



## **Annual General Meeting 2020-21**

**Wednesday 10 November 2021**

**by Webinar**

### **Minutes**

The meeting started at 7:32 pm

#### **Opening**

The President, Neil Hermes, welcomed all present at the Annual General Meeting of the Canberra Ornithologists Group for 2020-21 and asked that participants email their names to [cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au) to allow an attendance list to be compiled.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mary Pekin and Martin Gascoigne.

#### **Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2018-19 Annual General Meeting and 2019-20 Annual General Meeting**

Steve Read moved that the Minutes of the 2018-2019 AGM be accepted. Seconded: Jenny Bounds

Steve Read moved that the Minutes of the 2019-2020 AGM be accepted. Seconded: Jenny Bounds

#### **President's Report**

The president made a brief summary of his report. Refer to the attached copy of the report for details. In brief:

#### General

The President reported that in spite of the challenges faced during the year, the COG committee kept on with the regular tasks and started some new activities coming out of the members' survey in 2019.

The COVID-19 lock-down stopped outings and sent monthly meetings on-line. However, outings have recommenced and it is probable that monthly meetings will be held in person from January 2022.

### Committee

The committee had a busy year and met either in person or virtually throughout the year. The president thanked all committee members for their efforts and in particular thanked the Vice-President, Steve Read, for his support.

Neil also thanked the Secretary, Bill Graham for six years of hard work and noted that Bill is stepping aside from the Secretary's role at this AGM.

The committee was greatly assisted by other members whose support was vital to keep COG running during a challenging year. These people are the cogs who keep COG running. 'COG's Cogs' is the title of a new series in Gang-gang, written by Nathan Finger, which highlights their contributions.

### Code of Conduct

The committee adopted a Code of Conduct during the year which sets out an easily understood standard of behaviour for all members.

### Copyright policy

The committee reviewed COG's policy on the use of photographs and sound recordings on the website. The policy can be found on the website.

### Databases and data management

Neil noted that work to replace COG's databases has continued slowly. Due to issues getting data into and out of the old database, the Annual Bird Report for 2019-20 has been delayed.

### Membership

At the end of the financial year COG had 420 members. Neil thanked all COG members for continuing to support the organisation throughout the challenges of COVID-19.

### Steve Wilson Medal 2020

The Steve Wilson Medal for 2020 was presented to Bruce Lindenmayer.

### Garden Bird Survey

Neil reported that fewer people are contributing to the Garden Bird Survey. He noted that the survey has been running for 42 years and has accumulated much valuable data. However, the value of the data set will diminish if the number of survey sites continues to fall. He encouraged members to consider starting to survey their patches next survey year.

### Conclusion

The president thanked all the COG members who had actively contributed over the year to COG and its many activities.

### **Adoption of President's Report**

Steve Read proposed and Lia Battisson seconded the acceptance of the President's Report.

### **Presentation of Annual Statements of Accounts**

Prue Watters presented the audited Financial reports for COG and the Canberra Birds Conservation Fund.

Lia Battisson moved that the financial reports be accepted. Seconded: John Goldie

### **Appointment of Auditor for the next financial year**

Lia Battisson moved that Rod Griffiths be appointed auditor for the 2021-2022 financial year. Seconded: John Goldie

### **Public Officer**

Jack Holland has agreed to act as Public Officer. Moved: Prue Watters. Seconded: Neil Hermes

### **Election of office bearers for 2021-2022**

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

**President:** Neil Hermes

**Vice-President:** Steve Read

**Treasurer:** Prue Watters

**Secretary:** Margaret Robertson

**Ordinary committee members:** Jenny Bounds, Anthony Nicholls, Chris Davey, Alison Mackerras, Kathy Eyles, Brittany Brockett, Bill Graham and Clare Henderson were welcomed as new or returning general members of the committee.

### **Other matters for which notice has been given - Nil**

The meeting closed at 8:00 pm.