



Canberra Ornithologists Group
Annual General Meeting 12 November 2025
Canberra Girls Grammar School, Deakin
Draft Minutes

The meeting started at 19:45

Opening

President Kim Farley welcomed all present at the Annual General Meeting of the Canberra Ornithologists Group for 2024-2025. The participating members of the AGM were those in the room and members who attended by Zoom. Members and guests signed the attendance sheet. The quorum was formed by the members in the room and those attending by Zoom.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Alison and Paul Mackerras, Angela Booth, Shirley Kral, Kathy Walter and John Goldie, Heather Crawford, Peter Miller, Sue Lashko, Sandra Henderson, and Mark Clayton.

Confirmation of minutes of 2024 AGM

The minutes were passed subject to the wording of the heading being changed from 'Canberra Ornithologists Group t/a Canberra Birds' to 'Canberra Ornithologists Group'. This alteration reflects legal advice that the use of 't/a' is no longer necessary or advised. Following a question from the floor the President advised that members were free to use whatever name they preferred, namely Canberra Ornithologists Group (COG), Canberra Birds (CB) or COG.

Prue Watters moved that the Minutes of the 2023-2024 AGM be accepted. Seconded: Chris Davey.

President's Report for 2024-2025

Kim Farley pointed to her full report on the website and then highlighted some of Canberra Birds' achievements in 2025 and coming challenges for the next year. Total membership numbers remained steady at around 350, despite regular turnover of members. More family groups and students have joined in the last year, replacing members who didn't renew.

Field trips and outings continue to be popular, attended by about 620 members and guests this year, compared with around 500 people in 2024. It was noted that many members attend several outings

each year. This increase in participation may reflect wider advertising through the Canberra Birds Facebook page. Interest in citizen science projects remains strong, especially in the quarterly Woodland Surveys, managed by Jenny Bounds, and the Honeyeater Migration Survey coordinated by Chris Davey. This survey will be repeated in 2026.

Julian Robinson designed a new membership system that can be searched easily, is providing accurate annual numbers and can collect other relevant management information.

The major challenge in the next few years is the reduction in our strong volunteer base. The strength of Canberra Birds has always been the many members who have undertaken roles within the organisation. They provide continuity with their knowledge and experience and identifying replacement members is becoming an issue. It is likely that Canberra Birds will need to reduce or limit the range of activities we can offer in the future. An example this year is the scaled-down Bird Blitz, for which no coordinator could be found.

Adoption of President's Report for 2024-2025

Jack Holland moved that the President's Report for 2024-25 be adopted. Seconded: Margaret Robertson

Presentation of Annual Statement of Accounts

Prue Watters presented the reviewed financial reports for COG and the Canberra Birds Conservation Fund. Prue moved that the financial reports be accepted. Seconded: Lia Battisson

Prue moved a vote of thanks to the reviewer, Mark Tindale. Seconded: Steve Read

Adoption of Annual Statement of Accounts

Lia Battisson moved that the annual statement of accounts be adopted. Seconded: Steve Read

Appointment of Reviewer for 2025-26

Prue Watters moved that Mark Tindale, Axiom Associates, continue to review the accounting records each year. Seconded: Margaret Robertson

As a small charity Canberra Birds is not required to have the books reviewed or audited, but Mark reminded the meeting that, as good practice, Canberra Birds should continue with an annual review.

Public Officer

Prue thanked Jack Holland for agreeing to act as Public Officer again.

Election of Office Bearers for 2024-2025

Jack Holland acted as Returning Officer and the following were elected unopposed:

President: Kim Farley

Vice-President: Julie Hotchin

Treasurer: Peter Miller

Secretary: vacant

Ordinary committee members: Jenny Bounds, Bill Graham, Prue Watters and Chris Davey were welcomed as general members of the committee.

Presentation of Steve Wilson Medal

Philip Veerman was awarded the Steve Wilson Medal in recognition of his contribution to COG/Canberra Birds over many years: as a Committee member from 1984 to 1989 and a COG representative on the Conservation Council, as editor of Canberra Bird Notes between 1986 to 1988, as coordinator of the Garden Bird Survey from 1992 to 2002, as a major contributor to the publication *Birds of Canberra Gardens* and for his participation in COG's survey activities from the 1980s to this year's Honeyeater Migration Survey. Philip has led some COG outings, attended COG meetings for 42 years, and is a regular contributor to the Canberra Birds email Chatline.

The meeting closed at 20:40.