

South Gippsland Conservation Society

Minutes from Annual General Meeting

Sunday 12 November 2023, 11:00am

1. Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bunurong and Boon Wurrung peoples as the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, and over which they have never ceded sovereignty. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and look to our shared future and common desire to sustain and care for the land on which we live.

2. Guest Speakers and Presentations

- **Oceans Update:** a presentation by SGCS member **Aileen Vening**. Aileen is a retired local geographer and Al Gore trained Climate Reality educator. As well as monitoring local coastal processes and climate change impacts, she keeps a close eye on what is changing globally in our oceans and atmosphere. Aileen's presentation focussed on a few of these changes.
 - **Volunteering in your local community:** **Tim Smith** from South Coast FM radio. Each week our President joins the airwaves with Tim and Bill TenEyck to discuss all things conservation on Mondays from 9-12noon.
 - **Dinosaur Discoveries:** **Mike Cleeland** told us about some local discoveries by him, and by Melissa Lowery, that have been recently identified as highly significant.
 - **Wonthaggi's Hidden Gem & Ecosystems for the Future - Carney's Road:** **Linda Pettit** gave a short presentation on the history and status of this project.
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3. Attendance and Apologies

Lynn	Seymour	Apology	Terry	Melvin	In Person
Yvonne	Kidd	Apology	Laura	Brearley	In Person
Glenn	Morris	Apology	Bron	Dahlstrom	In Person
Richard	Perry	Apology	Rosemary	Andrews	In Person
James	Walton	Apology	Philip	Heath	In Person
Christine	Fabel	Apology	Liz	Zetzmann	In Person
Bert	Fabel	Apology	Susan	Atkins	In Person
Anda	Banikos	Apology	Warwick	Mears	In Person
Yianni	Banikos	Apology	John	Cuttriss	In Person
Linda	Senhenn	Apology	Alison	Brewster	In Person
Sophie	Cuttriss	Apology	Leo	Lubransky	In Person
Debbie	Williams	Apology	Nigel	Murray	In Person
Cheryl	Tyler	Apology	Jennifer	Murray	In Person
Eulalie	Brewster	Apology	Ruth	Glare	In Person
			Maree	Mills	In Person
Bron	Elmore	Via Zoom	Linda	Pettit	In Person
Phill	Slattery	Via Zoom	Susannah	Marshall	In Person
Annette	Read	Via Zoom	Andrew	Nowland	In Person
Ken	Blackman	Via Zoom	Trevor	Forge	In Person
Jackie	Newman	Via Zoom	Wendy	Page	In Person
Dave	Newman	Via Zoom	Ed	Jensen	In Person
Ray	Norton	Via Zoom	Ed	Thexton	In Person
Mike	Cleeland	Via Zoom	Pam	Copeland	In Person
Karyn	Bugeja	Via Zoom	Michael	Nugent	In Person

4. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2022

Motion to accept the Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 6 Nov 2022, as provided in the Information Pack pages 5-8 circulated by email in the newsletters of 25 October and 4 November 2023, as a true and accurate record of that meeting:

Moved *Jennifer Murray* Seconded *Ed Thexton* CARRIED

5. Annual Report:

Please refer to the Annual Report included in the Information Pack circulated by email in the newsletters of 25 October and 4 November 2023. In addition to a report from the President, the Annual Report included reports from each of the working groups, special projects and auspiced associations and an update on progress against the Strategic Plan. In addition, the President spoke about the activities of the Society in 2023, including the refresh of the Strategic Plan.

A video extract from Sir David Attenborough's *Witness Statement* (2020) was used to emphasise the fundamentally changed state of the world. Sir David concludes that the natural world has been overrun by humans and nature now depends on 'nature positive' action by caring people to be able to continue providing essential life support services. Our region is no exception. How do we plan to cope with the enormous need? We cannot do everything. How can we be most effective? Already, we provide opportunities across ages and abilities. This is the essence of Strategic Planning.

Motion to accept the Annual Report as an accurate summary of the Society's activities in 2023.

Moved *Ed Thexton* Seconded *Jennifer Murray* CARRIED

6. Acceptance of Financial Report:

The Treasurer highlighted aspects of the Society's finances in a short presentation.

Motion to accept the Special Purpose Financial Report for the Year ended 30 June 2023 prepared by Cardell Assurance and Audit following a review of SGCS financial records, as presented in the Information Pack pages 24 to 34, circulated by email in the newsletters of 25 October and 4 November 2023.

Moved *Ed Jensen* Seconded *Alison Brewster* CARRIED

7. Motion to determine membership fees:

Background information about this motion was provided in the Information Pack page 35.

Motion

That this meeting accepts the Executive's recommendation:

To increase the membership fees on 30 June 2024 for annual payment due for 24/25 Financial Year onwards in accordance with the schedule below.

AND

New or rejoining members joining from 1 January 2024 will pay this rate for an 18 month subscription up to 30 June 2025.

CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE	\$100
FAMILY	\$40
SINGLE	\$30
CONCESSION	\$22
LIFE	No charge

Moved *Jennifer Murray* Seconded *Yvonne Kidd*. CARRIED

8. Motion to refresh our strategic plan

Background information about this motion was provided in the Information Pack page 36.

After discussion, the following amended motion was put to the meeting.

Motion

That this meeting accepts the Executive's recommendation:

To commence a review, in consultation with members, to refresh our Strategic Plan Objectives with the review to be finalised within 12 months and that this be the first of a rolling triennial review.

AND

In the interim to adopt the following revised Purpose and Vision statements.

Our Mission / Purpose

To provide a community for enthusiastic people, committed to inspire, educate, advocate and act to ensure the protection, regeneration and climate adaptation of the lands and waters on which we live.

Our Vision for the future

- *To respond to the climate emergency and extinction crisis by thinking globally and acting locally*
- *To provide opportunities, information, and ideas for participation in local Citizen Science projects that further the evidence base for protection of species.*
- *To continue to have a retail and educational space in Inverloch from which to offer authentic 'communal learning by doing' activities that localise our issues and concerns and seed the spread of environmental ideas.*
- *In the face of the climate emergency, to provide expertise, in conjunction with other conservation bodies such as PICS and FOTP, on the protection, regeneration and climate adaptation of the South Gippsland and the Bunurong/Bass coast environment.*
- *To be acknowledged as local experts and thus partners of government in problem solving and planning on conservation related matters; influencers and information sources rather than stakeholders to be consulted.*
- *To harvest the learnings from our 50 year history, and tell the story of local champions and the impact they can have on conserving the natural world.*

Moved Jennifer Murray Seconded Trevor Forge CARRIED

9. Election of Executive Committee:

The Information Pack included details about the committee positions and composition in 2023.

Jenifer Murray handed the chair to Aileen Vening as returning officer to conduct the election process.

Aileen thanked the retiring committee members for their good work and declared all positions vacant. She then conducted the election as follows.

President:

Ed Thexton nominated by: Tim Smith; Seconded: James Murray

No other nominations; Ed Thexton declared re-elected.

Vice President:

John Cuttriss nominated by: John Cuttriss; Seconded: Sophie Cuttriss

No other nominations; John Cuttriss declared elected.

Secretary:

Jennifer Murray nominated by: Jennifer Murray; Seconded: Nigel Murray

No other nominations; Jennifer Murray declared elected.

Treasurer:

No nominations received; position declared vacant.

The Executive will seek to fill this position by co-opting.

Ordinary Members (up to four):

Alison Brewster nominated by Alison Brewster; Seconded by Jennifer Murray

Glenn Morris nominated by Glenn Morris; Seconded by Jennifer Murray

Ed Jensen nominated by Wendy Page; Seconded by Alison Brewster

Richard Perry nominated by Richard Perry; Seconded by Jennifer Murray

No other nominations received; the four nominees were elected.

Education Working Group representative:

Nigel Murray nominated by: Nigel Murray; Seconded by Jennifer Murray

No other nominations received; Nigel Murray declared re-elected.

Projects Working Group representative:

John Cuttriss nominated by: John Cuttriss; Seconded by Sophie Cuttriss

No other nominations received; John Cuttriss declared re-elected.

Bunurong Environment Centre Working Group representative:

Trevor Forge nominated by Trevor Forge; Seconded by Alison Brewster

No other nominations received; Trevor Forge declared elected.

Advocacy and Submissions Working Group representative:

Johnathon Upson nominated by Johnathon Upson; Seconded by Jennifer Murray

No other nominations received; Jonathon Upson declared re-elected.

Special Projects Working Group representative:

Philip Heath nominated by Philip Heath; Seconded by Jennifer Murray

No other nominations ; Philip Heath declared re-elected.

Communications Working Group representative:

No nominations received; position declared vacant.

The Executive will seek to fill this position by co-opting. Jennifer Murray will caretake the role until a new appointee can be found.

Proposed meeting date for Executive is Monday 18 December at 2pm.

10. Close of meeting and commencement of a shared lunch:

The meeting closed at 1:09pm