



# CONSERVATION COUNCIL ACT REGION

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2022 @ 6.00PM - ONLINE (ZOOM)

### AGENDA

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

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82988345807>

Meeting ID: 829 8834 5807

#### Present:

Member Group nominated representatives:

Ian Falconer (Friends of Aranda Bushland), Kat McGilp (Ginninderra Catchment Group), Sarah Sharp (Friends of Grasslands), Ross Kingsland (Red Hill Regenerators), Richard Czumak (AEVA), David Kelly (Ginninderra Falls Association), Andrew Zelnik (Friends of Grasslands), Gill King (Living Streets Canberra), Annie Close (350 Canberra), Vivienne Pearce (AAEE), Paul Oboohov (Climate Action Canberra), Gordon McAllister (Friends of Black Mountain), Rod Griffiths (National Parks Association ACT), Clive Hurlstone (National Parks Association ACT), Ruth Ragless (Extinction Rebellion ACT), John Smith (Extinction Rebellion ACT), Bill Gemmell (Public Transport Association of Canberra), Cate Adams (Extinction Rebellion ACT), Meg Holsgrove (ACF Community Canberra), Judith Bourne (Canberra Forest Alliance), Chris Ikin (Friends of Jerrabomberra Wetlands), Warwick Cathro (350 Canberra), Lucinda Royston (Australian Native Plant Society Canberra), Glenys Patulny (Southern ACT Catchment Group), Jason Cummings (Woodlands and Wetlands Trust), Sarah Reid (ACF Community Canberra), Jessica Ward-Jones (Invasive Species Council).

Others: Victoria Herbert (Food Co-op), MaryClare Woodforde (AAEE, Food Co-op), Correa Driscoll (SEE-Change), Helen Sims (Friends of Grasslands), Jenny Edwards (SEE-Change), Leon Arundell (Climate Action Canberra, Pedal Power), Clare Henderson (SEE-Change, Friends of Grasslands, Canberra Ornithologists Group, Ginninderra Catchment Group), Marcus Hassall (350 Canberra, AEVA), Annika Reynolds (ACF Community Canberra, Canberra Ornithologists Group), Peter Ottesen (Southern ACT Catchment Group, National Parks Association ACT), Amy Jowers Blain (People's Climate Assembly), Kimberley Slapp (Food Co-op).

Staff: Elle Lawless, Executive Director  
Brooke Farr, Office Manager  
Volunteer Returning Officer - David Southgate

**Proxies received:**

1. Pamela Roberts of ACF Community Canberra appointed Sarah Reid of ACF Community Canberra as their proxy
2. John Wurcker of People's Climate Assembly appointed John Smith of Extinction Rebellion ACT as their proxy
3. Jenny Bounds of Canberra Ornithologists Group appointed Rod Griffiths of National Parks Association ACT as their proxy
4. Rainer Rehwinkel of Friends of Grasslands appointed Sarah Sharp of Friends of Grasslands as their proxy
5. Simon Copland of Pedal Power appointed Bill Gemmell of Public Transport Association of Canberra as their proxy
6. John Widdup of Pedal Power appointed Bill Gemmell of Public Transport Association of Canberra as their proxy
7. Julie Polson of Pedal Power appointed Bill Gemmell of Public Transport Association of Canberra as their proxy

**Apologies:**

Member Group nominated representatives:

Jenny Bounds - Canberra Ornithologists Group (proxy)

Monique Purton - Food Co-op

Rosemary Hollow - National Parks Association ACT

Linda Beveridge - Friends of Black Mountain

Libby Viccars - Friends of Black Mountain.

Others:

Kathy Ehmann (SEE Change)

James Trezise (co-opted Board member)

MaryClare Woodforde (Board member, Food Co-op, AAEE),

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and acknowledgement of Country</b> The meeting was opened at 6.05pm and Sarah Reid as President acknowledged Country in Ngunnawal language	
	<b>Housekeeping</b> The President asked all attendees to mute their videos, to have cameras on "live" and to use the "raise hand" function to speak.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Present and apologies and declaration of proxies</b> Apologies and declarations of proxies were noted as above. No further apologies were received from "the floor". Members present were recorded by Brooke Farr and the Returning Officer, David Southgate, as they entered the Zoom meeting.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Confirm Chair and Agenda</b> President Sarah Reid confirmed she would chair the meeting with the exception of the duration for the election of the new Board and confirmed the agenda as notified.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Confirmation and acceptance of Minutes from last Annual General Meeting held 18 November 2021</b>	

	<p>The President put the Motion: <i>that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 18 November 2021 as circulated, be accepted as a true and accurate account</i></p> <p>Mover: Rod Griffiths          Seconder: Warwick Cathro          Passed</p>	<p>DECISION:          Passed</p>
5.	<p><b>Reports</b></p> <p><b>(i) Annual Report from the Board (President)</b>          The President, Sarah Reid, presented her report on behalf of the Board, speaking from a written copy which was available on the Council's website.          No questions were asked</p> <p>Motion: <i>that the <a href="#">President's Report</a> be accepted by the meeting</i></p> <p>Mover: Sarah Sharp          Seconder: Ross Kingsland          Passed</p>	<p>DECISION:          Passed</p>
	<p><b>(ii) Executive Director's Report</b></p> <p>The Executive Director, Elle Lawless, gave an overview of the comprehensive 2021-22 report which had been prepared by the former Executive Director, Helen Oakey, who finished as ED on 28 October. Elle advised that the various files making up the report were available on the website.          Elle provided her email on the chat line for any questions attendees might have.</p> <p>Motion: <i>that the <a href="#">Executive Director's Report</a> be accepted by the meeting</i></p> <p>Mover: Gill King          Seconder: Warwick Cathro          Passed</p>	<p>DECISION:          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 Audited Financial Statements for 2021-22, together with the Treasurer's report thereon, had been available on the website prior to the AGM. The Treasurer, Chris Ikin, gave a brief overview noting that the Conservation Council remained in a strong financial position at the end of the 2021-22 financial year and drew the meeting's attention to a graph in his report summarising the Council's major sources of income and expenditure.          He recommended the Audited Financial Statements for approval by the meeting.</p> <p>Motion: <i>that the <a href="#">Treasurer's Report</a> and <a href="#">Financial Statements</a> for the year ended 30 June 2022 be accepted by the meeting [Decision]</i>          Mover: John Smith          Seconder: Rod Griffiths</p>	<p>DECISION:          Passed</p>

	<p>Passed</p> <p>Motion: <i>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>Mover: Clive Hurlstone          Seconder: John Smith          Passed</p>	<p>DECISION:          Passed</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p><b>Appointment of Auditor for 2022-23</b></p> <p>This item was dealt with out of sequence, with Sarah explaining that Mr Greg Field's availability for 2022-23 had not been confirmed at the time of the AGM and that the Board would appoint an auditor as soon as possible.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p><b>Election of members of the board, including office bearers:</b></p> <p>Before moving into the election process, the President introduced Peter Ottesen, a current Vice President of the Council and Convenor of the Board's Governance Sub-Committee. Peter was asked to respond to an email circulated by Leon Arundell claiming that 4 existing member organisations are now not eligible to be members because of changes to the constitution last year.</p> <p><b>Peter Ottesen's response:</b></p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to address this matter and to remove any doubt or confusion before we begin the election of a new board.</p> <p>The short answer is that there is not, I repeat not, an eligibility problem.</p> <p>There was a response from Marcus Hassall (board member and barrister) to the 4 member groups saying that this is not the case, and reassuring them that they continue to be members of the Council.</p> <p>It is true that changes were made to the constitution to clarify member eligibility but most importantly, as is stated in the new constitution on page 29, and I quote...<i>Amendments made to the membership provisions on 18 November 2021 do not affect the validity of the appointment of members prior to the date the amendments took effect.</i>"</p> <p>Mr Arundell has misread and misunderstood the constitution; if he had asked the Council for clarification - email or telephone - this would have been provided and he would not have needed to send an email to the 4 members raising uncertainty and possible confusion.</p> <p>So in conclusion, all member organisations of the Council prior to 18 November 2021 are eligible to vote tonight.</p> <p>Comments: Bill Gemmell thanked Peter for that clarification as the email had caused concern. Leon Arundell spoke in support of his action.</p>	

The President notified the meeting that Section 14b. of the Constitution determines that the ballot must be held in the way directed by the Board. On 13 October 2022 the Board agreed to the ballot process, which was subsequently implemented.

Everyone at the AGM had the opportunity to read the statements provided by nominees for all positions. All nominees for the contested positions took the opportunity to speak for 2 minutes.

The President advised that the Board had appointed David Southgate as the returning officer.

1. The President stood down and the Returning Officer took over as chair.

For the position of President no election was required - One nomination was received for the position of President, that is **Sarah Reid**. Having received no further nominations for the position of President the Returning Officer declared that **Sarah Reid** is duly elected President.

2. For the two positions of Vice President an election was required - three nominations for the positions of Vice President were received - **Jenny Edwards, Rod Griffiths and Leon Arundell**. As the number of nominations (3) exceeded the number of vacancies to be filled (2), a ballot was held in accordance with section 14e. of the Constitution.

Following the ballot, David Southgate declared that the following people have been elected to the positions of Vice President

**Jenny Edwards**

**Rod Griffiths**

3. For the position of Secretary one nomination was received - that was from **Kathy Ehmman**. Having received no further nominations for the position of Secretary, **Kathy Ehmman** was duly declared as Secretary.

4. For the positions of Ordinary Board Members, 8 nominations were received for the positions of Ordinary Board Members. Nominations were received from: **Victoria Herbert, Warwick Cathro, Leon Arundell, Marcus Hassall, Correa Driscoll, Annika Reynolds, Kimberley Slapp, and Vivienne Pearce**. As the number of nominations (8) exceeded the number of vacant positions to be filled (6), section 14e. of the Constitution required that a ballot be held.

Following the ballot, the returning officer declared that the following 5 people had been elected to the positions of Ordinary Board member: **Correa Driscoll, Marcus Hassall, Warwick Cathro, Annika Reynolds, Victoria Herbert**.

	<p>Two nominees, Vivienne Pearce and Kimberley Slapp received an equal number of votes for the 6th position, leading to a run-off ballot which resulted in the election of <b>Vivienne Pearce</b>.</p> <p><i>Motion: That the following people be noted as duly elected to the Board of the Conservation Council ACT Region for 2022-23</i></p> <p>President - Sarah Reid  Vice-Presidents: Jenny Edwards, Rod Griffiths  Secretary: Kathy Ehmann  Ordinary Board members:  Correa Driscoll  Marcus Hassall  Warwick Cathro  Annika Reynolds  Victoria Herbert  Vivienne Pearce</p> <p>Mover: Glenys Patulny  Seconder: Annie Close  Passed</p> <p>The Returning Officer returned the chairing of the meeting to the President</p>	<p>DECISION  Passed</p>
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Meeting Close</b>  The President thanked the Returning Officer then dealt with item 5 of the agenda. She thanked the Conservation Council staff for their contributions over the year and particularly thanked Brooke Farr, Elle Lawless and Helen Sims for preparations towards the AGM.  The meeting closed at 7.53pm</p>	