

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the
Moths and Butterflies of NZ Trust**
<https://meet.google.com/umf-jjtw-yhx>
held online, Sunday, 29 March 2026, 1.30 pm

Present: Maurice Mehlhopt (Chair), Jacqui Knight (Secretary), Jeannette Aldridge, Noel Austin, Carol Dennis, Lynda Emery, Devangi Farah, Dean and Lois Farrow, Lizzy Lukeman, Connal McLean, Angela Moon-Jones, Franco Pang, Joanne Ryves, Hugh Smith, Carol Stensness, Tejo van Schie, Kiran Thodiyl Kanakambujan and Martin Visser.

A proxy had been received from Chrissie Ward. Carol advised that a quorum of financial members was present.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Richard Benton, Claire Bibby (Glenside Heritage House), Lauren Ferriss, Faye Gill, Sir Bob Harvey (our Patron), Brian Muddiman, Margaret Newcombe, Margaret Parkinson, Louise Phillips Maggie Purnell, and Chrissie Ward. Devangi MOVED Martin SECONDED that they be accepted. CARRIED

2. AGM Minutes 2025

The minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting had been circulated and were also available on the website for the past eleven months. It was MOVED Martin that they be taken as read and confirmed as true and correct. This was SECONDED by Carol. 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 Devangi SECONDED Lynda that this be accepted. CARRIED

5. Accounts for 2024-25

These accounts had been posted on the website and it was MOVED Martin SECONDED Carol that they be accepted. CARRIED

There was no further discussion. It was MOVED Franco SECONDED Devangi that the accounts be approved. CARRIED

6. Annual Subscriptions for 2026-27

Maurice explained that the Board realised that these were difficult times financially, and it was becoming increasingly hard for people to pay for non-discretionary items. For that reason, no increase was contemplated at the present time although this might be necessary when the trustees met to put the budget for 2027-28.

It was noted that the subscriptions had last been increased by \$5 in June 2023 to their present level, which was \$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. These were Maurice Melhopt and Jacqui Knight, both of whom had offered to stand for reelection.

It was MOVED Jacqui SECONDED Devangi that Maurice be reappointed as Trustee. CARRIED

It was MOVED Carol SECONDED Lynda that Jacqui be reappointed as Trustee. CARRIED

8. Confirmation of Secretary

Jacqui was happy to stand again as secretary, and this was MOVED Devangi and SECONDED by Carol. CARRIED

It was MOVED Devangi SECONDED Carol that Jacqui be given a vote of thanks for her dedication and good work. CARRIED

9. Confirmation of Treasurer

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

Maurice MOVED a vote of thanks to Carol for her excellent work, which also meant controlling the inventory of stock. This was SECONDED by Jacqui. CARRIED

10. Confirmation of Legal Advisor

Maurice 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. Martin MOVED his reappointment and this was SECONDED by Franco. CARRIED

11. General Business

Lynda commented that it was a team effort, and that everyone did their bit which was excellent to see. Maurice echoed this sentiment.

At the end of the meeting Kiran Thodiyil Kanakambujan gave a presentation entitled “Wings that Count: What the Numbers Say” reflecting on the results of research projects that the MBNZT had undertaken over the year.

Lynda was concerned about the low response rate from councils (24 responses from over 84 contacted) and proposed a brainstorming session on the council survey results. Connal noted that the 20% response rate (24/100 emails) was actually a really good response rate for a survey.

Angela suggested finding an advocate within a council, like Teresa, ranger at Auckland Council, to help influence other councils. Jo suggested approaching voluntary groups that look after parks and reserves on behalf of councils, especially in Auckland, where volunteers often carry out the upkeep. They noted that these groups are likely to be excited about creating moth and butterfly gardens and addressing issues like contractors mowing new plantings. Martin confirmed the Trust is working on signage that will help make no-mow areas better appreciated and valued.

Tejo confirmed that working with voluntary groups is a feasible area to explore, despite politics, and noted that successful no mow policies have been established in places like Grey Lynn Park with the council's support for clear signage.

Jeannette provided high praise for Lynda, noting that the progress made in the Public Spaces project was dependent on her willingness and ability to confidently talk to council representatives on the phone for hundreds of hours.

Lois Farrow shared their personal conservation effort in Christchurch, where they bring in eggs and have 12 chrysalises inside their home ready to pupate and fly away.

12. Vote of Thanks

Jacqui Knight summarised that the turnout and input was great and praised Kiran's presentation, noting that Chrissie's valuable transect data was finally appreciated. She hoped to put together a media release over the next few days to share the statistics with waiting journalists. Maurice gave a final, personal thank you to Jacqui for her continuous hard work for the trust.

There being no further meeting the meeting closed at 2.24pm.