

Landcare NSW

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 30 November, 2021

via Zoom



Many Hands, One Voice

Attending

Voting

Lyn Thomson
Kathy Kelly
Chris Roberts
Gareth Johnston
Steph Cameron
Dale Bradshaw
Hunter White
Viv Howard
Bev Debrincat
Robyn Lamond
Steve Harvey
Adrian Wells
Paul Quirk
Shaun Eastment
Joanna Forbes
Paul Hely
David Walker
Marg Applebee
John Dalton
Georgia Rivers
Pauline Sykes
Lawrence Balcomb
Margot Jolly

Observers

Jodie Lovell
Samantha Stratton
Edwina Hayes
Nicola Chirlan
Mel Kiel
Bill Pigott
Randall Pearce
Bruce Rolph
Turlough Guerin
Larry Langman
Katie Caldwell
David Priem – TAFE NSW
Marion Woolley, Martindale (Observer)
Simon Beswick
Thalie Partridge
Deb Tkachenko
Leigh McLaughlin
John McLoughlin
Paula Sheehan

Apology

Louise Turner – Western Landcare

Genevieve Wakem – Muttuma Landcare

John Asquith – Community Environment Network

Jim Kinhead – North Coast Regional Landcare Network/Tregeagle Landcare/Richmond Landcare

Pre-registered but didn't attend

Don Bruce

Wayne Chaffey

Greg Thompson

Keith Hyde

Annette Townsend

Neil McLaren

Time	Item No.	Item
3:30pm		Zoom Meeting Link Started
3:35pm	1.0	<p>Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Apologies (Chair – Stephanie Cameron)</p> <p>Welcome everyone to the Landcare NSW AGM for 2021. I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners on the country on which we are meeting on across NSW and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and culture. I'd like to pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging and extend that respect to any Aboriginal people who are on our zoom meeting today.</p>
3:40pm	2.0	<p>Presentation of Chairperson's report (Chair – Stephanie Cameron)</p> <p>The 2021 financial year had turned out to be another challenging year for us all but despite these challenges Landcarers have come together online, as we have today, and where possible in person to support each other and our communities through the past two years with the pandemic. I'm incredibly proud of the way we have risen to the challenge as a Landcare community and changed the way we do things so we can continue to support our people and care for the land. Now Landcare NSW is owned by its members and in 2021 the Landcare NSW Council initiated a thorough review of the way Landcare NSW's governance structures are constituted and operating.</p> <p>'The Governance Project – Connecting Up Landcare NSW' is an exciting step for us and the changes to our structure which we will be approving today at our Special General Meeting after the AGM will ensure Landcare in NSW can act and work in an integrated, collaborative, and cooperative fashion and will support the functions of Landcare NSW in its role as a representative body for the members that are online today.</p> <p>In 2021, Landcare NSW provided valuable services to our members through exclusive partnership opportunities with organisations such as the Biodiversity Conservation Trust – one point 3 million, one million dollars for habitat restoration work through our partnership with OzFish and support for on-ground projects through funding grants like the Australian Government Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Grants.</p> <p>And additionally, to that our \$22.4 NSW Landcare Support Program from 2019 to 2023 which has now two years gone as a successful program which employs up to 84 Coordinators across the state.</p> <p>Finally, I would like to publicly thank the wonderful team here at Landcare NSW.</p>

		<p>My fellow directors and executive committee members Vice Chair Bev Debrincat, Treasurer Hunter White, Secretary Marg Applebee, Gareth Johnston, Kathy Kelly, Georgia Rivers, Bruce Rolph and Adrian Wells. I'd also like to thank the dedicated staff at Landcare NSW who've worked tirelessly to support our members and the important work they do on-ground for our environment and backyards.</p> <p>I'm looking forward to the coming year as we all work together to achieve our vision for Landcare NSW.</p> <p>I'd like to add a special thanks to my Vice Chair Bev who is stepping down from the Executive Committee this year. Thank you Bev for your time over the past few years on the Executive. It's really been valuable to have your support. The kind and respectful way in which you've always dealt with everyone is much to be admired and I thank you for your time.</p> <p>Bev thanked Steph.</p> <p>I'd also like to thank Marg Applebee who has been on the Executive for a few years in the role of secretary and who has always done a wonderful job.</p> <p>Motion: That the motion was passed to accept the Chairs Report</p> <p>Proposer: Stephanie Cameron Secunder: Shaun Eastment</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
3:45pm	3.0	<p>Presentation of Audited Financial Statements (<i>Treasurer – Hunter White</i>)</p> <p>Welcome to AGM members and introduction by Treasurer Hunter White. Financial Reports are attached and were sent out with papers.</p> <p>Fair to say it's been a difficult year. You'll note that the income for the year \$40,709 as opposed to \$695,000 the previous year. It's quite significant, there is a reason for it, and I will explain. Note that if you are looking at the financials our total assets or cash has increased.</p> <p>Landcare NSW has had increased liabilities, which relate to grants funds that have actually been extended but not spent. It's a slightly unusual way of recording things and it's an amount of \$581,250.</p> <p>It will adjust itself next year. Cash position is still sound, and we are solvent. Going forward, we have sufficient funds, but it will be challenging year ahead. This is a clear audit, and it is an unconditional report.</p> <p>Motion: Move the adoption of the treasurer's report for 2021 Proposer: Hunter White Secunder: Adrian Wells Carried. Motion: Minutes that AGM from last year be accepted Proposer: Marg Applebee Secunder: Chris Roberts</p> <p>Abstaining: Shaun Eastment, Steve Bunnell, Dale Bradshaw, John Dalton, Edwina Hayes, Nicola Chirlian, Viv Howard, Paul Quirk, Joanna Forbes, Paul Hely, David Walker, Pauline Sykes, Lawrence Balcomb, Margot Jolly, Bill Pigott.</p>

		CARRIED
3.50pm	4.0	<p>Presentation of Annual Report (<i>Chair – Stephanie Cameron</i>)</p> <p>Motion: that the Landcare NSW Annual Report is accepted by members</p> <p>Proposer: Stephanie Cameron Seconded: Bruce Rolph CARRIED</p>
3:55pm	5.0	<p>Motion: That Landcare NSW changes the Annual Membership Fee to include three insurance policies for applicable Incorporated groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer workers personal accident, • Public and products liability • Association liability <p>is adopted in its entirety.</p> <p>*Note that an explanation sheet be provided to members explaining that Landcare NSW will take on the insurance on behalf of members.</p> <p>Proposer: Chris Roberts Seconded: Steve Bunnell CARRIED</p>
4.00pm	5.1	<p>Set the membership fees for 2022</p> <p>Chair asked if there were any questions about the new membership fees. No questions raised.</p> <p>Chair Stephanie Cameron and Landcare NSW Membership Officer Simon Beswick explained that the new membership fees are set to be for a 16 month period from the 1 March 2022 to 30th June 2023. This change is due to the payment period moving in line with the financial year.</p> <p>Steve Bunnell asked if the difference was to reflect the differing period. Chair agreed. Landcare NSW Membership Officer Simon Beswick noted that membership fees haven't changed in past 3 years.</p> <p>Robyn Lamond queried the dates noting that the proposal provided does not reflect the dates presented. Chair agreed. New Membership proposal was created to reflect that most organisations run off a financial year and the changes in membership fees will reflect this. Motion was amended to reflect.</p> <p>Motion: the membership fees for 2022/2023 as proposed on the brief included in AGM material will be accepted as presented with an amendment of from the 1st March to the 30th June.</p> <p>Proposer: David Walker Seconded: Adrian Wells CARRIED</p>

4:05pm	6.0	<p>Positions Declared Vacant (Public Officer – John McLoughlin)</p> <p>Public Officer John McLoughlin called upon Secretary Marg Applebee to read out the nominations received to date. John noted that the nominations were circulated and that there were not any late inclusions.</p> <p>Marg Applebee: Received were, for Executive Committee positions, Representatives Stephanie Cameron – Chair - North West Landcare, Gareth Johnson – Committee Member Murrumbidgee Landcare, Adrian Wells – representative of Murray region, Lyn Thomson representative of North Coast region, Steve Bunnell representative of South East region.</p> <p>Invited Committee Members; Hunter White, Treasurer, skills-based member, Bruce Rolph committee member - skills-based member, Kathy Kelly - committee member, skills-based member and Georgia Rivers - committee member - skills-based member.</p> <p>Received for Landcare NSW Council Representatives were: Western Landcare Regional Paul Hely, New England Steve Harvey, Hunter Region Landcare Network Incorporated Paul Quirk, South East Landcare Steve Bunnell, LachLandcare is not applicable, Central West NRM Working Group Margot Jolly, Greater Sydney Landcare Network Incorporated Bev Debrincat and also put forth John Asquith, Central Tablelands Regional Landcare Network have not put forward a nomination, Mid Coast to Tops Landcare Connection Robyn Lamond, Murrumbidgee Regional Landcare Gareth Johnston, North West Landcare Network Stephanie Cameron, North and Chris Roberts and Lyn Thomson for North Coast Regional Landcare Network. Currently the regional representative for Central Tablelands Regional Landcare Network is a vacant position and no nominations were received. Central Tablelands Regional Landcare Network Chair, John Dalton, queried why this was not actioned. John McLoughlin said all forms were sent to networks. John McLoughlin explained the role of Landcare NSW Councillors to the members at the AGM.</p> <p>Larry Langman (Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare) asked if there were profiles of the Council available. John McLoughlin said you could find it on the Landcare NSW Council page on Landcare NSW website.</p> <p>Motion: to accept those people as read out by Marg Applebee as endorsed members of the Landcare NSW Council and Executive Committee</p> <p>Proposed – Marg Applebee Second – Bev Debrincat</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
4:10pm	6.1	<p>Election of Officer Bearers (Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The office-bearers of the association, and (b) Ordinary committee members <p>The office bearers of the association are vacant.</p> <p>The nomination for Chair is Stephanie Cameron, Treasurer as Hunter White, there was no nomination received for the position of Secretary and Gareth Johnson was the nominated for Vice Chair.</p> <p>Stephanie asked that although the secretary position is vacant, she will need someone</p>

		<p>on the Executive Committee to put their hand up for that role for the next twelve months. Stephanie said she would follow up at the Executive Meeting scheduled for Friday 17th December.</p> <p>John clarified that Landcare NSW do have the ability to fill the position of Secretary outside an AGM.</p> <p>Motion: that three of the four positions be filled as read out.</p> <p>Election of Officer Bearers (Committee)</p> <p>a. The office-bearers of the association, and</p> <p>The nominations are: Chair - Stephanie Cameron Vice Chair – Gareth Johnson Special Skills Treasurer – Hunter White Secretary – Vacant</p> <p>b. Ordinary committee members</p> <p>Committee Members: Adrian Wells, Lyn Thomson and Steve Bunnell.</p> <p>Three independent directors endorsed by Council: Bruce Rolph, Kathy Kelly and Georgia Rivers.</p> <p>Motion carried</p>
4:20pm	6.2	<p>Appointment of Public Officer 2022</p> <p>Chair Stephanie Cameron nominated John McLoughlin to be Public Officer for another year</p> <p>Motion: That John McLoughlin be the Public Officer Proposer: Stephanie Cameron Seconder: Steve Bunnell</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
4:25pm	7.0	<p>Landcare NSW National Landcare Network (NLN) representatives for 2022 and other special committees</p> <p>Stephanie Cameron announced that she will be resigning from the National Landcare Network Board of Directors at the end of 2021. Stephanie nominated Gareth Johnson as the Landcare NSW representative to replace her position starting the 1st of January 2022.</p> <p>Motion: that Gareth Johnson to be nominated as the Landcare NSW representative for National Landcare Network board</p> <p>Proposed: Stephanie Cameron Seconder: David Walker</p> <p>CARRIED</p>

4:30pm	8.0	<p>Presenting Honorary Life Memberships</p> <p>Nominated Leigh McLoughlin, John Hughson and Bill Pigott.</p> <p>Steph Cameron spoke of Life Members.</p> <p><i>Leigh McLaughlin retired from her position as government relations officer in July 2021 and during her time with the Landcare NSW team she made a significant contribution to the growth of Landcare and supported her many friends and colleagues in the Landcare community. Leigh joined LNSW in 2014 and led the campaign to secure the recognition and funding from the NSW Government in support of Local Landcare Coordinator and support services. Leigh played a critical role in forming Landcare NSW's NSW Parliamentary Friends of Landcare and established excellent relationships with a number of NSW Government agencies such as Local Land Services, Biodiversity Conservation Trust, and the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. Congratulations and thank you for your significant contribution to Landcare in NSW.</i></p> <p>Leigh thanked Stephanie and the Committee for their nomination.</p> <p><i>I'm so honoured to be nominated as a life member and join the ranks of inspiring people like David Walker and Rob Dulhunty, Keith Hyde and Sonia and so many other individuals who have contributed so much to the Landcare movement.</i></p> <p><i>Our secondary Life Member is John Hughson. John has been involved in Landcare for over 25 years. He has worked to develop Landcare at a local, district and regional level contributing to a legacy of strong well-established groups in the Newcastle area. After 25 years of Landcaring and 14 years in support roles with Lake Macquarie City Council John is now self-employed providing Landcare facilitation and program management for the Hunter Region Landcare Network and teaching conservation and land management. John is a foundation member of NSW representing Lake Macquarie Landcare community. John's roles have included. Chair Hunter Region Landcare Network, Chair Hunter Region Landcare Network facilitator steering committee and a Member of the Hunters' Great Eastern Ranges Team as well as many roles on the Executive. He was the convenor at the first Landcare Gathering in Myuna Bay, John went on to represent the Hunter region at the state level on the Landcare NSW Council for over a decade and served on its Executive Committee. John, I'd like to thank you for being one of the main drivers behind setting up Landcare NSW.</i></p> <p>Stephanie invited John to say a few words. John Hughson was noted as absent.</p> <p><i>Our next Honorary Life Member is Bill Piggott. Bill is an active Landcarer in Berry, NSW and a former Chair of Berry Landcare. Bill other former roles include Coordinator of local Bushcare site, member of the local Catchment Management Authority and local council working groups and committees. Bill also represented South East Landcare at a state level as a Landcare NSW Council member for many years. Bill played an instrumental role in designing the early Musters and was also the inaugural recipient of the Gerald Carnie Memorial Award in 2015. Bill is seen as a leader in the Landcare movement and for that reason is deserving of Honorary Life Membership. Bill, thank you for your constant support, advocacy and representation on behalf of Landcare in NSW. I thank you for everything you've done. Such a passionate person for Landcare and for all of us who have known you over the years we are so pleased you are part of the team.</i></p>
--------	-----	---

		<p>Stephanie invited Bill to say a few words.</p> <p>Mr Pigott:</p> <p><i>"I am so honoured to be nominated as an honorary life member and to join such an illustrious and inspiring company of pioneers, Landcare stalwarts and heroes. I'm delighted to accept this nomination. Looking back, I am proudest of my role in the early Landcare Musters and a real highlight was the year my son Peter took on the role of facilitating the Musters.</i></p> <p><i>The other special experience for me was the series of workshops Peter and I did together with the district Landcare associations in our region when the CMAs were merged with DPI, and when we were really able to really make an issue of the language of Landcare and the language of a community-based grass roots organisations and the difference between the language they use, and the corporate and bureaucratic language used elsewhere.</i></p> <p><i>I find this is an opportunity to say how much I appreciate this unique community movement, and I realise its greatest strength is its diversity and its energy comes from its chaotic nature. I particularly appreciate the energy that was derived in those early days from standing up, turning up, and promoting the values and vision of the Landcare community in all their manifestations and expressions. I admire that the commitment to listen and the courage to hear, respect and support, to nurture and build capacity still remains such an important part of the organisation and I see it in this AGM. So thank you very much for giving me this honour and I am so proud to be a Landcarer. Even prouder to be an Honorary Life Member of Landcare NSW.</i></p> <p>Stephanie thanked Bill, and to all Honorary Life Members.</p> <p>Stephanie introduced Landcare NSW's next CEO, Turlough Guerin, who will join Landcare NSW from the 13th December.</p> <p>Turlough thanked Steph and spoke of his interest in connecting with the wider NSW Landcare community.</p> <p>Leigh McLaughlin, John Hughson and Bill Pigott are now Honorary Life Members of Landcare NSW.</p> <p>Closing comment by Adrian Wells acknowledging Stephanie Cameron's leadership in a difficult and challenging year.</p>
4:16pm		AGM closed

Insurance

AGM Motion:

That Landcare NSW changes the Annual Membership Fee to include three insurance policies for applicable Incorporated groups:

- Volunteer workers personal accident,
- Public and products liability
- Association liability

to the notice of Annual General Meeting dated 30 November 2021 are adopted in its entirety.

Background:

Insurance coverage for the Landcare NSW Insurance Program is currently provided by Ceneta Insurance. Feedback from member groups has indicated the process is cumbersome and places an extra administrative burden on volunteer committee members. Presently Landcare NSW process a membership invoice before a member group subsequently purchases insurance, on an individual basis to cover their activities and operation.

Extensive consultation and engagement were undertaken with Landcare NSW member groups through 2021, to introduce and socialise a new insurance model where Landcare NSW would purchase a master policy to cover all member groups. Several major insurance companies were approached and invited to submit pricing on three insurance policies. This process saw AON Insurance provide the optimal pricing and best overall service response.

The proposed changes to the Insurance Program are designed to support groups by reducing the administrative burden with a single renewal process, offer value to members and keep costs to a minimum within a highly volatile insurance market and most importantly ensure groups and their volunteers have the correct level of cover to safely conduct events and activities. The inclusion of association liability as a standard element provides additional protection to office holders and improves overall governance standards.

The proposal will see Landcare NSW membership for District Networks & Regional Bodies and all Incorporated Groups include volunteer workers personal accident, public and products liability and association liability cover. Only incorporated entities can access the Landcare NSW insurance program.

With Landcare NSW transitioning to a financial year model, the 2021-2022 membership and insurance period will run for 16 months in this instance (01 March 2022 – 30 June 2023).

Landcare NSW

Special General Meeting

Tuesday 30 November, 2021

Via Zoom



Time	Item No.	Item
4:45	1	Special Business (Chair)
		<p>To consider, and if thought fit, pass the following resolution as a special resolution:</p> <p>Special resolution:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That the Association apply to become registered or incorporated as a prescribed body corporate, specifically a company (in particular, a company limited by guarantee) within the meaning of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) (the Act) that is taken to be registered in New South Wales, pursuant to the provisions of Part 7 Division 3 of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW) and Part 5B.1 of the Act.2. That the name of the company resulting from the application for registration be 'Landcare NSW Limited'.3. That the Constitution of the new Company be the document attached to this notice and marked Annexure A.4. That the Board members of the new company be the following Members of the Executive Committee of Landcare NSW Inc. as elected at the 2021 Annual General Meeting. <p>A quorum is declared for special AGM</p> <p>Results unanimous. All respondents voted as yes.</p> <p>Motion: that we accept the special business as stated in the special resolution.</p> <p>Proposer: David Walker Seconder: Adrian Wells</p> <p>CARRIED</p> <p>Meeting closed 4:46</p>