

# Minutes of the 84<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand (Inc.)

Held at the Trafalgar Centre, Nelson, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024

**Present:** 140 members and guests including 6 Council members.

Bruce McKinlay (president) welcomed everyone. The agenda and summary of reports were displayed on screen.

**Apologies:** Paul Garner-Richards, Eleanor Gunby, Bill Cash, Jennifer Wasley, Geoff & Raewyn Foreman, Johannes Fischer, Gwenda Pulham, Don Cooper, Sue Frostick, Peter Fryer, Helen and Steve McGill.

**Motion:** *That the apologies be accepted.* Bruce McKinlay / Johannes Chambon.  
Carried.

**Recent Death:** Mel Galbraith (Auckland), Phil Rhodes (Southland), Bruce Stuart-Menteath (Canterbury/West Coast), Hazel Harty (South Auckland), Kerry Walshe (Marlborough), John Allen (Auckland), Jane Forsyth (Otago).

**Minutes of the 2023 AGM:** The previous minutes had been circulated online. Bruce read a summary of the minutes of the previous AGM.

**Motion:** *That the minutes of the 83<sup>rd</sup> AGM held in New Plymouth in June 2023, as circulated, be accepted as true and accurate record.* Bruce McKinlay / David Lawrie.  
Carried.

**President's report:** Bruce read out his annual report for 2023, thanking the Regional Representatives, members of Council, the Executive Officer, and all those who volunteer for the society for their outstanding work. There were no questions.

**Motion:** *That the president's report be accepted.* Bruce McKinlay / David Melville.  
Carried.

**Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising from the previous minutes or the president's report.

**Treasurer's report:** The report for the AGM consisted of the Treasurer's Report, the Independent Assurance Practitioners Report, the Independent Reviewers Report to those charged with Governance, and the 2023 Annual Financial Report. The 2023 accounts have been completed and audited and are available on the website. There was a surplus for the year of NZ\$70,599 which is mostly due to a transfer of funds from Forest & Bird for the management of the Pacific Islands Bird Conservation and

Research Fund (PIBCRF). Bruce read out the Treasurer's report that had been previously circulated online. There were no questions.

Motion: *That the treasurer's report and financial statements be accepted.* Bruce McKinlay/Colin O'Donnell. Carried.

**Nominations for Council:** Johannes Chambon (secretary) announced the results of the Council elections. The following nominations were received for three-year terms: Natalie Forsdick for President, Paul Garner-Richards for Treasurer, Johannes Chambon for Secretary, Ian Armitage for Councillor, Mark Ayre for Councillor. There was not an excess of nominations therefore those members were elected. Ms. Martine Darrou was co-opted for one year.

### **General Business:**

Notice was given to members that the Constitution of The Ornithological Society of New Zealand Inc. be amended at the Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held in Nelson in 2024. Four notices of motion related to the new constitution were received by the secretary in accordance with the Society's present Constitution and were advised to all members through publication in the Birds New Zealand magazine, issue #41, in March 2024.

#### Notice of Motion 1

Having considered the legislative requirements set in the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 and the Incorporated Societies Regulations 2023, and having regard for numerous provisions in the existing Constitution that need to be maintained it is moved that:

- (a) a new constitution ("2024 Constitution") that was circulated to all members for information and comment on 28 November 2023 be adopted by The Ornithological Society of New Zealand Inc, and
- (b) that the 2024 Constitution be the basis for an application to Government authorities (the Office of Incorporated Societies in the Companies Office) for re-registration of the Society in 2024.

Motion moved/seconded by Bruce McKinlay / Ian Armitage. Carried.

#### Notice of Motion 2

In anticipation that re-registration of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand Inc under the 2024 Constitution will be successful, it is moved that the existing Constitution be revoked once re-registration of the Society has been confirmed by Government authorities.

Motion move/seconded by Bruce McKinlay / Ian Armitage. Carried.

#### Notice of Motion 3

Having regard to the requirements of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 and the Incorporated Societies Regulations 2023 it is moved that new operational processes concerning application for membership, registration of members, obtaining and storing the written consent for each new officer to act as an officer, and for the disclosure and recording of any conflicts of interest by officers be adopted and applied by the Society.

Motion moved/seconded by Bruce McKinlay / Ian Armitage. Carried.

#### Notice of Motion 4

In accordance with recently enacted legislation and having regard to various specifications and obligations expressed in the 2024 constitution it is moved that the Ornithological Society of New Zealand Inc. formally apply to Government authorities (the Office of Incorporated Societies in the Companies Office) to re-register the Society under the provisions of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 and the Incorporated Societies Regulations 2023.

Motion moved/seconded by Bruce McKinlay / Ian Armitage. Carried.

A fifth notice of motion was received by the secretary regarding an increase in subscription rate.

#### Notice of Motion 5

In terms of Rule 6.1 of the Society's Constitution, Notice of Motion is given to members that the rate of subscriptions for all classes of Society Memberships be amended.

Several questions were raised regarding this Notice of Motion.

Patrick Crowe asked if the increase in membership subscription is justified given the surplus described in the Treasurer's report. Bruce noted that most of this was a one-off increase due to the transfer of the PIBCRF from Forest & Bird to the Society. David Lawrie added that a lot of the Society's projects are supported by grants and donations, so it is important to have a decent income from subscriptions to help the smooth running of the society. Elizabeth Bell noticed a mistake in the table showing the present and proposed rates of membership subscriptions. The current rate for students is \$40 and for groups \$160. Kirsten Olsen asked when subscriptions were last raised. Bruce replied it was at the 2021 AGM in Thames. Stuart Nicholson asked how many members the society currently has. Bruce replied it is around 1300 presently. Colin O'Donnell asked if council had considered a rate for unemployed or retired people. Bruce replied that Council had not worked on this yet, focusing on constitutional changes in, but it will be looked into it. One member (unidentified) asked why it was not possible to get a life membership before 40. Bruce replied that a life membership would not be sustainable for the society if it was open to younger members. Dawn Palmer asked if the family membership is additional to the ordinary one. Bruce replied that it is. Natalie Forsdick commented that if the society had not

received funds from Forest & Bird to manage the PIBCRF the society would be in deficit this year.

Motion moved/seconded by Bruce McKinlay / Paul Garner-Richards. Carried.

**Awards:**

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Best Student Author: Te Arawhetu Waipoua

Best New Author: Stephen Rowe

Conference:

Best Student Oral Presentation: Jonathan Rutter

Best Student Poster: Johannes Chambon

People's Choice Poster: Annemieke Hamilton

Photo Competition:

Open category: 1<sup>st</sup> Carol Bates. 2<sup>nd</sup> Chris Tuffley.

Bird behaviour: 1<sup>st</sup> Oscar Thomas. 2<sup>nd</sup> Marie Louise Ward.

Bird on a moult: 1<sup>st</sup> Oscar Thomas. 2<sup>nd</sup> Geoff de Lisle.

Banded bird: 1<sup>st</sup> Oscar Thomas. 2<sup>nd</sup> Annemieke Hamilton.

Society Awards:

Meritorious Service Award: Kirsten Olsen

Meritorious Service Award: Stephen Legg

Meritorious Service Award: Wendy Hare

Meritorious Service Award: Nigel Milius

Meritorious Service Award: Richard Schofield

Robert Falla Memorial Award: Raewyn Empson

Fellow of Society: Colin Miskelly (awarded to a standing ovation)

David Lawrie thanked Bruce McKinlay for his work in the 6 years he served as president of the society. Bruce also received a standing ovation.

The meeting closed at 4:45pm

Minutes compiled by Johannes Chambon, secretary.

Signed:

Date: