

# CANDIDATE NOMINATIONS FOR POSITIONS ON THE CONSERVATION COUNCIL BOARD 2021-2022

## NOMINATION FOR THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT (ONE POSITION)

### **Sarah REID - ACF COMMUNITY CANBERRA**

NOMINATED BY: Rod Griffiths, National Parks Association

SECONDED BY: Marcus Hassall, 350.org

This is my third year as a board member, where I am currently Vice President. I joined the Conservation Council through my involvement in the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF).

I convene the local ACF Canberra community group, which is a member of the Conservation Council and am also on the ACF governance Council and Board. As an active member of a national environmental organisation, I see the vital role of local environmental organisations and the critical work that the Conservation Council ACT Region does in advocating for local issues and providing environmental leadership in Canberra. It is the local issues that can bring the reality of national campaigns home to people and explain consequences of environmental protections in a way that is relatable and meaningful. There are many fantastic groups in the ACT doing great work to advocate for nature, the environment and climate. It is so important that the Conservation Council is supported to continue to promote connections between different groups for we are all stronger together.

These are challenging and exciting times for the ACT and I would be honoured to bring my connections, experience and enthusiasm for a positive climate future to the role of President.

## NOMINATION FOR THE POSITION OF VICE PRESIDENT (TWO POSITIONS)

### **Rod GRIFFITHS - NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION**

NOMINATED BY: Sarah Reid, ACF Community Canberra

SECONDED BY: Helen Sims, Friends of Grasslands

### **Peter OTTESEN - SOUTHERN ACT CATCHMENT GROUP**

NOMINATED BY: Rod Griffiths, National Parks Association

SECONDED BY: Glenys Patulny, Southern ACT Catchment Group

I have a deep understanding of the environment, locally, nationally and internationally, and the roles of community, governments and business, and have been an enthusiastic member of the Conservation Council since 2008, at times holding positions of Vice President and President.

I have science qualifications (BSc Hons, Marine Ecology; MSc, NRM) and extensive experience in policy and management in the public and private sectors, including sustainability, agriculture, environment, protected area management (marine and terrestrial), commercial fisheries, tourism, transport, waste management, water (and the MDB), energy,

climate change, urban planning, sport and event management, and governance in not-for-profit organisations.

I have held senior government positions in Australia and Canada, including the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the Canadian Parks Service, the ACT Office of Sustainability (I prepared the ACT's first climate change strategy and measuring progress towards sustainability report) and the Department of Agriculture (leadership roles in the delivery of the National Landcare Program, industry policy and R&D policy and delivery).

A career highlight was establishing and delivering the Environment Program for the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games.

For 12 years, I was an honorary board member of the Banksia Environmental Foundation which promotes and celebrates environmental leadership.

## **NOMINATION FOR THE POSITION OF SECRETARY (ONE POSITION)**

### **HELEN SIMS - FRIENDS OF GRASSLANDS**

NOMINATED BY: Sarah Sharp, Friends of Grasslands

SECONDED BY: Nick Abel, 350.org

I have a long record of support of conservation generally, and conservation within the urban framework

Originally as a co-opted member of the Conservation Council board from 2007, I performed the secretariat role for the Biodiversity Working Group until July 2021.

I acted as back-up Secretary of the Conservation Council for several years until my formal appointment as Secretary five years ago.

Over the last couple of years I have worked with Helen Oakey to streamline the Board's communications and make them more efficient and transparent and to make the role of Secretary more transferable.

Prior to that, as an ACT Government public servant, I helped develop the *ACT Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1993* following self-government and worked on the leasing of rural and national land in the ACT.

Then as inaugural manager of the ACT's Office of the Commissioner for the Environment for 13 years, I coordinated multiple investigations into the ACT Government's management of the environment; and coordinated and contributed to multiple State of the Environment reports for both the ACT and 18 local governments of the ACT Region.

I am keen to continue my commitment to both the environment of the ACT and to the Conservation Council. I have recently joined Friends of Grasslands and will take up the role of secretary FOG after their next AGM.

## NOMINATIONS FOR THE POSITIONS OF ELECTED BOARD MEMBER (SIX POSITIONS)

### **Nick ABEL - 350.ORG**

NOMINATED BY: Helen Sims, Friends of Grasslands

SECONDED BY: Sarah Sharp, Australian Native Plants Society

I'm an ecologist who became an interdisciplinary scientist. I've worked with stakeholders and policy makers on ways to understand and influence the direction and pace of change in social-ecological systems including the Murray Darling Basin, Western Australia, SE Queensland and southern Africa. My understanding of social-ecological change has been deepened by political activism.

I'm a member of ACT Greens, Stop Adani Canberra, 350.org Canberra and Extinction Rebellion. I provide practical support to School Strike for Climate.

Past employers are the CSIRO (Principal Research Scientist), the Universities of Canberra and East Anglia (UK), the International Livestock Centre for Africa, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, the Zambian National Parks and Wildlife Service, and British Voluntary Service Overseas. I'm a founder member and fellow of the Resilience Alliance <https://www.resalliance.org/>. I was an Honorary (retirement) Fellow at CSIRO before my fellowship was terminated for my public opposition to cuts to climate science and other public good research. I'm now an Honorary Associate Professor at ANU's Fenner School of Environment and Society where I work on adaptation to climate change and advise postgraduate students.

### **Leon ARUNDELL - CLIMATE ACTION CANBERRA**

NOMINATED BY: Rebecca Horridge, Climate Action Canberra

SECONDED BY: John Widdup, Pedal Power

Leon will give Conservation Council member groups more opportunities to help their board to make better decisions. Board decisions will be constitutional. Member groups will gain ready access to their board's meeting agendas and minutes.

Leon was the only Conservation Council board member, from 2010 to 2016, to assert the board's right to have at least 48 hours to consider non-urgent matters. He invites Gordon McAllister, Helen Sims, Peter Ottesen, Rod Griffith, Ian Falconer and Glenys Patulny to join him in apologising for past breaches of Rule 19 of the constitution.

Leon has been President of the ACT branch of the Solar Energy Society, served on the Pedal Power Council, founded and chaired Living Streets Canberra, and been Convenor and Secretary of Climate Action Canberra. Leon has been Chair (3 terms) and Secretary (4 terms) of the North Canberra Community Council. In 2018 Leon took over from the previous chair. In the following year the Council allowed members to raise issues at all general meetings, kept records of all committee decisions, made committee minutes available to members, produced three years of audited financial reports, submitted three years of annual returns, and adopted a new constitution.

**Jackson BALME - ACF COMMUNITY CANBERRA**

NOMINATED BY: Sarah Reid, ACF Community Canberra

SECONDED BY: Adam Gottschalk, ANU Environment Collective / ACF Community Canberra

I'm a fourth-year law student at the Australian National University. I'm nominating to ensure that young people are represented on the board. As we all know, climate change and biodiversity loss are the greatest intergenerational injustices ever inflicted. It is, therefore, imperative to ensure young people have a voice in all decisions. I will strive to be that voice and advocate for young people in all governance decision-making.

Furthermore, I believe that young people are an untapped resource. I have seen the power of students through my work with the Environmental Defenders Office and Greenlaw at the ANU. These organisations have worked collaboratively with students to produce extremely valuable work.

Furthermore, using my connections at the ANU, I established a team of 12 university students to conduct a major investigation with the Australian Conservation Foundation. The team investigated whether Australia's largest greenhouse gas emitters are credibly estimating their greenhouse gas emissions in their environmental impact statements. The team worked incredibly hard, and the research is being used to pursue climate litigation against coal mines who are breaching their environmental obligations. I will advocate for the Council to tap into this resource to ensure that we achieve our goals for 2022.

**Warwick CATHRO - 350.ORG, AUSTRALIAN ELECTRIC VEHICLE ASSOCIATION**

NOMINATED BY: Vivienne Pearce, AAEE ACT

SECONDED BY: Annie Close, 350.org

I have served one term on the Board of the Conservation Council and would appreciate the opportunity to make a continued and stronger contribution during the coming year.

I am deeply committed to action on climate change, and to the development of policies to reduce the ACT's emissions as rapidly as practicable. I have been an activist with 350 Canberra since 2014. I am also Secretary of the ACT Branch of the Australian Electric Vehicle Association.

The Transport sector is the largest contributor to the ACT's emissions. With this in mind, I would like to lead or contribute to a Subcommittee of the Conservation Council (a Transport Working Group) with the aim of formulating policy recommendations to further reduce the ACT's transport emissions and to enhance Canberra's transport-related land use.

## **Pia ELIASON - CANBERRA ORNITHOLOGIST GROUP**

NOMINATED BY: Richard Allen, Canberra Ornithologist Group

SECONDED BY: France Meyer, Friends of the Jerrabomberra Wetlands

I would like to nominate myself for an elected board position on the ACT Conservation Council, where I hope to contribute my skills and energy to strengthening and implementing the Council's strategic vision for conservation in the ACT.

My interest in the Council stems from my academic background in the interplay between the multi-layered governance frameworks of major development projects and community consultation processes, and my long-time passion for Australia's biodiversity and the need to bridge socio-political divides that hinder its protection.

Since returning to Canberra after time overseas in 2019, I have had the opportunity to expand and deepen my knowledge around key debates and issues in conservation through my own research, my volunteering as a bird bander under the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme, and my membership of Canberra Ornithologists Group and other national networks such as RE-Alliance.

I have also learned how very similar issues in governance frameworks and consultation processes to the ones I studied impact conservation causes in the ACT and the region, and I have grown passionate about addressing these.

I believe that my background, my passion for biodiversity and my commitment to learning will all contribute to the board's work. In addition, my professional skills in building relationships, negotiating win-win outcomes and planning and delivering on strategies and projects will enable me to contribute to the Conservation Council's mission to protect the environment for future generations.

## **Marcus HASSALL - 350.ORG**

NOMINATED BY: Rod Griffiths, National Parks Association

SECONDED BY: Sarah Reid, ACT Community Canberra

I am a member of 350.org and numerous other climate change activist groups, and have been a board member of the Conservation Council for the past 4-5 years, including a stint as one of two Deputy Presidents.

I am also a practising barrister in the ACT and provide the Board with a legal perspective on governance and other issues. I was heavily involved in the drafting of the current round of proposed changes to the Constitution of the Council.

I regard the work of the Council, being the peak body for environmental and conservation groups in the ACT, as being critically important. I would enjoy the opportunity to continue to serve on the Board of the Council.

## **Glenys PATULNY - SOUTHERN ACT CATCHMENT GROUP**

NOMINATED BY: Peter Otteson, Southern ACT Catchment Group  
SECONDED BY: Ian Falconer, Friends of Aranda Bushland

Glenys, a founding member of the Southern ACT Catchment Group 2006, was Chair for most of this time and is now Deputy Chair. She supported and helped Landcare and Waterwatch groups in her region and in 2011 established the Tuggeranong Lake Carers, which she coordinates to this day.

Glenys was Deputy Principal of a large high school which won a number of ACT National Landcare awards for involving its students in many environmental practices – planting thousands of trees around the school and at many other places.

She has also been a representative to the National Landcare Network, Landcare NSW and is now on the Landcare ACT Board. Glenys is also on the Board of the Conservation Council of the ACT, is an Executive of the Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Network and a member of Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc

Glenys has been the President (now Vice President) of the Tuggeranong Community Council, she helped establish its: Environment Sub Committee, Youth Engagement Sub Committee and Tuggeranong, SouthFest – the major festival in the Tuggeranong area.

Glenys has also been part of: Climate Change Ministerial Advisory Group, EvoEnergy Stakeholder Group, Icon Water Community Forum, Better Suburbs Forum, Planning Refresh and regularly attends the ACT Environment and Planning Forum.

She was honoured in 2019 'For service to the community of Tuggeranong' with the Order of Australia (OAM).

## **Vivienne PEARCE - AUSTRALIAN ASSOC OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS ACT**

NOMINATED BY: Julia Landford, AAEEACT  
SECONDED BY: Warwick Cathro, AEVA

I am a lifelong advocate for the power of education to transform society and the lives of our citizens. We are at the crossroads as a species; I feel as a keen environmental educator that education has an important role to play in helping our communities transform our planet to a sustainable way of living.

As a career Science teacher and currently an Education Ranger at the ANBG, I am equally passionate at helping young and old to care for Country. As President of ACT Australian Association of Environmental Education (AAEEACT) and a member of its National Executive, I mentor our environmental educators. As a member of the Steering Committee for SEE-Change ACT Parliament of Youth on Sustainability and facilitator at each Parliament, I hope to inspire the next generation of environmental activists.

I have extensive governance and media experience in my roles as past President and current Executive member of the ACT Council of Parents and Citizens Associations and as Vice-President 2XX ACT Community Radio Station.

My experience is as a strong advocate in education and working with government on high level task forces/reference groups, particularly in areas of disadvantage, disability, and

refugees. In a Climate Emergency the greatest effect will be on disadvantaged groups. My community connections are an asset.

### **Kimberley SLAPP - ANU ENVIRONMENT COLLECTIVE**

NOMINATED BY: Marcus Hassall, 350.org

SECONDED BY: MaryClare Woodforde, Aust Student Environment Network; Food Co-op

I am a final year student at the ANU studying Law and International Security Studies. In my time at university, I have demonstrated a genuine passion in environmental justice, advocacy and law reform. In particular, I have been involved in the ANU Environment Collective, where I served as an executive member in 2019. In this role, I helped to organise and facilitate meetings, organise events and assist other members with environmental advocacy projects on campus. I have also been an active member of GreenLaw for two years, where I have been involved in legal research and the publishing of reports into environmental legal issues and climate advocacy.

I am currently the administrator of the Law Reform and Social Justice Program at the ANU's College of Law, where I am involved in overseeing several student-led projects advocating for law reform and community education in areas such as environmental and Indigenous justice. Finally, I am a volunteer paralegal at the EDO, where my most recent work has assisted local community groups in their environmental and planning matters. I have also worked specifically on reviewing the ACT's Aboriginal heritage laws and Territory regulations governing contamination and pollution. I strongly believe in the importance of local organisations in achieving environmental justice and advocating for policy changes at the higher level.

### **MaryClare WOODFORDE - ANU ENVIRONMENT COLLECTIVE**

NOMINATED BY: William Fletcher, ASEN, ANU Environment Collective

SECONDED BY: Sarah Reid, ACF Community Canberra

I have been involved in the climate movement since high school, and I am passionate about just solutions to environmental challenges, and in particular, involving young people in decision making processes. I am now training to be an educator, and want to bring my experiences with young people to the board. Further experience that I bring to the board is my past involvement in SEE-Change's Parliament of Youth, the Fossil Free campaign at ANU, having coordinated the ACT branch of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition, and the ANU Environment Collective. The past two years on the board have been exciting, seeing the development of the fundraising strategy, the First Nations Engagement Subcommittee, and the way that the Conservation Council has worked hard through the pandemic. I'm passionate about all of the areas that the Conservation Council works on. Democracy and a just and critical analysis of issues is necessary for governance and strategy, and I'm keen to continue to see this at the Conservation Council on the board.