

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Moths and Butterflies of NZ
Trust held at Christ the King Catholic School's Library, 288 Richardson Road,
Ōwairaka, Auckland and online, Saturday, 8 March, 2.30 pm**

Present: Mark Bateman (Chair), Jacqui Knight, Angela Moon-Jones, Margaret Newcombe, Rob Jones, Kimberley Sullings, Michael Te Wheoro, Neville Wright, and guests Dan and Libby Danahar.

Online: Jeannette Aldridge, Claire Bibby, Tansy Bliss, Linda Emery, Devangi Farah, Rebecca Moth, Franco Pang, Carol Stensness, Martin Visser, Chrissie Ward.

Carol advised that a quorum of financial members was present.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from David Archer, Gail Carran, Eric Coleman, Carol Dennis, Andrea Dorn, John Gillespie, Sir Bob Harvey, Christine Madsen, Connal McLean, Maurice Mehlhopt, Hugh Smith, Tony Steer, Margaret Topzand, Gael Trevathan, Tejo van Schie, Geoff Williamson and Saoirse Williamson.

In opening the meeting, Mark tendered the apologies of Maurice, MBNZT Chairman, who was regrettably unable to be present due to a prior engagement. Mark welcomed those who were present in the room, or online, and welcomed our guest speaker, Dr Dan Danahar from Corfu Butterfly Conservation, and his wife.

2. AGM Minutes 2024

The minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting had been circulated and also available on the website for the past eleven months. It was MOVED Mark that they be taken as read and confirmed as true and correct. This was SECONDED by Margaret.

CARRIED

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Trustees' Report

The report from the trustees had been published in the Autumn magazine and posted on the website. It was MOVED Angela SECONDED Martin that this be accepted.

CARRIED

5. Accounts for 2023-24

Jeannette commented that she had looked through the financial accounts online, and from her experience working with charities for more than ten years that they looked in order.

There was no further discussion.

It was MOVED Chrissie SECONDED Devangi that the accounts be approved. CARRIED

6. Annual Subscriptions for 2025-26

No increase was contemplated. The subscriptions had been increased by \$5 in June 2023 to their present level (\$40 to read the magazine online, and \$50 to receive the printed magazine in the mail.)

7. Election of Board Members

In accordance with the trust deed the two longest serving members offered their resignation, and these were Meriel Astella and Martin Vissers.

Due to pressure of her work and family commitments, Meriel was stepping down and this had been sadly accepted. Martin, however, had offered to continue his involvement as a trustee. It was MOVED Jacqui SECONDED Mark that Martin Visser be reappointed. CARRIED

8. Confirmation of Secretary

Jacqui was happy to stand again as secretary and this was MOVED by Mark and SECONDED by Margaret. CARRIED

9. Confirmation of Treasurer

Carol was happy to stand again as treasurer and this was MOVED by Jacqui and SECONDED by Angela. CARRIED

10. Confirmation of Legal Advisor

Mark advised that there had been no need to consult with our legal advisor, Richard Wood, during the year but it was always beneficial knowing that he was available to help us should we need it.

Jacqui MOVED his reappointment and this was SECONDED by Mark.

CARRIED

11. General Business

Jacqui commented that many people were concerned about the five species of social wasps which were decimating our numbers of monarch butterflies, and no doubt other native moths and butterflies and invertebrates. Ten years ago a study by DOC had indicated that they were costing the country's economy \$130 million a year – and the problem had only become worse. Did the members want MBNZT to take any action in this regard. It would be up to the trustees at their May planning meeting to formulate a policy.

Angela agreed, adding that the species could be included in the list of pests that Predator Free NZ tackled, and possibly the MBNZT should liaise with this organisation.

Jeannette endorsed the sentiment of controlling wasps, as in Whangārei she was out and about on her mobility scooter every day seeing swan plants loaded with seed pods as there were not enough monarch caterpillars to control them.

Mark agreed with this sentiment as he had seen similar issues in his own garden. Dan Danahar added that some people had been known to catch wasps, tie a piece of lightweight wool to their legs and release them, which helped to locate the nests.

It was agreed that the discussion would be held at the Planning Meeting of the MBNZT trustees in May.

12. Vote of Thanks

Mark thanked the members for being present and for helping the meeting run smoothly. He also passed a vote of thanks to those who had organised the meeting, to Jacqui and Margaret for organise the refreshments afterwards, Dr Dan Danahar and his wife for their time, and for Christ the King Catholic School and Kimberley Sullings for organising the room. There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 2.44pm.

At the end of the meeting Dr Dan Danahar, Founder of Corfu Butterfly Conservation, shared his presentation about his work in Corfu.