

The Ornithological Society of New Zealand Inc.

Notice of Motion to the Annual General Meeting 2024 concerning membership subscriptions

29 February 2024

I give **Notice of Motion** to members on behalf of Council that:

the rate of subscriptions for all classes of Society Memberships be amended. The present and proposed amended subscription rates are as follows.

A. New Zealand Membership Subscriptions (\$)						
Category	Ordinary	Family	Student	Group	Corporate	Life
Present Rate	80.00	20.00	40.00	160.00	400.00	1,580.00
Proposed Rate	90.00	22.50	45.00	180.00	450.00	1,785.00
% Change	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	13.0

B. Membership Subscriptions for the Rest of the World (NZ\$)						
Category	Ordinary	Family	Student	Group	Corporate	Life
Present Rate	134.00	33.50	67.00	262.50	805.00	2,800.00
Proposed Rate	151.00	37.75	75.50	295.00	805.00	3,165.00
% Change	12.7	12.7	12.7	12.7	0.0	13.0

Note: Life subscriptions are paid once for the life of the subscriber. Other subscriptions are annual payments.

Explanation

Council has been considering the long-term financial viability of the Society for several years. Services to members have increased; the quality of our publications with more full colour images has improved and has markedly raised the visibility of the Society; the costs of undertaking Council business have increased; the cost of maintaining our digital profile is an increasing cost and the expectations of members and Council as to the activities of the Society have increased. Several activities that have been financially supported by the Birds NZ Research Fund have increased dramatically as a result of a very comfortable partnership with the T-Gear Charitable Trust. This is very much appreciated as it supports us as a Society – in particular for providing financial support for a wide range of ornithological research – but these activities are separate from the costs of operating the Society.

Issues that significantly influence the operation of the Society's activities are these:

- Postage rates have increased and we can expect that the costs of mailing hard copies of publications will continue to increase.
- Publication and distribution of *Notornis* has always been critical to the effective operation of the Society but in line with decisions of many members to opt-out of receiving paper copies and Council has already decided to discontinue the publication of a paper version of *Notornis* (from the end of 2023; Vol.70). This decision is also in line with the decisions of many other scientific societies who have stopped printing paper versions of the journals. High quality digital versions will, of course, be maintained.
- Executive Officer costs continue to rise and the Society needs to meet these to ensure that essential administration and management functions will continue to be provided in the diligent and efficient manner being achieved presently.
- Membership numbers are changing and so we need to respond accordingly.
- Costs of maintaining the Society's popular and attractive website have increased – in large part because of the greater charges for the increasing range of information on the "cloud" storage that supports the website. Further website development, i.e. to provide increased functionality, has been paused until 2026 in order to contain costs.
- Is it feasible to ask *Birds New Zealand* magazine to carry more advertising?

Resolving these questions is work that Council is pursuing and will understandably take some time to address, but at the same time it is recognised that there is a discrepancy between our subscription income and our essential operating costs.

The matter of the rate of subscriptions is complex. For some time, Council has been trying hard to find a practical compromise that will be acceptable to the membership for balancing the books of the Society, for maintaining our activities and at the same time being reasonable about the subscriptions that will be charged. Council is aware of the increased costs that we are all facing in our daily lives. The position has been made that much more difficult because of disruption caused by the Covid pandemic since 2020, by subsequent increases in costs of almost all goods and services that affect us all and the uncertainties in our lives because of these factors. We do not wish to have a large increase in subscriptions but there does nonetheless need to be an increase in subscriptions in all membership classes in order to protect the interests of the Society into the future.

Moved by: Bruce McKinlay, President

Seconded by: Paul Garner-Richards, Treasurer