

ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1970

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union was held on 21 November 1970 in the Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales. Dr A. Graham Brown was in the Chair, and 48 members were present. The meeting opened at 14:45. Apologies were received from Mr H. T. Condon, Dr D. D. Dow, Dr P. Fullagar, Mr R. H. Green, Mr J. Jones, Mrs T. L. Kloot, Lt Col S. G. Lane, Mr A. McEvey, Mr A. McGill, Mr J. Palmer, Mr G. Pizzey, Mrs P. Reilly, Mr D. G. Thomas and Dr N. Wettenhall.

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 24 October 1969 were read and confirmed on the motion of Mr Battam, seconded by Dr van Tets.

Treasurer's Report

The Balance Sheet as at 31 December 1969, and Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 1969, were taken as read and adopted on the motion of Mr Gove, seconded by Mr Balmford.

There was some discussion on the question of the increased bulk postage rates, and the Secretary stated that representation on this subject had been made to the PMG and to another member of the Cabinet.

Mr V. Serventy suggested that a form of clause for inclusion in a will to enable a bequest to the Union could be included in the Newsletter.

The Treasurer acknowledged help which he had received from Mr Balmford, Mr Marchant and Mrs McCulloch.

Secretary's Report (see below)

The Secretary's Report was read by Mrs Balmford

and accepted on the motion of Mr Balmford, seconded by Dr van Tets.

Elections

There being no other nominations, the candidates nominated by the Council were elected as follows:

President: Dr Brown

Vice-President: Dr van Tets

Secretary: Mrs Balmford

Treasurer: Mr Gove

Editor: Mr Marchant

Councillor until A.G.M. in 1972: Mr Pizzey

Councillor until A.G.M. in 1972: Mr Green

Councillor until A.G.M. in 1971: Mr Condon

Councillor until A.G.M. in 1971: Mr Disney

Auditor

It was moved by Mr Balmford and seconded by Mr Gove, and carried, that Mr Cameron should be appointed auditor at a remuneration to be fixed by the Council.

Fellows

It was moved by Mrs Balmford and seconded by Dr van Tets that in accordance with the recommendation of the Council Mr Angus Hargreaves Robinson of Coolup, Western Australia, and Mr Wilson Roy Wheeler of Melbourne, Victoria, be elected Fellows of the Union. Mrs Balmford read the citations, which appear on pages 95 and 96. The motion was passed. The meeting closed at about 16:00.

SECRETARY'S REPORT 1969-70

The 1969 Congress in Launceston organized by Mr R. H. Green was a worthy successor to the ACT Congress of 1968. Forty-one members attended the Congress which again took the form of a scientific meeting. The Field-Outing at Campbell Town in northern Tasmania was designed to give members experience in techniques of field ornithology and was most successful in doing this.

During the year, Council continued with the implementation of the recommendations of the Review Committee. New articles of association were prepared in accordance with the direction of the Extraordinary General Meeting of 21 June 1969. After considerable discussion by Council they were submitted to a number of members for criticism. After amendment, the final form was circulated to all members and new articles were adopted by the unanimous vote of another Extraordinary General Meeting on 27 July 1970, at which thirty members were present in person and 163 by proxy.

The format of the EMU has been changed, principally in the interests of economy, but it is hoped that, now that the whole of Vol. 70 has appeared in the new format, members will agree that the new type-face and double-column setting are clear and pleasing to the eye.

A list of members of the Union, classified both alphabetically and geographically, was published with Part 4, Vol. 70, of the EMU; it is intended that in the future the

list will be kept up to date by regular publication of amendments.

Five parts of the *RAOU Newsletter* have now appeared. There is a constant inflow of material for publication, ranging over matters related to Union activities and to ornithology.

The Field Investigation Committee has several activities under way. It has taken over responsibility for the Nest Record Scheme, which Mr D. G. Thomas administers from Hobart. The Wedge-tailed Eagle Survey has begun under the direction of Mr M. G. Brooker of CSIRO Division of Wildlife Research in Perth. Dr D. D. Dow, in Brisbane, is compiling an Index of Current Australian Ornithology, which it is hoped to publish next year.

Much hard and valuable work has been done on the Union's Library by Mrs Kloot, the Librarian, and Miss Cecily Allen, who has been appointed Assistant Librarian. Many members are using the Library, both in person and through the post, and it is playing a significant part in carrying out the Union's first aim, 'to promote the study and knowledge of ornithology'.

With the 1970 Congress in Perth, the tradition of the scientific meeting extending over several days can be said to have become established. As successful as its two predecessors, it was organized by Dr S. J. J. F. Davies and was attended by over sixty people. Dr Davies

arranged for the Union's participation in a CSIRO survey of Wanjarri Station, Kathleen Valley, Western Australia, to determine its suitability as a National Park; this survey formed the Field-Outing, which was a most rewarding experience for all who took part.

The climax of the year came with the news that the International Ornithological Committee, meeting at the XV International Ornithological Congress at The Hague, had accepted the invitation of the RAOU and the Australian Academy of Science to hold the XVI International Ornithological Congress in Australia in 1974. This is the most exciting single event in the history of Australian ornithology and should provide a great stimulus to the study of ornithology in the Australasian region.

Membership

The Secretary's Report presented to the Annual General Meeting at Launceston last year (Emu 70: 42-43) covered the period to 13 October 1969. Since then, the Secretary has been notified of the deaths of the following members and fellow:

	Year of Election
Sir C. F. Belcher (Fellow)	1901
H. E. Brown	1965
E. Dear	1950
F. G. Elford	1946
J. M. M. Fisher	1962
Miss S. E. Fletcher	1957
J. R. Goodison	1938

J. S. Gowans	1955
Sir E. J. L. Hallstrom	1942
F. E. Jones	1967
N. F. Learmonth	1948
Mrs L. E. Moore	1926
R. E. Moreau (Hon. Member)	1949
P. T. Sandland (Hon. Member)	1907
Prof. Dr. E. F. T. Stresemann (Hon. Member)	1956
Dr D. F. Thomson	1933
R. M. Virtue	1943
Miss M. L. Wigan	1926
Miss A. L. Young	1949

The number of members at 13 October 1969 (902) has thus been reduced by these nineteen deaths and by forty-three resignations. In September 1970 the Council terminated the membership of thirty-nine persons who had not paid their subscriptions for 1969. The total reduction of 101 was offset by the reinstatement of eighteen former members and the election of eighty-four new members, giving a net increase of one during the period. The membership now stands at five Fellows, five Honorary Members and 893 Ordinary Members, a total of 903. In addition, the Union's publications are being sent to 192 subscribers (an increase of ten during the period) and to twenty-six organizations whose journals are received in exchange.

Rosemary Balmford,
15 November 1970.