



# CONSERVATION COUNCIL ACT REGION

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2021 @ 5.30PM - ONLINE (ZOOM)

### Draft MINUTES

Our vision is for a healthy planet for humans and all other life, where the natural environment is protected and communities respect and live in harmony with the environment.

#### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86115557739>

Meeting ID: 861 1555 7739

#### **Present:**

*Member Group nominated representatives:*

Alison Russell-French, Woodlands and Wetlands Trust

Warwick Cathro, [350.org](http://350.org)

Ian falconer, Friends of Aranda Bushland

Sarah Reid, ACF Community Canberra

Ruth Ragless, XR

Gill King, Living Streets Canberra & others

Jenny Bounds, Canberra Ornithologists Group

Gordon McAllister, Friends of Black Mountain

John Smith, Extinction Rebellion ACT

Andrew Zelnik, Friends of Grasslands (FOG)

Clive Hurlstone, National Parks Association of the ACT inc.

Lucinda Royston, Australian Native Plants Society, Canberra Region Inc

Annie Close, [350.org](http://350.org)

Walter Steensby, Slow Food Canberra

Ross Kingsland, Red Hill Regenerators

Rod Griffiths, NPAACT

Kat McGilp, Ginninderra Catchment Group, Landcare ACT, UMCN

Meg Holesgrove, ACF Community Group Canberra

Paul Obohov, Climate Action Canberra

Vivienne Pearce, ACT Australian Association of Environmental Education

Rosemary Hollow, NPA ACT

Kat McGilp, Ginninderra Catchment Group

Julie Armstrong, ACT for Bees

Sarah Sharp, Friends of Grasslands, ANPS

Brook Clinton, SEE Change

*Others:*

David Kelly, Ginninderra Falls Association  
Peter Ottesen, Southern ACT catchment group  
Marcus Hassall, 350.org; StopAdani  
Helen Sims, FOG  
Larry O'Loughlin, Friends of Black Mountain  
Jackson Balme, ACF Community Canberra  
MaryClare Woodforde, ASEN/ Food Co-Op  
Nick Abel, Stop Adani, Extinction Rebellion  
Leon Arundell, Pedal Power, Climate Action Canberra, Living Streets Canberra, Extinction Rebellion  
Chris Ikin, Friends of Jerrabomberra Wetlands, Friends of Black Mountain, Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra  
Kimberley Slapp

Helen Oakey, Executive Director, CCACTR  
Dave Southgate – Returning Officer

**Proxies received:**

Jason Cummings Woodlands & Wetlands Trust to Alison Russell-French Woodlands & Wetlands Trust  
Pamela Roberts ACF to Sarah Reid ACF  
Rob Ogilvie AEVA to Warwick Cathro AEVA  
Diana Duncan Brown FOAB to Ian Falconer FOAB  
Glenys Patulny SACTCG to Ian Falconer FOAB

**Apologies:**

*Member Group nominated representatives:*

Glenys Patulny - Southern ACT Catchment Group  
Rainer Rehwinkle - Friends of Grasslands

*Others:*

Canberra Ornithologist Group - Pia Eliason (nominee for Ordinary Board Member)

1.	<b>Open and acknowledgement of Country</b> The President, Gordon McAllister, opened the AGM at 5.34pm with an acknowledgement of Country. Gordon explained the special housekeeping requirements given that the AGM was taking place on Zoom and would involve a ballot for Ordinary Board Member positions - e.g. all attendees were asked to mute their videos, to have cameras on live and to use the “raise hand” function to speak. The Executive Director, Helen Oakey, and the Returning Officer, David Southgate, spent the first 10 minutes cross-checking attendees, in particular, nominated representatives with voting rights, to ensure that voting links could be sent out accurately at the appropriate time.	
2.	<b>Present and apologies and declaration of proxies</b> Apologies and declarations of proxies were noted as above. Members present as recorded by Helen Oakey.	

3.	<p><b>Confirm Chair and Agenda</b> President Gordon McAllister, was confirmed as chair and the agenda was confirmed.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Confirmation and acceptance of Minutes from last Annual General Meeting held 10 November 2020</b> <i>Motion: that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 10 November 2020 as circulated, be accepted as a true and accurate account</i></p> <p>Mover: Ian Falconer Secunder: Sarah Sharp</p>	<p><b>DECISION</b> Passed</p>
5.	<p><b>Reports</b> (i) Annual Report from the Board (President)</p> <p>The <a href="#">President</a> Gordon McAllister, spoke from a written copy of his report. No questions were asked <i>Motion: that the President's Report be accepted by the meeting</i></p> <p>Mover: Marcus Hassall Secunder: John Smith</p>	<p><b>DECISION</b> Passed</p>
	<p>(ii) Executive Director's Report</p> <p>The Executive Director, Helen Oakey's PowerPoint <a href="#">presentation</a> was available on the website prior to the AGM. She referred to selected topics during her talk. No questions were asked.</p> <p><i>Motion: that the Executive Director's Report be accepted by the meeting</i></p> <p>Mover: Gordon McAllister Secunder: Marcus Hassall</p>	<p><b>DECISION</b> Passed</p>
6.	<p><b>Statement of accounts and the reports pursuant to section 73 (1) of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (Treasurer)</b></p> <p>The <a href="#">Audited Financial Statements 2020-21</a> had been available on the website prior to the AGM. The Treasurer, Chris Ikin, gave a brief overview from his <a href="#">Treasurer's Report</a>, including the positive financial position of the Conservation Council at the end of the 2020-21 financial year. He confirmed that statutory statements have been approved by the Board and by the independent reviewer. Chris recommended the audited reports for the meeting's approval. No questions were asked.</p> <p><i>Motion: that the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021 be accepted by the meeting [Decision]</i></p> <p>Mover: Chris Ikin Secunder: Gill King</p> <p><i>Motion: 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.</i></p>	<p><b>DECISION</b> Passed</p> <p><b>DECISION</b> Passed</p>

7.	<p><b>Appointment of Auditor for 2021-22</b>  Motion: <i>that Mr Greg Field be appointed as our auditor for the year ending 30 June 2022</i></p> <p>Mover: Gordon McAllister  Seconder: Chris Ikin</p>	<p><b>DECISION</b>  Passed</p>
8.	<p><b>Election of members of the board, including office bearers:</b>  The chair explained that each of the office-holder positions had received only one nomination and thus each of the nominees would be automatically elected to their positions. These were:</p> <p>President (1 position): Sarah Reid (ACF Community Canberra)  Nominated by Rod Griffiths (National Parks Association)  Secondered by Marcus Hassall (350.org)</p> <p>Vice President (2 positions): Rod Griffiths (National Parks Association)  Nominated by Sarah Reid (ACT Community Canberra)  Secondered by Helen Sims, Friends of Grasslands</p> <p>Vice President: Peter Ottesen (Southern ACT Catchment Group)  Nominated by Rod Griffiths (National Parks Association)  Secondered by Glenys Patulny (Southern ACT Catchment Group)</p> <p>Secretary (1 position): Helen Sims (Friends of Grasslands)  Nominated by Sarah Sharp (Friends of Grasslands)  Secondered by Nick Abel (350.org)</p> <p>For Ordinary Board Members (6) there had been 10 nominations. These were from:</p> <p>Nick Abel (350.org)  Nominated by Helen Sims (Friends of Grasslands)  Secondered by Sarah Sharp (Australian Native Plants Society)</p> <p>Leon Arundell (Climate Action Canberra)  Nominated by Rebecca Horridge (Climate Action Canberra)  Secondered by John Widdup (Pedal Power)</p> <p>Jackson Balme (ACF Community Canberra)  Nominated by Sarah Reid (ACF Community Canberra)  Secondered by Adam Gottschalk (ANU Environment Collective/ ACF Community Canberra)</p> <p>Warwick Cathro (350.org, Australian Electric Vehicle Association)  Nominated by Vivienne Pearce (AAEE ACT)  Secondered by Annie Close (350.org)</p>	

Pia Eliason (Canberra Ornithologist Group)  
Nominated by Richard Allen (Canberra Ornithologist Group)  
Seconded by France Meyer (Friends of Jerrabomberra Wetlands)

Marcus Hassall (350.org)  
Nominated by Rod Griffiths (National Parks Association)  
Seconded by Sarah Reid (ACT Community Canberra)

Glenys Patulny (Southern ACT Catchment Group)  
Nominated by Peter Ottesen (Southern ACT Catchment Group)  
Seconded by Ian Falconer (Friends of Aranda Bushland)

Vivienne Pearce (Australian Association of Environmental Educators  
ACT) (AAEEACT)  
Nominated by Julia Landford (AAEEACT)  
Seconded by Warwick Cathro (Australian Electric Vehicles Association)

Kimberley Slapp (ANU Environment Collective)  
Nominated by Marcus Hassall (350.org)  
Seconded by MaryClare Woodforde (ANU Environment Collective)

MaryClare Woodforde (ANU Environment Collective)  
Nominated by William Fletcher (Aust Student Environment Network;  
ANU Environment Collective)  
Seconded by Sarah Reid (ACF Community Canberra)

Names, nominators and seconders of nominees and their written statements in support of their nominations had been available on the website prior to the AGM.

30 minutes were allocated for each candidate to speak for up to 2 minutes and for attendees at the AGM to ask questions of the nominees before the ballot took place. All nominees for the contested positions who were present accepted the opportunity to speak. The President selected names randomly. As indicated at the beginning, two nominees - sitting board member Glenys Patulny, and new nominee Pia Eliason were unable to attend the meeting. At the end of all candidate statements and questions, the President read aloud the supporting statements of the absent nominees.

The President then advised that the Board had appointed David Southgate as the Returning Officer for the purposes of the ballot. The President then stood down as chair and the Returning Officer took over and proceeded to declare the office-holders' positions.

<p>"One nomination was received for the position of President, that is Sarah Reid. Having received no further nominations for the position of President I declare that Sarah Reid is duly elected President."</p> <p>"Two nominations for the positions of Vice President were received - Peter Ottesen and Rod Griffiths. Having received no further nominations for the positions of Vice President I declare that Peter Ottesen and Rod Griffiths are duly elected Vice Presidents."</p> <p>"One nomination was received for the position of Secretary - that is Helen Sims. Having received no further nominations for the position of Secretary I declare that Helen Sims is duly elected Secretary."</p> <p>Ordinary Board Members: "Ten nominations were received for the positions of Ordinary Board Members. Nominations were received from (and he read out the names as listed above). As the number of nominations (10) exceeded the number of vacant positions to be filled (6), a ballot was held under rule 14e of the Constitution.</p> <p>The <a href="#">ballot process</a> agreed by the Board on 14 October 2021 under Rule 14b of the Constitution was implemented.</p> <p>The Returning Officer explained the process and the ballot proceeded.</p> <p>The Returning Officer declared the successful candidates.</p> <p><i>Motion: That the following people be noted as duly elected as to the Board of the Conservation Council ACT Region for 2021-22</i></p> <p><i>President - Sarah Reid</i></p> <p><i>Vice President (2) - Peter Ottesen, Rod Griffiths</i></p> <p><i>Secretary - Helen Sims</i></p> <p><i>Ordinary Board Member (6)</i></p> <p><i>Warwick Cathro</i></p> <p><i>Marcus Hassall</i></p> <p><i>Nick Abel</i></p> <p><i>MaryClare Woodforde</i></p> <p><i>Vivienne Pearce</i></p> <p><i>Kimberley Slapp</i></p> <p>The Returning Officer returned the chairing of the meeting to the President. Gordon welcomed the new Board and introduced Sarah Reid, our new President to say a few words of welcome.</p> <p>Sarah thanked Gordon; she acknowledged the good work that he had done during the year as President; she welcomed the new Board and expressed her enthusiasm for the forthcoming year and a more diverse</p>	<p><b>DECISION</b></p> <p>Passed</p>
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	<p>and inclusive Board. She asked Rod Griffiths to acknowledge outgoing board members - Gordon McAllister and Ian Falconer.</p> <p>Rod has had the pleasure of working with both Gordon and Ian. He acknowledged Gordon's passion for working with planning issues, his willingness to work with people and to have a debate; plus aspects of his achievements as President. On behalf of the Board Rod expressed that Gordon and his contributions will be missed and the Board is looking forward to working with him in other ways.</p> <p>Rod referred to Ian's 23 years with the CCACT; his passion for toxic cyanobacteria, for toxic runoff from our waterways. Rod indicated his admiration for Ian's ability to argue passionately for an idea but if the Board decided otherwise he would immediately back the Board's decision.</p> <p>Rod also acknowledged the support of both partners to Gordon and Ian - Morgan and Mary - and then outlined the Board's intention in collaboration with Friends of Aranda Bushland to establish a grove of snow gums in Aranda Bushland along with a plaque to commemorate both Ian and Mary's contributions.</p> <p>Ian and Gordon thanked the Board.</p> <p>Gordon resumed the chair.</p>	
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Special Resolution to amend the Constitution</b></p> <p>The President introduced the proposed amendments to the Constitution and explained the requirements of a "special resolution" under Section 32 of the Constitution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It requires at least three-quarters of those present to vote in favour.</li> <li>● The resolution covers all the proposed amendments, and only already-proposed amendments can be debated.</li> <li>● Changes not already circulated (new changes) cannot be considered as they would not meet the requirement to be circulated as a Special Resolution 3 weeks prior to the AGM.</li> <li>● If the general meeting resolves to change the Constitution it will be reissued with commentary removed and changes incorporated.</li> </ul> <p>Background to the review of the Constitution were explained, noting that many of the changes were proposed to comply with amendments to the Associations Incorporation Act. Proposed changes about eligibility had started with an application from a group that didn't really meet the requirements, leading to contemplation of what the Board really wanted as eligibility and a consequential issue of how to deal with member organisations' membership numbers in the age of social media. A draft was circulated among member organisations for consultation. This led to renewed consideration of those issues and the revised proposed Constitution which is the subject of this special resolution. The main thing that changed was that we would not proceed with the differentiation between incorporated and unincorporated organisations. It is hoped that member organisations will have fair representation.</p>	

	<p>Marcus Hassall noted that changes to membership organisation eligibility only apply prospectively. Current members will not be affected by the changes.</p> <p>The success of the consultation and its process were acknowledged from the floor.</p> <p>The motion was put: <i>"that the proposed changes to the constitution of the Conservation Council ACT Region Inc as circulated be accepted."</i></p> <p>Moved: Gordon McAllister  Seconded: Warwick Cathro  Passed.</p> <p>Gordon thanked the ad-hoc Constitution Review Sub-Committee - Marcus Hassall, Helen Sims and Peter Ottesen.</p>	<p><b>DECISION</b></p> <p>Passed</p>
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b>Close</b></p> <p>The loss of Glenys Patulny from the Conservation Council Board and her advocacy for the southern area and Landcare connections were acknowledged. The question of whether it may be possible to work with her in some ways in the future was raised.</p> <p>The meeting was advised that AGM outcomes would be reported in Weekly Wrap on Friday 19 November.</p> <p>The departing chair passed the baton to the new President, Sarah Reid, and stood down.</p> <p><b>The meeting closed at 7.28pm</b></p>	