



Australian Conservation Foundation Inc.

ABN 22 007 498 482

50th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6.00pm on Friday 25 November 2016

at Victoria University Convention Centre, Flinders Street, Melbourne

MINUTES

1. WELCOME

The President, Geoff Cousins, opened the meeting with acknowledgement of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, traditional owners of the land on which this meeting is held. The President paid respects to their Elders, both past and present, and confirmed that we acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.

The President then welcomed ACF members, Life Members, staff, Board members, Councillors, and special guests Marnie Rawlinson and 2016 Peter Rawlinson Conservation Award winner, Miklo Corpus, and members of 50 years standing: John Fisher, and his wife Alison, Colin Hutchinson, and his wife Yvonne and Bruce Dymock, and his daughter Laura.

2. ATTENDANCE

Attendance was as registered on entry to the meeting. One hundred ACF members had registered their attendance just prior to the opening of the meeting, exceeding the requirement of a quorum of 50 members present.

The President advised that apologies had been received from 90 members and that a list of apologies was available for viewing at the registration desk.

Thirty-three proxies for this meeting were submitted by the deadline of 5.00pm on Thursday 24 November 2016, and recorded as follows:

6 assigned to Angela Rutter	1 assigned to Kelly O'Shanassy
1 assigned to Blair Purvis	1 assigned to Nola Wilmot
1 assigned to Daisy Barham	2 assigned to Peter Wilkinson
1 assigned to Geoff Cousins	1 assigned to Sara McMillan
18 assigned to the Honorary Secretary	1 assigned to Victoria McKenzie-McHarg

All ACF members holding proxies, were recorded as being present at this meeting.

3. MINUTES OF 49th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It was moved “That the Minutes of the 49th Annual General Meeting be confirmed.”

Proposed: Susan Richardson

Seconded: Anne Poelina

The motion was carried.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

The President noted that there was no business arising from the minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting.

5. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

The President, Geoff Cousins, noted that we are living in challenging times, with a lack of bold leadership from our politicians. ACF continues to strive to innovate with new actions to provide that leadership:

- Community empowerment, growth and organisation of our supporters – currently 350,000 strong, resulting in actions such as the largest climate rally in the world taking place in Melbourne, in the lead up to the Paris Agreement;
- ACF making new and unusual alliances, such as the Leadership Forum on energy transition – a diverse group of energy company CEOs, academics, scientists, economists, bankers, lawyers, broadcasters and a former Governor General of Australia – to produce a national blueprint for transition to clean, renewable energy. The blueprint “Our Energy Future – a plan to transition Australia to clean energy” was presented by Forum members to the Minister for the Environment and Energy in Canberra earlier this month;
- Stepping up to stop the Adani Carmichael Mine, acknowledged worldwide as one of the most dangerous projects on the planet. ACF is committed to stopping this mine and a strong and broad campaign, including a court challenge to the approval of the mine, has the full support of the Board.

ACF is about doing what is right and fair and will always be guided by the principles of respect and ecological ethics where we seek to sustain life in all its forms, while providing for social and economic justice – and we will fight for those rights. We will continue to fight for our democratic right to stand-up, speak out and advocate for the environment. ACF supporters have indicated overwhelmingly that they stand with us on this issue, and support and appreciate the importance of our work.

The President then expressed his gratitude to all attendees for their show of support at this meeting and thanked all ACF supporters - our advocates and champions.

6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The CEO, Kelly O'Shanassy, reported on the enormous amount of work undertaken this year to deliver against the ACF Change Strategy and Initiatives.

A new "Narrative", is helping change the stories and greatly improve the way we speak, think, collaborate and engage with the community and other environmental organisations, with the objective of building people power to influence decision-makers and create a rapidly growing community-based advocacy for the environment.

Building people power and supporter growth and activation has been crucial to achieving strong community support during the 2016 Federal Election campaign. In seven targeted electorates, 500 volunteers carried out 4000 doorknocks, 4000 phone calls and told the stories to promote a "race to the top" in environmental credentials and policy by all candidates for election.

ACF continues to petition Canberra for stronger laws and to transform systems. We have worked hard to convince governments to create laws that protect endangered species such as the Leadbeater's possum, and protect the environment, advocating for the Great Forest National Park.

In the coming year, ACF will continue to develop its focus on the underlying drivers of unsustainability, ensuring that the Drivers of Sustainability project focuses our work on the key, big-picture areas where systemic change is urgently required and has the widest impact.

We will continue to build people power, tell the stories and stand up for the rivers, reefs, forests, wildlife, people and communities of Australia.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Mary Latham, reported on the financial position of ACF as reflected in the Annual Financial Report for year ended 30 June 2016.

ACF continues to maintain a sound financial base upon which to operate:

- An Asset base of \$16.9 million, with the 60L Green Building being the cornerstone asset (\$9.1M at cost);
- Income of ~\$13.2 million raised, 86% from donations and bequests and the remainder from members, grants, investment and 60L building rental income.

Fundraising continues to be a competitive environment, but ACF is showing strong growth results in major gifts and bequests, and is focused on continued growth and the retention of our regular givers. ACF is very grateful for the support of all of our donors.

ACF spent the majority of the funds it raised on the environment actions outlined by the President and the CEO in their reports. We strive to spend as much on our environment as possible and, over the past year expenditure on environmental action

is up 6% from the year before. However, to maintain financial independence, ACF must invest in fundraising from donors. 34% of last year's income was spent raising funds, meaning that every \$1 invested raised \$2.78 to spend on our environment. Remaining expenditure is on essential administration and operating the 60L building.

ACF made a surplus of around \$600,000 due to the extraordinary level of funds received in the last days of the financial year. This could not be spent last year but is now being invested in ACF's work.

Lastly, the Treasurer thanked Board member Todd Davies, ACF's previous Treasurer, who has just announced his intention to step down from the Board this year. The Treasurer also extended sincere thanks to the ACF Finance Team and the ACF community.

The Treasurer then asked for questions from members present, and the following responses were made:

Building listing: The Treasurer confirmed that the 60L building was listed at cost – which was \$9M at the time of the preparation of the annual financial report.

Projected major project costs: the Board makes the decision on major expenses such as the Adani court case, on the basis of legal advice as to reasonable chance of success and an assessment of risk and required funding. Members were advised that the response to ACF's fundraising appeal for the court case was extraordinary.

There being no further questions:

It was moved "That the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2016 be received and accepted."

Proposed: Todd Davies

Seconded: Jimmy Cocking

The motion was carried.

8. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

The Treasurer thanked the external auditors, Grant Thornton, for their work in undertaking the audit of the 2015-16 Financial Statements.

It was moved "That Grant Thornton be re-elected external auditors for the coming year."

Proposed: Todd Davies

Seconded: Jimmy Cocking

The motion was carried.

9. RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS OF 50 YEARS' STANDING

The President noted that this is ACF's 50th Annual General Meeting, the date of incorporation being the 12th of August 1966. Official membership of the ACF commenced in 1966, and by 1967 there were over 700 members.

ACF is delighted and proud that 14 of those original members have continued their membership and support, unbroken and unceasing, for 50 years. These members have seen every campaign, celebrated every success, commiserated every set-back and, by their extraordinary and unflagging support, have inspired us to never give up.

The President then introduced each of the three attending 50 year members, thanking them for their outstanding support, and presented them with a commemorative certificate:

Colin Hutchinson, South Australia;
John Fisher, Victoria;
Bruce Dymock, Queensland.

Messages from the members who were unable to be present were displayed. Certificates recognising 50 years of membership will be sent to:

Barbara Briggs
Andrew Lothian
Peter Haselgrove
Jan Westerlink
Doris Webb
Rosslyn Duncan
Mrs D Farnsworth Hall
Murray Gunn
Gregory Middleton
Anthony Nicolls
National Parks Association of the ACT

10. PRESENTATION OF THE PETER RAWLINSON CONSERVATION AWARD

The Peter Rawlinson Award is named after a person who made his own outstanding contribution caring for our unique natural environment and wildlife. Peter was a compelling voice on many conservation issues and an active contributor to ACF as a Councillor, Vice President and then Treasurer between 1983 and 1991. After Peter's death in 1991, his wife Marnie started the award to honour his memory and to recognise outstanding people volunteering at the local or national level who continue to care for our beautiful environment.

Councillor Jonathan Miller, member of the award panel and Marnie Rawlinson introduced and presented the 2016 award, noting that this year it had been impossible to choose between two candidates. Two 2016 Peter Rawlinson Conservation Awards were therefore being presented to:

- Ms Regina McKenzie, Traditional Owner from the Adnyamathanha people. Ms McKenzie is recognised for her work protecting Country from the proposed South Australia nuclear waste dump.
- Mr Micklo Corpus, a Traditional Owner from the Yawuru people, and to Ms Regina McKenzie, Traditional Owner from the Adnyamathanha people. Mr Corpus is recognised for his sustained efforts to peacefully protest against and draw attention to plans for large scale gas fracking by Buru Energy on his native title land.

11. NOTICE OF MOTION FROM ACF MEMBERSHIP

The President then opened the item of business proposed by ACF member Peter Wilkinson, with the support of ACF members Jenny Goldie, Denis McCormack, Mark O'Connor, Geoff Mosley, George Phair and Katharine Betts.

The motion as moved is *“That the Executive of the ACF open up discussion by publication of a paper setting out the ACF position on immigration and calling for comment to be published in a special edition of Habitat.”*

The President noted that members had seen the proposed motion on the agenda, and had the opportunity to read the background information provided by Peter Wilkinson, via the AGM papers. Peter Wilkinson and ACF were then provided with a few minutes each to comment on this item, before opening to members present for comments or questions.

Peter Wilkinson drew attention to the previous issue of ACF's habitat magazine, which had spoken to community, but not to the population issue. Peter expressed concern that the immigration intake of 200,000 people each year is accelerating population increase to unsustainable levels and questioned why the government believes this is essential to the Australian economy and workforce. Peter stated his belief that ACF has “obliterated any mention of immigration” and should address this issue as proposed in the motion put to this meeting.

ACF CEO, Kelly O'Shanassy then briefly responded, noting that ACF has a Population and Demographic Change Policy, adopted in 1992, which recognises immigration has enriched Australia, needs to be sustainable, and is affected by a range of global factors. In 2014, ACF Council debated running a population focused campaign, and instead decided to look at identifying the fundamental drivers of unsustainability. The associated research has revealed that two meta-drivers – power of the incumbents and human values - underpin all other drivers including

population and immigration. Work on this project forms the core of tomorrow's Council, Board and Executive Strategy Day discussions.

In response to questions from members, the President clarified that:

- the motion calls for a vote on the issue of having the ACF position on immigration discussed through *habitat*; and
- in each instance where the issue has previously been raised, Council has decided not to proceed with a focused population campaign.

A number of members then added comments from both sides of the debate – with some confirming their support for the motion, and others expressing their support for ACF's Drivers of Unsustainability work. Several members commented that a significant percentage of ACF's membership are immigrants, and that Australia values the diversity and skills that immigrants contribute.

The President then put the motion to the meeting, and asked members to vote for or against the motion by placing the appropriate voting slip into the containers being passed down each row.

All votes were collected and moved to the registration desk for counting.

Counting: Jane Macaulay and Kerry Drusetta (ACF staff)

Scrutineers: Tiny Pandeloglou (ACF Legal Counsel), Jon Anstey (Hon. Secretary), Peter Wilkinson (ACF Member).

12. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

The President then invited questions from the floor, receiving a range of questions from members relating to the work of the past year, and to future challenges including the key Adani campaign.

13. RESULTS OF VOTE ON THE ITEM 11. MOTION

Hon. Secretary, Jon Anstey, rejoined the meeting to advise that counting had been completed. The results, including the 33 votes submitted by proxy, were:

In Favour: 36

Against: 102

The President declared the motion lost.

14. MEETING CLOSED

There being no further business, the President declared the 50th Annual General Meeting closed and invited members and guests to move to the foyer for light refreshments.

2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ATTENDANCE

Jon	Anstey	Arabella	Georges	George	Phair
Erika	Avellaneda Celis	Lena	Glass	Anne	Poelina
Barbara	Baird	Rob J	Gordon	Cameron	Power
Barbara	Baird	Walter	Grahame	Cheryl	Pultz
April	Baragwanath	Scott	Hallel	Blair	Purvis
Daisy	Barham	Maelor	Himbury	Marnie	Rawlinson
Jenny	Barrett	Jack A	Hoadley	Andrew	Reilly
Christian	Bell	Annelie	Holden	Susan	Richardson
Bryan	Beresford-Smith	Gabriella E	Hont	Jenny	Rickards
Jennifer	Bishop	Colin	Hutchinson	Angela	Rutter
Linda	Black	Yvonne	Hutchinson	Mario	Santos
Beryl	Blake	Cathleen	Hutchinson	Paul	Sinclair
Trevor	Blake	Will	Irving	Geoffrey	Smith
Philippe	Bonne	Bernie	Joyce	Michael	Staindl
Marie	Bonne	Mary R	Kelleher	Kristina	Starnawski
Andy	Breaden	Margaret	Kelso	Margaret	Steadman
Pamm	Brittain	Jonathan	King	Fotini	Stragalinos
Jane	Brownrigg	Dallas	Kinnear	Lisa	Svendsen
Michele	Burton	Prue	Kirk	Diana	Svendsen
MaryAnne	Caleo	Iain	Kneebone	Dave	Sweeney
Elsie	Carter	Tristan	Knowles	Dr Helen	Sykes
Timothy	Chapman	Upeka	Kumerasinghe	Hedley F	Thomson
Jimmy	Cocking	Jan	Lacey	Michael B	Treanor
Eveline	Collins	Philip S	Lake	Hank	Van Apeldoorn
Jean M	Corbett	Mary	Latham	Paul	Vergheese
Geoffrey	Cousins	Marlene	Laurent	Piers	Verstegen
Anne	Cowden	Jim	Le Cornu	Dianna	Walpole
Jane	Crouch	David	Lewis	Astrid	Werner
Barbara	Darvall	Pamela	Lloyd	Bruce	Whimpey
Todd	Davies	Jane	Macaulay	Nicholas	White
Adrienne	Davies	Ian	Mack	Peter R	Wilkinson
Leonard	Dowsett	Denis	McCormack	Lisa	Williams
Brigid	Dowsett	Victoria	McKenzie-McHarg	Nola	Wilmot
Bruce	Dymock	Nadia	McLaren	Geoffrey	Wratten
Laura M	Dymock	Sara	McMillan	Prof David	Yenken
Emily	Fabian	Jonathan	Miller		
Peter	Falconer	Sharon	Miller		
David	Fallick	Anthony	Moore		
Felicity	Farmer	Damien	Morgan		
John A	Fisher	David	Morris		
Alison	Fisher	Judith	Noble		
Katie	Foley	Karina	Noontil		
Warwick	Foot	Rod	Novak		
Rob	Fowler	David	O'Heill		
Maureen	Frances	Kelly	O'Shanassy		
Robyn	Frank	Pat	Phair		

2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING APOLOGIES

HRH, the Duke of Edinburgh	Ian Lowe
Chris Ahrens	Veronika Makk
Michael Alpers	Marguerite Marshall
John Ball	Margaret Matters
Kaylene Bartholomew	Barbara McCook
Eva Bet	Patricia A McDonald
Fiona Brand	Jenny McNaughton
Anna Bridle	Geoff Morton
Barbara Briggs	Anthony Nicholls
Margaret Cash	Anica Niepraschk
Samara Cassar	Winifred K O'Brien
Carrick Chambers	Ewan Ogilvy
Lynn Corcoran	Elizabeth Ollquist
Tim Corcoran	Roger Richards
Betty Corlett	Nicola Rivers
Ray Cox	Felicite Ross
Lindsay Crawford	Wendy A Rowe
Jess Cutter	Murray Scott
Warwick M Deacock	Peter Shannon
Carmelina Di Guglielmo	Jane Smithers
Marie Digby	Diana Snape
Rosslyn Duncan	Naomi Spencer
Louise Dyer	Alison M Street
Rosemary Edwards	Robin Taylor
Rex Filson	Loma J Toohey
Loretta Forsey	Peter S Turner
Patricia Fuller	Rosemary Turner
Duncan Furphy	Russell Watkinson
Juliet Gardner	Doris Webb
Marg Garrett	Peter Wellock
Colin J Goad	Jan Westerink
Caroline Gonzalez	William Wigglesworth
Joanna L Gooding	Debbie Wigglesworth
David J Hansman	Patricia Wilkinson
Peter Haselgrove	The Body Shop
Merle Hathaway	Mary Chandler
Graeme A Hosken	Derek Freeman
Peter Hylands	Alan Yuille
Richard Jullienne	Margaret Neate
Sue Kalab	Deb Baxter
Anne Keniry	Pat Grainger
Sybil Kimmins	Virginia and Richard Grove
Judy Lambert	Marion Myers
Margaret C Lee	Richard Noske
Deborah Lehmann	Judith Rawlins
Andrew Lothian	