

Minutes of the 85th Annual General Meeting of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand (Inc.)

Held at the Novotel Auckland Ellerslie, Auckland, 1st June 2024

Present: 70 members including 7 Council members.

Natalie Forsdick (new president) welcomed everyone and introduced herself. The agenda and summary of reports were displayed on screen.

Apologies: Paul Garner-Richards, Eleanor Gunby, Mark Ayre, Stella and John Rowe, Bill Cash, Mike Bell, Sue Bell, Pat Crowe, Chris Robertson, Peter Langlands, Mary Thompson, Josie Galbraith, Anneke Schuckard, Willie Cook, Tom Harty, Don Goodall.

Motion: *That the apologies be accepted.* Natalie Forsdick/Michael Szabo. Carried.

Recent deaths: Bruce Postill (former RR, Waikato), Denise Poyner (Auckland), Peter Schweigman (Otago), Ken Bond (Auckland), Wednesday Davies (Auckland), Chris Petyt (Nelson), Peter Besier (Nelson), Andrew Anderson (Otago), Margaret Merton (Tauranga).

Minutes of the 2024 AGM: The previous minutes had been circulated online.

Motion: *That the minutes of the 84th AGM held in Nelson in June 2024, as circulated, be accepted as true and accurate record.* Natalie Forsdick/Biz Bell. Carried.

President's report: Natalie read out her annual report for 2024, thanking the Regional Representatives, members of Council, the Executive Officer, and all those who volunteer for the society for their outstanding work.

A member asked whether there were plans to increase promotion of the Nest Record Scheme. Natalie replied that the Council had discussed this, but promotion is on hold until the scheme has been modernised (digitisation and improvements to the database).

Natalie informed members of current and upcoming vacancies within the Society.

Motion: *That the president's report be accepted.* Natalie Forsdick/Gwenda Pulham. Carried.

Treasurer's report: Bruce McKinlay (ex-officio President) presented the Treasurer's Report, the Independent Assurance Practitioners Report, the Independent Reviewers Report to those charged with Governance, and the 2024 Annual Report. Bruce also shared an email from the Society's treasurer explaining the perceived decrease in revenue in 2024 compared to 2023 which is due to the transfer of the Pacific Islands Bird Conservation and Research Fund (PIBCRF) from Forest and Bird to Birds NZ and the changes made to the membership renewal date. In 2024 NZ\$1,050,000

were transferred to Birds NZ from the estate of Kerry-Jane Wilson (KJW) for the management of a new seabird research scholarship.

Johannes Fischer suggested including figures from additional previous years in the annual report to better visualise trends. Bruce agreed. A member requested further explanation of how the KJW bequest will be presented in the Society's accounts. Bruce replied that he could not say at this stage, but the Society is looking at protecting the fund and using the interest to support the scholarship. A member mentioned a 20% depreciation in capital investment and asked whether it is a good time to invest, and if the funds could be used for shorebirds. Bruce replied that details are still being negotiated with the trustees of KJW estate, but the funds will be available only for seabirds and preferably for research rather than management. Richard Littauer shared a previous experience in another organisation where a treasurer had stolen funds, and asked what mechanisms are in place to prevent that from happening. Bruce replied that two signatures are required for any withdrawal of funds. David Thomas acknowledged the significance of KJW bequest.

Motion: *That the treasurer's report and financial statements be accepted.* Bruce McKinlay/Keith Woodley. Carried.

Nominations for Council: Johannes Chambon (Secretary) announced the results of the Council elections. Only one nomination was received for a three-year term from Martine Darrou who had previously been co-opted on Council. There was not an excess of nominations therefore Martine was elected. Nic Rawlence was co-opted on Council before the AGM. Bruce McKinlay, Colin Miskelly, and Eleanor Gunby reached the end of their terms and did not seek re-election.

Awards:

Notornis:

Best Student Author: Scott Bourke. Received in absence by Nic Rawlence.

Region:

Regional award for greatest growth in membership: Jeanette Brooker (Waikato).

Society:

Meritorious Service Award: Geoff and Raewynn Foreman.

Robert Falla Memorial Award: Tim Lovegrove. Tim thanked everyone for the nomination and shared stories from his long career in bird conservation, including his role as compiler of the Notornis index.

Conference:

Best Student Oral Presentation: Inka Pleiss

Best Student Poster: Timothy Yang

People's Choice Poster: Cara Thompson

Photo Competition:

Bird in flight: Mary Louise Ward

Behaviour: Lisa Argilla

Bird Portrait: Arna Carlson

Bird in habitat: Koshy Yohannan

Overall: Arna Carlson

David Lawrie presented a painting by Keith Woodley which had been donated to the Society, which was then gifted to Mary Thompson in thanks for her efforts toward the National Spoonbill Census.

Ian Armitage thanked Natalie Forsdick for her work as president of the society.

The meeting closed at 5:11pm.

Minutes compiled by Johannes Chambon, Secretary.

Signed:

Date: