

ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1973

The Annual General Meeting was held on 31 March 1973 at the former Director's Residence, Adelaide Zoological Gardens, Adelaide, SA. Mrs P. Reilly was in the chair with 29 members present and 30 represented by proxy. The meeting began at 10:30. Apologies were received from 14 members.

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 12 May 1972, having been published and circulated (Emu 73: 31), were taken as read and adopted on the motion of Mr P. Balmford, seconded by Brig. H. R. Officer.

Income and Expenditure Account

Because the Treasurer could not attend, he asked Mr P. Balmford to address the meeting on his behalf. Mr Balmford informed the meeting that since the accounts had been prepared a grant of \$800 had been made by the Ingram Trust to cover part of the cost of producing EMU Volume 72. In view of this the surplus for the year should therefore be \$1,200 instead of \$400 as shown in the published accounts. The Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 1972, the Balance Sheet at that date and the reports of the Council and Auditor thereon, having been published and circulated (RAOU Newsletter 14, February 1973), were taken as read and adopted on the motion of Mr P. Balmford, seconded by Mr G. B. Ragless.

Secretary's Report (see below)

The Secretary's Report was read by the Secretary, Dr D. E. Peters, and adopted on the motion of the Secretary, seconded by Dr G. F. van Tets. The President emphasized the appreciation of Council for the work of the previous Secretary, Mrs R. A. Balmford, and the members present then joined her in demonstrating their appreciation.

Treasurer's Report

Mr P. Balmford stated that there was nothing further to be said that had not already been expressed during presentation of the Income and Expenditure Account, which had already been adopted.

SECRETARY'S REPORT 1972-73

The Annual Congress and Field-outing for 1972 were held most successfully at the Australian Museum, Sydney, and the Myall Lakes National Park respectively. Eighty persons attended Congress, 50 from NSW, 29 from other States and one from NZ.

Preparations for the XVI International Ornithological Congress in 1974 are well under way in the hands of Dr H. J. Frith. During the year, the RAOU's Financial Advisory Committee was able to guarantee that the funds necessary for staging the IOC would be available when required.

The subscription rates for members were increased to \$10 at the beginning of 1973 because of inflationary pressures that made it increasingly difficult to finance the Union's operations. A considerable part of this increase will go to publish EMU because the printer has

Editor's Report (see below)

In the absence of the Editor, the Secretary read the Editor's Report, which was adopted on the motion of Dr D. E. Peters, seconded by Dr G. F. van Tets.

Librarian's Report (see below)

The Librarian's Report was read in his absence by the Secretary and adopted on the motion of Mrs J. B. Paton, seconded by Mr R. F. Brown.

Elections

The candidates nominated by Council were all elected.

Vice-President: Dr G. F. van Tets
Secretary: Dr D. E. Peters
Editor: Mr S. Marchant
Councillor: Mr H. T. Condon
Councillor: Mr H. J. de S. Disney

Fellows

The President referred to the motion for the election of Fellows in the notice of meeting and requested the Secretary to read the citations.

Dr Peters read the citations for Herbert Thomas Condon and Sir Robert Alexander Falla, which are given elsewhere in this issue. Dr A. Lendon spoke of his high esteem for Sir Robert Falla and Mr Condon. Dr G. F. van Tets then spoke in agreement with the comments made by Dr Lendon.

It was moved by Dr G. F. van Tets and seconded by Dr A. Lendon, that in accordance with the recommendation of Council, Mr Herbert Thomas Condon of Adelaide, SA, and Sir Robert Alexander Falla of Wellington, NZ, be elected Fellows of the Union. The motion was carried by acclamation.

The meeting closed at approximately 11:00.

After the formal business the President gave an address. This was followed by a report on the Australian Seabird Group and its proposed actions by Dr G. F. van Tets, and some discussion of the Bird Atlas Project and the possibility of a pilot study also being conducted in South Australia.

informed the Union of a general 10-15% rise in printing costs, effective during the first half of 1973.

The Field Investigation Committee has actively continued its work during the year. This has culminated in formation of the Australian Seabird Group, publication of a pamphlet on the Treatment of Oiled Seabirds and the launching of a pilot scheme for the proposed Bird Atlas Project, but it is disappointing that few members participate in these projects.

Four issues of the RAOU Newsletter were produced during the year and there is a continuing flow of material suitable for future issues.

Mrs R. A. Balmford found it necessary to resign from the Secretaryship in August 1972 and Council co-opted Dr D. E. Peters to fill the vacancy. Council is very conscious of the long and devoted service which Mrs

Balmford has given the Union, particularly during the difficult period of re-organization, and hopes members will join in expressing their appreciation.

Membership

The previous report to the Annual General Meeting on 12 May 1972 covered the period to 7 May 1972. Since then the Secretary has been notified of the deaths of four members whose names and dates of election are:

J. A. DeRavin, Glen Iris, Victoria.	1972
E. C. Mason, Kempsey, N.S.W.	1963
H. E. C. Stewart, Ascot Vale, Victoria.	1946
Prof. E. F. T. Stresemann, Berlin, Germany.	1956

The number of members at 7 May 1972 has been reduced by these four deaths and by 13 resignations. Council terminated the membership of 53 persons who had not paid their subscription for 1972. The total reduc-

tion of 70 was offset by the reinstatement of two former members and the election of 64 new members giving a net decrease of 4 during the period.

At the date of this report, the membership consists of six Fellows, four Honorary Members and 847 ordinary members. In addition, the Union's publications are being sent to 210 subscribers (an increase of 13 since the last report) and to 40 organizations whose journals are received in exchange (an increase of one since the last report).

It should be noted that there has been a significant increase in applications for membership since publication of the Union's new brochure. It is believed this foreshadows an increase in membership over the next year despite the recent increase in subscription.

David E. Peters,
26 March 1973.

EDITOR'S REPORT 1972

Four parts of EMU, Volume 72, were issued during the year. The first three were of forty pages each and the fourth of seventy-two pages, which with the indexes of subjects and authors, and of species, gave a volume of 200 pages. Eight plates were published. It was possible to expand Part 4 only because of a grant from the M. A. Ingram Trust. Printing costs were increased by about twenty-five per cent in July, and will be increased again by about ten per cent early in 1973. These severe increases naturally pin us down to issues of only forty pages and indeed raise the question whether we will be able to maintain even that slender ration. Members will appreciate that under such circumstances the increase of subscription will be almost entirely absorbed by the costs of EMU alone and that we are waiting rather anxiously for the results of activities during 1973. It is particularly worrying that such increases have occurred at a time when we have hopes of supplementary publications and, it seems, an increasing supply of submissions.

Part 1 was issued twenty-five days late; the others on due date or thereabouts if one allows for holidays and weekends.

Eighteen papers and nineteen short communications were published. The subject matter of twelve papers was biological (or at least most easily classified as such), of three geographical, of two historical and of one taxonomical. The subject matter of nine short communications was geographical, of eight biological and of two taxonomical. In total, about fifty-one per cent of such space went to biological matters, twenty-four to geographical, eighteen to historical and seven to taxonomical. Though New Zealand and New Guinean birds were the subjects

of short communications, birds outside Australia and Tasmania got less notice than in the last few years. Two valuable papers were contributed on the effect of ocean-floor spreading on bio-geography. Contributors were professional and amateur equally. Thirty-three authors or co-authors contributed the thirty-seven papers or short communications, which shows that there is less tendency for a few people to dominate than recently.

Delay in publication after acceptance of papers was kept to about six months, but only because we could expand Part 4 with the help of the Ingram Trust.

During 1972 twenty-four papers and twenty-one short communications were submitted for consideration, both up on the numbers for 1971 (16 and 18 respectively). Moreover, some papers have been decidedly longer than normal for EMU submissions. (This year published papers averaged almost seven and a half page long). At the time of writing it is impossible to forecast the trend, especially when some major papers are still being revised and the promise of others has not yet been fulfilled. If one dares to guess, probably the delay in publication will increase unless we can issue larger parts. In general, 1973 may be a critical year for EMU. If submissions live up to expectations and if we can find the means to publish them reasonably promptly, we may have the chance to establish the journal as a reputable vehicle for ornithological publication on a better basis than has recently been enjoyed.

During the year Council confirmed the editorial policy of not mixing popular and scientific writing.

S. Marchant,
5 February 1973.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT 1972

There was no basic change in the activities of the Library during the year ended 31 December 1972. The most pleasing feature was the increase in attendance during library hours by members using its facilities for personal research.

Statistics for year:

Number of books and periodicals borrowed	101
Number of photocopies from periodicals	44
Number of books added to library	14

Two basic needs for the Library are the issue of a catalogue (when funds will allow it) and the completion of a second full set of EMUs that can be used for loans. At present the Library has only one full set, which is in the reference section.

The task of sending current copies of EMUs to members who are late in paying their subscriptions continues with a considerable toll of voluntary time and extra postage for the Union. Further activities include, sale of EMUs, helping members who wish to sell old EMUs to contact others who wish to buy and in a small way meeting the needs of members requiring information.

Miss C. Allen (Assistant Librarian) continued to make a major contribution in general administration of the Library, and attending to the needs of the members requiring photocopies of references in periodicals.

F. R. B. Denton,
31 May 1972.