



Annual General Meeting 2022-2023

Wednesday 8 November 2023

Canberra Girls Grammar School, Deakin

Minutes

The meeting started at 7:30 pm

Opening

In the absence of the President and Vice-President, committee member, Jenny Bounds, was chosen to act as chair and welcomed all present at the Annual General Meeting of the Canberra Ornithologists Group for 2022-2023. The participating members of the AGM were those in the room. In addition, a number of members attended by Zoom. Members signed the attendance sheet or emailed the office email address to indicate their presence. The quorum was formed by the members in the room.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Ben Milbourne, Brittany Brockett, Dianne & Stewart Deans, Lia Battisson, Judy & Dave Kelly, Penny Moyes, Mary Pekin, Jen & Tim Pyne, Kirsty Craven, Neil Hermes, Shirley Kral, Martin Gascoigne, Zac Flegg and Nicki Taws.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2021-2022 Annual General Meeting

Prue Watters moved that the Minutes of the 2021-2022 AGM be accepted. Seconded: Sandra Henderson

Tabling of President's Report for 2021-2022

Jenny Bounds noted the President's draft report for 2021-2022.

President's Report for 2022-2023

Jenny Bounds outlined highlights from the President's draft report.

The transition from using Canberra Ornithologists Group (COG) to Canberra Birds as the common name for the organisation commenced during the year. Canberra Ornithologists Group remains the official name for government and administrative purposes.

2024 will mark the 60th anniversary of the foundation of Canberra Birds and there will be activities to celebrate the anniversary during the year.

The report noted the extensive work done to secure the protection of the area known as Bluetts Block and, in particular, the efforts of Jean Casburn. Jenny Bounds highlighted a recent win where a development application for the neighbouring buffer block has been rejected. Efforts to ensure protection of Bluetts Block continue.

Canberra Birds received a significant bequest from the estate of Betty Storrs, a former member. The committee would welcome suggestions about a suitable project to use those funds.

Clare Henderson resigned from the committee in March. Jenny thanked her for her work on conservation matters. Kim Farley joined the committee in April and Julie Hotchin, Ben Milbourne and Zac Flegg joined in October. They are very welcome.

Projects commenced or continued during the year included a new database and replacement for the Annual Bird Report, provision of data to provide baseline information for the ACT government's Habitat Restoration and Urban Connectivity Projects,

Membership numbers have declined from >400 in June 2022 to 344 in June 2023. The committee is considering how to reverse this decline.

The committee, and particularly Jenny as the Conservation Officer, have represented Canberra Birds (and the birds of the Canberra region) in government forums, at the Conservation Council and have made submissions about development applications and Reserve plans. Selected submissions can be found on the website.

Thanks to all surveyors who contribute to Canberra Birds data sets.

Thanks to Sue Lashko for organising the outings program and to the members who led the outings.

CBCF made grants totalling \$6000 in the 2022-23 year. The CBCF committee noted that there are now fewer applications that meet the Fund's criteria.

Adoption of President's Report

Jenny advised that as the report was still in draft form there would not be a motion to adopt it.

Presentation of Annual Statements of Accounts

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

Prue moved that the financial reports be accepted and moved a vote of thanks to the auditor, Rod Griffiths. Seconded: Jenny Bounds.

Appointment of Auditor for the next financial year

Prue advised that 2023-2024 will be the last year that Rod Griffiths will be available to act as Canberra Birds' *pro bono* auditor and asked members for suggestions about who to approach instead.

Jack Holland moved that Rod Griffiths be appointed auditor for the 2023-2024 financial year.
Seconded: Bill Graham

Public Officer

Prue thanked Jack Holland for agreeing to act as Public Officer again. Moved: Prue Watters
Seconded: Margaret Robertson

Election of office bearers for 2023-2024

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

President: Neil Hermes

Vice-President: Kim Farley

Treasurer: vacant

Secretary: Margaret Robertson

Ordinary committee members: Jenny Bounds, Brittany Brockett, Bill Graham, Prue Watters, Steve Read, Julie Hotchin, Ben Milbourne and Zac Flegg were welcomed as new or returning general members of the committee.

Jenny proposed votes of thanks to: Steve for his service as Vice-President for many years and his willingness to continue on the committee; Kathy Eyles, retiring member, for her work on COG's Partnerships Policy and assistance with communications and community engagement; and Alison Mackerras, retiring member, for serving as Minutes Secretary for four years. Carried.

Other matters for which notice has been given - Nil

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.