



Annual General Meeting 2019-20

Wednesday 11 November 2020

by Webinar

Minutes

The meeting started at 7:50pm

Opening

The President, Neil Hermes, welcomed all present at the Annual General Meeting of the Canberra Ornithologists Group for 2019-20 and asked that participants email their names to cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au to allow an attendance list to be compiled.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Sandra Henderson, Megan Mears, Shirley Kral, Jean Casburn, Joan Lipscombe, Mark Clayton, Jenni and Tim Hyne and Suzanne Edgar.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting

This item was not covered during the AGM. Consequently, the minutes of the previous AGM have not been confirmed.

President's Report

Owing to the technological issues that delayed the start of the AGM, the president made a brief summary of his report. Refer to the attached copy of the report for details. In summary:

General

The President highlighted the contrast between the 2018-19 year and the 2019-20 year. In particular, he mentioned the fires in Namadgi National Park which are still preventing COG members from birding in some favourite places and the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Northern Shoveler, observed at Kelly's Swamp in September 2019 and again in July 2020, was a notable rarity for the year. Neil also noted that the Rarities Panel has recently updated the list of birds that are considered to be rare in the ACT.

Committee

The committee met eleven times during the reporting year and continued to act on behalf of COG members. The meetings from March to June, inclusive, were held remotely.

The committee was greatly assisted by other members whose support was even more important this year than in other years.

Databases and data management

Neil noted that work to replace COG's databases is under way.

Monthly Meetings

Jack Holland continued to provide interesting speakers for the COG monthly meetings which occurred until March. After a few months of silence, monthly meetings recommenced virtually in July. Neil noted the difficulties of having on-line meetings.

CanberraBirds email announcement and discussion list

The list continued to be managed by David McDonald. Neil announced that the recent issues would soon be resolved as the discussion list was being moved to a new provider.

Conclusion

All the COG members who had contributed over the year to COG in many ways were thanked for their efforts in this unusual and difficult year.

Adoption of President's Report

Alistair Drake proposed and Jenny Bounds seconded the acceptance of the President's Report.

Presentation of Annual Statements of Accounts

Prue Watters presented the audited Financial reports. The meeting was advised that figures in the reports published on the website are correct but noted an error in the summary displayed during the AGM.

Neil Hermes moved that the financial reports (as published) be accepted. Seconded: Nick Nicholls

Appointment of Auditor for the next financial year

Neil Hermes moved that Rod Griffiths be appointed auditor for the 2019-2020 financial year. Seconded: Prue Watters

Public Officer

Jack Holland has agreed to act as Public Officer. Moved: Neil Hermes. Seconded: Steve Read

Election of office bearers for 2020-2021

Jack Holland acted as returning officer and the following were elected unopposed:

President: Neil Hermes

Vice-President: Steve Read

Treasurer: Prue Watters

Secretary: Bill Graham

Ordinary committee members: Jenny Bounds, Anthony Nicholls, Chris Davey, Alison Mackerras, Kathy Eyles and Brittany Brockett were welcomed as returning members of the committee.

Other matters for which notice has been given - Nil

The meeting closed at 8:15 pm.