

Birding NSW

Annual General Meeting

1 December 2020

held *via* Zoom conference

The AGM was held under the rules for AGMs determined by the State Government during the COVID-19 emergency. These rules allowed for teleconference AGMs.

Draft Minutes

The meeting commenced at 7.35 pm

Attendance: T Karplus (in the Chair), B Harvey, D Dallimore, A Richards, I Bailey, L Hall, M Hall, A Brophy, J Brophy, E Karplus, C King, J Rawson, T Wilson, D Rawson, G Robinson, T Nixon, M Hogge, R Lister, A Pidgeon, R Pidgeon, J Pegler, D Murthy, E Darke, C Abbott, P Katelaris, J Katelaris, F Warner, P Straw, M Edwards, M Johnstone, A Johnstone. There were more*

(*There were 46 joins to the Zoom conference, and some of these were couples. In the interests of time, a roll-call was not held. Overall, the attendance was over 50 individuals.)

Apologies: nil

Draft Minutes of the 2019 AGM meeting:

The draft minutes of the 2019 AGM meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record on the voices.

Business arising from the minutes:

There was no business arising from the minutes.

President's Report:

T Karplus said that the club activities over 2020 had been curtailed by the restrictions imposed by the State government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said that as many outdoor activities as possible had been maintained over the last year within the strict guidelines imposed by the government. He said that club meetings had been held by Zoom or by severely limited face-to-face events.

T Karplus said that 2020 was the club's 50th anniversary year. He said that the club committee had given itself several commemoration goals.

He noted that out of the seven tasks, 4 had been completed, viz. a trip to Lord Howe Island in February (arranged by A Richards), hosting the April BIGnet meeting (organised by E Karplus in a Zoom format), commissioning of new club banners (designed by club members C di Gregorio and C Macaluso) and production of the all-colour commemorative issue of the Birding NSW newsletter (prepared by newsletter editor I Bailey). He mentioned that 2 projects, the update of the club history 2000-2020 (underway by A van Roekel) and sponsorship of a bird hide (under discussion by the committee) were in progress.

T Karplus said that the annual photographic competition had again produced excellent images and he thanked all the entrants and all the club members who had contributed to making the competition a success, especially the judges.

He urged all members to complete the survey form. He said that the link was in the latest issue of the newsletter. He noted that the survey results would help the committee to decide future directions for the club and also assist in defining the membership demographic.

T Karplus said that the Twitchathon this year had only been held in NSW and in Tasmania, since BirdLife Australia was unable to organise the event because of the Melbourne lockdown. He said that the NSW Twitchathon had been run by BIGnet with P West doing most of the organising. He said that 26 teams had participated with 79 team members and that he anticipated that about \$20,000 would be raised for the designated BIGnet project for 2020, the impact of the 2019 bushfires on bird species in NSW KBAs.

He noted that A Morris AM had accepted the role of Patron of Birding NSW, a position that had been vacant since the death of Arnold McGill in 1989. He mentioned that A Morris was very active in the club, not only being the club's record officer but also leading campouts and attending club meetings from time to time.

T Karplus said that he was grateful to the many volunteers who had done work for the club over the last year on the committee, as leaders of field outings, or in special roles for the club.

He listed the members who had contributed as committee members over the last year. He said that the club could not function without the committee.

He noted that the Central Coast group had been very successful over the last year since A Morris had moved north. He mentioned M Scobie, the co-ordinator of the Group, A Benson, who chaired the meetings, C Port, who organised the outings, and J Clark, who was the liaison person between the two branches of the club.

T Karplus then listed the leaders of the field activities that were carried out in Sydney and on the Central Coast. He said that A Richards continued to lead regular campouts from Sydney and that M Scobie, A Morris and A Benson now arranged the campouts for the Central Coast group between them. He noted that J Harrington would be taking over from R Levy to run the Nestlings' Outings in 2021.

T Karplus also listed the members who had contributed to the activities of the club in various roles, both at club meetings and at other events organised by the club.

He thanked all those who participated in the club's surveys at three KBA sites and in Centennial Park, and in particular the organisers of these surveys, viz. E Karplus for the South-West Slopes KBA survey (Grenfell), Brisbane Water KBA (N Carson), Tuggerah Lakes (D Hocking) and Centennial Park (A Richards).

Treasurer's report:

L Hall tabled the Annual Financial report from outback Queensland.

He said that the club was solvent, with \$ 66.4k in the bank.

He noted that subscriptions from members were stable and comprised the bulk of the revenue of the club. He said that the newsletter continued to be the major expense of the club. He said that while there had been a surplus of \$5k last year, the deficit of \$2k this year was due to club grants for research projects.

He asked if there were any questions about the financial statements. There were no questions.

The draft motions "That the Treasurer's report be accepted" and "That L Hall (Treasurer) and D Dallimore (Public Officer) be authorised to sign the accounts and to send the annual return to the NSW Office of Fair Trading on the club's behalf" were proposed by L Hall and seconded by T Karplus and both motions were passed on the voices.

Business arising from the Treasurer's Report:

There was no business arising from the Treasurer's Report.

Election of office-bearers and committee members:

T Karplus said the committee had only received nominations for office-bearer or committee positions from current committee members.

He asked for any nominations from the Zoom floor. There were no nominations.

T Karplus said that under the circumstances, he proposed a motion without notice that “the current committee members be elected for another year”. This motion was seconded by A Brophy and accepted on the voices.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

Other Business:

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm