New Zealand.

Motion: *That the meeting thank the President for such a full account of the society's activities.* Peter Gaze / David Melville. Carried

Matters Arising from the President's Report

Several queries were raised and answered as follows:

- Are health and safety guidelines available for those leading field trips? - Yes
- Is there a contract with WMIL to lead the new Atlas project? - Yes
- Is mentoring support available for potential submitters to *Notornis*? - Yes

Election of Officers

The President noted that there was an outstanding vacancy on Council for the position of Secretary. Three councillor positions were also vacant and had been filled uncontested by the nomination of Colin Miskelly for a further three-year term and the nominations of Josie Galbraith and Eleanor Gunby.

Amendments to the Constitution

A notice of motion had previously been published with regard to the following:

New Rule 5.2.6: "Honorary Member may be awarded by Council to any member of the Society in its sole discretion on the resolution of not less than eight Councillors in recognition of an outstanding and specific physical contribution made to the Society that does not qualify for election as a Fellow. An Honorary Member shall be entitled to the full rights of Ordinary Membership without the obligation to pay a subscription."

New Rule 5.2.8: "Young Birders is a membership category for young people linked to and supported by the Society through a Memorandum of Understanding with Young Birders New Zealand. Young Birders New Zealand aims to encourage the study of birds and their habitat use amongst young people and to support other activities that are consistent with the objectives of the Society. Members of Young Birders New Zealand will be non-financial members of the Society."

New Rules 8.7.1 and 8.7.2:

8.7.1 "The positions of President, Secretary, Treasurer, plus seven other Councillors shall be elected from the membership of the Society following the calling for nominations by the Secretary."

8.7.2 "The position of Vice-President shall be elected by Council from a member who has been elected as a Councillor. Election of the Vice-President shall be at the resolution of a majority of Councillors, excluding the nominees."

Amendments to Rules 9.1 and 9.9

9.1 "Councillors shall be persons who are financial members of the Society and shall be proposed, seconded and elected by members by postal or electronic ballot, the result of which shall be announced at the Annual General Meeting."

9.9 "The Secretary shall announce the names of the elected Councillors at the Annual General Meeting and move a motion requiring the ballot papers including, where appropriate, the entire electronic records of ballots to be destroyed."

Amendment to Rule 14.15: "Each region shall elect or appoint a regional Treasurer and such other regional officers as the activities of the region require."

Motion: *That the meeting accept all constitutional amendments as proposed.* Bruce McKinlay / Peter Gaze. Carried.

Young Birders Memorandum of Understanding

The President of the Society and George Hobson from Young Birders formally accepted and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Birds New Zealand and Young Birders New Zealand. The MOU specifies objectives of both organisations, a basis for cooperation between them and membership benefits and constraints.

Awards

The President read a citation acknowledging the work of Andrew Crossland, particular his contributions to ornithology in Canterbury that have provided for better management and protection of birdlife. He was granted the Robert Falla Memorial Award with acclamation from the meeting.

Meritorious Service Awards were granted to Chris Petyt, Derek Batcheler, Helen Taylor, Jan Walker and Reg Cotter. Citations for each were read.

General Business

There was no general business and the meeting closed at 5.20 pm.