



## Annual General Meeting

### *Draft Minutes*

6.30 pm Tuesday 10 November 2020 – Online (Zoom)

**1) Welcome:** A quorum was confirmed and the President, Rod Griffiths, welcomed members to the 2020 AGM at 6.33pm. Rod acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land we were meeting on; acknowledging NAIDOC week, and paid our respects to elders past and present. He confirmed the agenda.

**2) Attendance:**

a) **Present:**

***Member group nominated representatives:***

Chris Emery, National Parks Association  
Geoff Robertson, Friends of Grasslands  
Sarah Sharp, Friends of Grasslands  
Ruth Ragless, Extinction Rebellion  
Cathy Ikin, Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra  
Warwick Cathro, 350.org  
Murray Lawton, Living Streets  
Santo Lolicato, Ginninderra Catchment Group  
Gillian King, Living Streets  
Julie Hill, People's Climate Action Coalition (People's Climate Assembly)  
Ian Falconer, Friends of Aranda Bushland  
Glenys Patulny, Southern ACT Catchment Group  
Gordon McAllister, Friends of Black Mountain, CCACT Board  
Christopher Dorman, Sustainable Population Australia, ACT Branch  
Sarah Reid, ACF Community Group Canberra, CCACT Board

***Others:*** (non-voting attendees)

Sed Bustillo, CCACT Board  
Marcus Hassall, 350.org, CCACT Board  
Peter Campbell, AEVA  
Rod Griffiths, National Parks Association  
MaryClare Woodforde, Food Coop  
Helen Sims, Friends of Aranda Bushland, CCACT Board

**Apologies:**

***Member group nominated representatives:***

Patsy Sheather, Kosciusko Huts Association;

Simon Buckpitt, Kosciuszko Huts Association;  
Tony Hunter, Kosciuszko Huts Association  
Linda Beveridge, Friends of Black Mountain  
Bill Gemmell, Public Transport Association  
John Wurcker from People's Climate Assembly  
Clive Hurlstone, National Parks Association

b)

**Others:**

Peter Ottesen, Southern ACT Catchment Group, CCACT Board,

**3) Previous Minutes:**

- a) **Motion 1: "That the minutes from the previous AGM held on 12 November 2019 be accepted as a true and accurate account."** Moved John Smith, seconded Sarah Reid.  
Accepted

**4) Reports**

a) **President Rod Griffiths report on behalf of the Board:**

"The last twelve months have certainly placed unusual stresses upon the organisation from choking smoke to working from home and virtual dinners. And at the start of the year, how many of us had even heard of the now ubiquitous Zoom? It is a credit to its hard working staff, volunteers and Board members that the Council has achieved so much in this past year.

"ACT election years are always a challenge, yet in the face of Covid 19 and the restrictions it has placed on physical meetings, the Council has not only produced a comprehensive set of election asks but has significantly updated its overall environmental policy platform and media profile. This has been a process that so many of you have been involved in. Our online election forums engaged the major parties and the community and the election itself has seen a significant and welcome emphasis by the new government on climate change action. We will continue to work with all of the Assembly on climate issues as well as ensuring that biodiversity, water and other key environmental values are protected within the region.

"Covid 19 has meant that the Council has had to be innovative in its funding mechanisms and last Saturday's spring dinner event was a great example of how the Council has constructively met this challenge. Right across the Capital Region people co-hosted the dinner and celebrated the efforts of our fellow environmentalists, considered the thoughts on the powers of regenerative action by our keynote speaker, Costa Georgiadis, and were adeptly guided through the night by our MC, Mia Swainson. There were so many new skills that had to be learnt to ensure that the dinner was a success and my wholehearted thanks goes out to our wonderful staff and volunteers for carrying it off. Well done!

"Covid also highlighted that the Council is a caring organisation. Helen's decision to shut the office early in the pandemic was wholeheartedly supported by the Board and is an example of placing the welfare of our staff to the fore. Can I congratulate all our staff on the way they adapted to significant changes to their work environment since the start of the pandemic and recognise how their efforts have enabled the Council to still be an effective voice for the environment. Helen's leadership over this time should be particularly applauded. And finally on this note, to Sylvia, our thoughts are with you.

“The Board provides key strategic direction to the Council and can I thank all my fellow Board members for their hard work of the past year.

“Can I acknowledge the contributions of those board members who stepped down over the year or are not standing for reappointment at this AGM: Thena Kyprianou, Christopher Dorman and our current Treasurer Sed Bustillo. In addition, Marcus Hassell has decided not to stand for re-election at this AGM but is willing to be co-opted to the Board for his legal skills.

“Thena has taken on ‘higher duties’ with the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, Sed is pursuing the next stage in his accounting career in Sydney and Christopher is looking to enjoy a bit more of the country life.

“As always I would like to recognise the work of our volunteers and interns who assist the council in so many diverse ways. And, naturally, can I thank the support and contributions of our member groups.

“I am stepping down from the Presidency at this AGM after 5 years in the position. Thank you all for your support and for giving me the honour of holding such a position. It is really gratifying to have been a part of the ongoing development of the Council. And finally, a big thanks to my partner Amanda for her support over my 35 years of environmental activism.”

**Motion 2: “That the President’s Report be accepted by the meeting.”** Moved Glenys Patulny, seconded Gill King. Accepted.

**b) Executive Director’s Report:**

The Executive Director, Helen Oakey, reported comprehensively to the meeting via a PowerPoint presentation, [Appendix 1] expounding on the following topics:

- Member groups - 43 financial member groups in 2019-2020
- Supporters - including numbers of Newsletter subscribers, Facebook and Twitter followers
- Fundraising - donations and events
- Conservation Council in the media
- Policy work and events
- Stakeholder meetings
- Community events

Helen answered several questions.

**Motion 3: “That the Executive Director’s report be accepted by the meeting.”** Moved, Chris Emery, seconded Warwick Cathro. Accepted.

**5) Statement of accounts and the reports pursuant to section 73 (1) of the Associations Incorporations Act 1991 (Treasurer)**

**a) The auditor’s report and annual accounts were tabled:**

The Treasurer, Sed Bustillo, presented the financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2020. The auditor concluded in his review of CCACT annual accounts (as opposed to an audit, owing to changes in accounting requirements during the year) that “nothing

has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the financial report of CCACT Region does not satisfy the requirements of the *Associations Incorporations Act (1991)*. Sed noted a surplus against a budgeted deficit, as well as an increase in accumulated surplus from the previous year, due in part to the COVID19 supplement which offset lost opportunities in fundraising, in particular, the inability to hold the major fund-raising World Environment Day Dinner in June. In short, CCACT is solvent and able to pay its bills.

There were no questions.

**Motion 4: “That the Treasurer’s Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2020 be accepted by the meeting.”**

Moved Sed Bustillo, seconded Geoff Robertson. Accepted.

**Motion 5: “That a vote of thanks be passed recognising the hard work provided to the Conservation Council on a voluntary basis for this financial year by our auditor Mr Greg Field”.** Accepted by acclamation.

Rod Griffiths thanked Sed for his work during the year, particularly in the context of the accounting changes and having a new auditor.

## **6) Appointment of auditor –**

**Motion 6: “That Mr Greg Field be appointed as our auditor for the year ending 30 June 2021”.**

Moved Sed Bustillo, seconded Chris Emery. Accepted.

## **7) Election of members of the Board, including office bearers.**

a) **Motion 7: “That Helen Oakey be appointed as Returning Officer for the election of office bearers and Board members”.** Moved Rod Griffiths, seconded Julie Hill. Accepted. Rod Griffiths stood down from the chair.

b) The Returning Officer reported that nominations were sought in accordance with the constitution; that all nominees and their nominators were members of financial member groups.

c) As at the closing time 6.30 pm, 3 November 2020 the Secretary had received sufficient nominations to fill all office holder positions and all six possible other Board member positions. The Board has three vacancies for co-opted members.

d) The election of office holders and Board members took place:

President: there was one nomination: Gordon McAllister who was elected as President

Vice-President: there were two vacancies and two nominations: Peter Ottesen and Sarah Reid who were both elected as Vice-Presidents.

Secretary: there was one nomination: Helen Sims who was elected as Secretary

Other Board members: six vacancies and six nominations:

- o Nick Abel
- o Warwick Cathro
- o Ian Falconer

- o Rod Griffiths
- o Glenys Patulny
- o MaryClare Woodforde

Under the constitution – all six were declared elected.

The meeting noted that the Treasurer is appointed at the first Board meeting after the AGM by Board members and that the Board can co-opt three more members.

The Returning Officer returned the chair to outgoing President, Rod Griffiths.

- 8) The outgoing president, Rod Griffiths, congratulated the incoming President, Gordon McAllister, other officer bearers, as well as returning and newly elected ordinary Board members. He thanked member groups for attending our first online AGM and handed over to the incoming President, Gordon McAllister for future meetings.

As incoming president Gordon thanked the new Board and outgoing members – Sed, Marcus and Christopher - and welcomed Warwick and Nick. He also thanked Helen Oakey for a great report and the amazing work that she and the staff had done over the past year. He then gave special thanks to Rod – principally for his presidency over the past five years - but also for his time and energy commitment to CCACT since 1994, including long stints as treasurer and as vice president, and putting the council on a sounder financial footing. But what really impressed Gordon was how Rod had put his body on the line with his Walk the Border fundraising events which was such an amazing personal effort. He reiterated how much we all appreciated the work Rod put into those walks and also into managing the work of the Board and providing guidance and support to the executive officers, and that we are pleased that Rod is staying on the board.

- 9) The meeting closed at 7.30 pm.