

ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1971

The Annual General Meeting was held on 27 May 1971 at the University of Queensland, St Lucia, Queensland. Dr G. F. van Tets was in the Chair, and 20 members attended. The meeting opened at 18:10. Apologies were received from Dr A. G. Brown, Mr C. N. Gove, Mr R. H. Green, Mr H. T. Condon, Mr S. Marchant, Mrs R. A. Balmford, Mr P. Balmford, Mr H. L. Secker, Mr A. R. Sefton, Mrs T. Kloot, Mr J. E. Courtney and Mr and Mrs H. Goldstein.

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 21 November 1970, having been published and circulated (*Emu* 71: 93), were taken as read and confirmed on the motion of Dr D. D. Dow, seconded by Mr J. D. Macdonald.

Income and Expenditure Account

The Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 1970, the Balance Sheet as at 31 December 1970, and the reports of the Council and the Auditor thereon, having been published and circulated (*RAOU Newsletter* 6, February 1971), were taken as read and adopted on the motion of Dr Dow, seconded by Mr W. Horton.

Secretary's Report (see below)

The Secretary's Report was read by Dr Dow in the absence of Mrs R. A. Balmford and accepted on the motion of Dr Dow, seconded by Dr S. J. J. F. Davies.

Treasurer's Report

Dr Dow reported that the Treasurer has asked that the meeting be informed that the Trustees of the M. A. Ingram Trust have refused to pay the full amount of the grant mentioned in the accounts and that the matter is at present under discussion and will be commented upon later when some finality has been reached.

Elections

The candidates nominated by the Council were all elected.

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

Auditor

It was moved by Dr Davies and seconded by Mr Macdonald, and carried, that Mr R. G. Cameron should be appointed auditor for the year ending 31 December 1972 at a remuneration to be fixed by the Council.

Dr Davies pointed out that no auditor's fee had appeared on the expenditure account and proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Cameron.

Other Matters

Miss H. I. Aston proposed a vote of thanks for the effort put into running the Union by the Council over the past year.

Dr Dow announced that the 'Index to Current Australian Ornithological Research' mentioned in the Secre-

tary's Report, had now been printed and was available for distribution.

Mr F. R. B. Denton commented on the *RAOU Library* and the fine work done by Mrs T. Kloot in the past year. A vote of thanks was proposed by Dr van Tets.

The meeting closed at 18:32.

SECRETARY'S REPORT 1970-71

Because of the change in the date of the Annual General Meeting made as a result of the new Articles of Association, this report covers only the period of six months which has elapsed since the AGM on 21 November 1970.

Western Australian members are forming a group within the Union, of which the following Interim Committee has been elected: Chairman, Dr S. J. J. F. Davies; Vice-Chairman, Dr D. L. Serventy; Secretary and Correspondent, Mr J. Dell; Committee Member, Mr G. S. Chapman.

The Union has received a most generous bequest of \$2,000 from the estate of the late A. J. Hole, who was a Sydney member of the *RAOU* and an active bird-bander.

As a result of representations made to the Postmaster General, the Union has been recognized as a scientific organization, having as its prime object the dissemination of knowledge, and both the *EMU* and *RAOU Newsletter* have been classified in Category A, thus paying postage at the lower of the two bulk rates.

Preparation of the 'Index to Current Australian Ornithological Research' has been completed, and copies will be available shortly. This project of the FIC should be of considerable assistance to persons engaged in ornithological research in Australia.

Mrs T. Kloot is retiring from the position of *RAOU* Librarian and has been appointed by Council to the newly established position of *RAOU* Archivist. Mr F. R. B. Denton has been appointed Librarian in her stead.

Membership

The Secretary's Report presented to the Annual General Meeting at Sydney last year (*Emu* 71: 93) covered the period to 15 November 1970. Since then, the Secretary has been notified of the deaths of four members whose names and dates of election are:

Fellow

1924 Mr Keith Alfred Hindwood

Ordinary Members

1919 Mr Edgar Wilson Bunn

1966 Mr R. R. McDonald

1951 Dr Francis Noble Ratcliffe

The number of members at 15 November 1970 (903) has been reduced by these four deaths and by 34 resignations. During 1971, the Council has terminated the membership of 47 persons who had not paid their subscriptions for 1970. The total reduction of 85 was offset by the reinstatement of eight old members and the election of 26 new members, giving a net decrease of 51 during the period. At the date of this report, the membership comprises six Fellows, five Honorary Members and

841 Ordinary Members, a total of 852. In addition, the Union's publications are being sent to 192 subscribers (the same number as at the date of the last report) and to 34 organizations whose journals are received in exchange (an increase of eight during the period).

Rosemary Balmford,
23 May 1971.

EDITOR'S REPORT 1970

During 1970 the four parts of *Emu*, Volume 70, were issued. The format was new; the size was increased to Crown 4to with double-column text. The general text was set 9 point on 10 instead of 10 solid, 8 solid being used for lists and special details; good quality paper was used instead of art paper. This arrangement has led to far greater flexibility and economy of space for tabulations and diagrams, but has meant that half-tone plates have to be tipped in at greater expense. This has not been important because the policy has been adopted of publishing photographs only if they contribute to the text, but it has meant that photographs are very critically assessed and in fact only five were included in the volume, the fewest that have ever appeared in a single volume.

The volume contained 235 pages of matter, including 27 pages of a list of members, the first published since October 1944. Except for Volumes 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 and 14 these are the fewest pages ever published in a single volume, but a page of the new format contains many more words than a page of the old. On a reasonable estimate a 48-page issue of the new format equals an 80-page of the old, so that members have probably received as much matter as ever. The cost of a present-day 48-page issue is certainly about the same as that of an 80-page previous issue, and we have been able to maintain this size only because of a Government bounty to the printing industry, by which costs to us have been reduced by about 15 per cent. (Unhappily, this bounty

was removed in the middle of 1971, with what result to us we can scarcely yet tell.) Part 4 was expanded to 81 pages.

The first part of the volume was issued later than had been hoped, partly because of teething troubles with the new format. The fourth part, however, was only 16 days late and seems to be the nearest issue to due date since Part 2 of Volume 51, due date being taken as the quarter days.

Twenty-four papers and nine short communications were published. The subject matter of six was taxonomical, of twelve was geographical or descriptive, and of fifteen was biological or special. Five papers dealt with aspects of New Guinean ornithology, mostly the result of Major Bell's efforts and perhaps the largest New Guinean content of any volume of the *EMU*. Eleven of the contributors were amateurs and twelve professional, but there is a disturbing suggestion of limitation or one-sided contribution because three amateurs between them contributed nine papers or short communications. In other words an eighth of the contributors provided almost one third of the material.

The delay in publishing some papers has been dreadful, mainly because they needed a great deal of editorial attention or because authors were very slow to revise. One paper was finally published 40 months after it had been first received, another 34 months and a third 27 months; but in general by the end of the year delay had been reduced to about six months and there was no paper that had been waiting for publication for more than one year.

For the first time an index of scientific names was provided. As for Volume 69, an attempt was made to provide a reasonable index of subject matter. Also for the first time, preliminary matter, consisting of lists of contents and previous office-bearers of the Union, was supplied to round off the volume.

S. Marchant,
8 August 1971.