

REPORT OF 68TH ANNUAL CONGRESS, LAUNCESTON, OCTOBER 1969

Members were welcomed by His Worship the Mayor of Launceston, Alderman F. B. King, at a Civic Reception held in the Town Hall on 23 October 1969.

Congress was officially opened at 10:00 on Friday, 24 October, by Mr M. Bushby MHA in the unavoidable absence of the Minister for Agriculture. The opening was followed by morning tea, and Dr Brown's Presidential Address, which appears below. In the afternoon the 68th Annual General Meeting was held, followed by an informal discussion on the Union and its activities, in which a number of the members took part. In particular, the question of local groups of members and their relation with the Union as a whole was examined, with reference to the situation in different parts of Australasia. Council was most grateful for the opportunity of hearing members discuss this and other matters relevant to Council's task of preparing new Articles of Association. After the discussion Mr H. J. de S. Disney, Chairman of the Field Investigation Committee, spoke briefly on the Committee and its plans.

In the evening, members attended by invitation the monthly meeting of the Northern Branch of the Royal Society of Tasmania in the Queen Victoria Museum. Dr H. F. Recher delivered an address entitled 'The future of biological surveys in New South Wales'.

During the next three days the programme was as follows:

Saturday, 25 October

Queen Victoria Museum

Morning. Scientific session, chaired by Mr S. Marchant, at which the following papers were read:

'Aspects of the ecology of waders on the wintering grounds' by Mr D. G. Thomas.

'Some aspects of the ecology of herons' by Dr H. F. Recher.

'Airfield ornithology' by Dr G. F. van Tets.

Afternoon. The following papers were given at a meeting chaired by Mr L. E. Wall:

'Some aspects of conservation with reference to Tasmania' by Mr D. Milledge.

'The Forty-spotted Pardalote' by Mr D. Milledge.

'The Ground Parrot *Pezoporus wallicus* in New South Wales' by Mr J. M. Forshaw.

In the evening two excellent films dealing with Tasmanian birds were shown by Mr L. Hill.

Sunday, 26 October

A day-tour of the Tamar Valley by private car was undertaken. Visits were made to the Notley Fern Gorge and to the home of Mr R. H. Green at Exeter.

In the evening a discussion was conducted by Mr D. G. Thomas on 'Ornithological field-work'.

Monday, 27 October

Queen Victoria Museum

Morning. Scientific session, chaired by Dr G. F. van Tets, at which the following papers were read:

'Montague, mourners, mutton-birds and Titi: the story of an island and three shearwaters' by Dr P. J. Fullagar.

'Birds of Norfolk Island' by Mr H. J. de S. Disney.

'The Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, a new Tasmanian record' by Mr J. R. Napier.

Afternoon. The following scientific paper was given at a meeting chaired by Mr A. R. McEvey:

'Co-operation by amateurs in ornithological research' by Mr P. Balmford.

In his closing remarks the President, Dr A. G. Brown, thanked Mr R. H. Green for his efforts in organizing Congress.

Some members left Launceston on 28 October to attend the field outing at Campbell Town. The field outing was organized by Mr R. H. Green and field work was led by Mr D. G. Thomas. An account of the results will be published elsewhere.

APPENDIX

Members Registered for Congress

ACT—J. M. Forshaw, P. J. Fullagar, G. F. van Tets.
NSW—Mrs C. M. Bonser, G. Bowen-Thomas, G. Dibley, Mrs M. Dibley, H. J. de S. Disney, Mrs N. E. Gladsden, H. Goldstein, Mrs B. Goldstein, R. L. Mote, Mrs Mote, Miss D. M. O'Grady, Miss G. Y. O'Grady, H. F. Recher, Mrs R. J. Robinson, Miss D. Stenhouse, Miss M. Talbot.

NZ—H. L. Secker, Mrs A. P. Prickett.

Q—D. D. Dow.

SA—A. H. London.

TAS—A. T. Abbott, Mrs B. N. Angel, R. H. Green, D. Milledge, Miss C. H. Mosey, J. R. Napier, D. G. Thomas, L. E. Wall.

VIC.—P. Balmford, Mrs R. A. Balmford, B. A. Blair, Mrs Blair, A. G. Brown, Mrs Brown, Mrs W. Denney, A. R. McEvey, S. Marchant, Mrs W. M. Reid, A. D. Selby.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 24 OCTOBER 1969 IN QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM, LAUNCESTON, TASMANIA

Present

Dr Graham Brown in the Chair and 34 members. The meeting opened at 13:40. Apologies were received from Mr G. Binns, Mr H. T. Condon, Mr J. Courtney, Mr N. Gove, Mr K. Hindwood, Mrs T. Kloot, Mr S. G. Lane, Mrs E. McCulloch, Mr A. R. McGill, Miss O. Nock, Mr D. Purchase, Mrs P. Reilly, Mr M. Sharland, Mr K. Simpson and Mr J. Wheeler.

Minutes

The Minutes of the AGM held on 12 October 1968 were taken as read and confirmed on the motion of Mr Balmford, seconded by Mr Thomas. The Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 21 June 1969 were taken as read and confirmed by the motion of Mr Wall, seconded by Miss Mosey. The Secretary's Report was taken as read and received on the motion of Mrs Balmford, seconded by Mr Dibley.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Mr Gove, the Treasurer's Report was presented by the Secretary, who stated that the report had been prepared by Mr Favaloro for the year ending 31 December 1968, and was presented at this meeting as required by the Articles of Association. The report had been received by Mr Gove a few days before the meeting, and required certain alterations. The Statement of Receipts and Expenditure, and Balance Sheet had not been audited. It was moved by Mrs Balmford, seconded by Mr Balmford, that the report be accepted subject to satisfactory auditing. It was moved by Mr Wall and seconded by Mr Forshaw that an audited copy of the Statement and Balance Sheet should be published in the Newsletter as soon as possible. The motion was carried.

Conservation

Mr Blair asked what had been done by the Union in respect of the Little Desert. The President stated that one former Council member and one present Council member had been extremely active behind the scenes in dealing with the Minister of Lands and the Premier.

There was some discussion of the Union's role in conservation and the extent to which it should operate at a national or at a local level. It was moved by Mr Napier and seconded by Mr Blair that the Minister of Agriculture should be written to, and his apology accepted, and that we should thank him for sending his Deputy, Mr Bushby, to open Congress in the morning. The letter should state that we understand that conservation in Tasmania is in a state of flux and we should tactfully suggest that we hope that conservation interests will be considered in the widest possible manner.

The meeting then closed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT 1968-69

The Union's year began with the extremely successful 1968 Congress, arranged by the ACT Branch and held in Canberra in October 1968. Seventy-four members registered for the Congress, which took the form of a four-day scientific meeting, followed by a ten-day field outing at Round Hill, near Lake Cargellico, NSW. The field outing which was attended by a large number of

members, some of whom had not attended the Congress, was a true camp-out with a scientific flavour. Both Congress and field outing were most exciting and stimulating experiences for those who took part, and their success was a major contribution by the ACT Branch towards the development of the Union at this crucial time.

The Report of the Review Committee was presented to Council in March and discussed by Council at length. Finally, a summary of the Report was sent to all members, with the unanimous recommendation of Council that it be adopted. An Extraordinary General Meeting was held in Melbourne on 21 June 1969 at which 60 members were present in person and another 264 were represented by proxy. Thus, well over one third of the members availed themselves of the opportunity to vote at the meeting. Members from four States and two Territories of the Commonwealth were present in person, and proxies came from all States and major Territories, New Zealand, Europe and North America.

This wide representation at the meeting reflected the interest of the members in the Union and their concern for its future, and was most encouraging to Council members, who had themselves spent much time and thought considering the proposed reforms. The meeting, by a substantial majority, approved the recommendations of the Review Committee, amended the Articles of Association of the Union to provide for a Council of nine members, elected eight persons to that Council, and directed Council to implement the recommendations of the Review Committee and to prepare draft amendments to the Articles of Association to this end.

Since that meeting, one Council member has had to resign through pressure of other responsibilities, and two others have been co-opted. The following now constitute the Council of the Union:

President: A. Graham Brown
Vice-President: G. F. van Tets
Secretary: Mrs R. A. Balmford
Treasurer: C. N. Gove
Editor: S. Marchant
Checklist Editor: H. T. Condon
Members: H. J. de S. Disney, A. R. McEvey, G. M. Pizzev

Mrs T. Kloot has been appointed Librarian, and a Field Investigation Committee has been appointed.

Council has spent much time considering the Review Committee's recommendations and their implementation. Three full-day meetings have been held in Melbourne, at all of which interstate members have been able to be present. Council members have had very many other informal contacts, by letter, telephone and personal meetings; the preparation of the draft Articles of Association is well advanced.

The Library of the Union is now open regularly, and the Librarian has been delighted with the response. The first issue of the Newsletter is now with the printer, and will be sent to all members at any early date. A number of regional representatives have been appointed. Part 4 of Volume 68 of *The Emu* appeared early in 1969, and Parts 1 and 2 of Volume 69 have already been published. Part 3 is in press and should appear this month, and Part 4 is largely ready for the printer. The Field Investigation Committee has been active at work, and hopes soon to start several investigations. The Individual

Observation Point Scheme continued to operate throughout the year, but on the recommendation of the organizer, Mr D. G. Thomas, it has now been decided to bring it to an end. Mr Thomas has taken over the administration of the Nest Record Scheme, which has now amassed more than ten thousand cards, and is continuing on the same lines as heretofore.

Membership

The Secretary's Report presented to the last Congress in Canberra covered the period to 11 October 1968. Since then the Secretary has been notified of the deaths of the following nine members:

Miss C. C. Currie	W. H. Loaring
G. R. Gannon	F. J. Ludowici
H. H. Goodyear	T. H. Luxton
K. C. Halafoff	W. J. Savigny
Miss D. M. Harvey	

At 11 October 1968 there were 1,192 members and subscribers. At the date of this report there are 1,084 members and subscribers, made up as follows:

6 Fellows
8 Honorary members
851 Ordinary members
37 Associate members
182 Subscribers

1,084

The reduction of 108 members during the year is increased by a further 12 members who have stated that

they will resign at the end of 1969. The total reduction of 120 is made up as follows:

	12.10.68- 20.6.69	21.6.69- 13.10.69	Total	
Deaths	5	4	9	
Resignations of financial members	20	6	26	
Resignations of unfinancial members	15	10	25	
Unfinancial members struck off by resolution of Council, May 1969	180			
Less subsequently reinstated by payment of subscription	61			
	119		119	
Subscriptions cancelled	5	6	11	
	164	26	190	190
New members	33	28	61	
New subscriptions	6	3	9	
	39	31	70	70
Total reduction				120

Rosemary Balmford,
13 October 1969.