

Notices of Motion

Introduction

On behalf of Council I move the following five **Notices of Motion** to change the Constitution of The Ornithological Society of New Zealand Inc. These changes are intended to update the rules of the Society in terms of two new membership categories, the election of the position of Vice-President on the Council and other election procedures.

Notice of Motion 1

It is moved that a **new rule** relating to the establishment of an honorary memberships category is inserted into Rule 5.

5.2.6 Honorary Member, may be awarded by Council to any member of the Society in its sole discretion on the resolution of not less than eight Councillors in recognition of an outstanding and specific physical contribution made to the Society that does not qualify for election as a Fellow. An Honorary Member shall be entitled to the full rights of Ordinary Membership without the obligation to pay a subscription.

Explanation

Council is aware that there are members of the Society who are worthy of recognition for their splendid contribution to the activities of the Society but who do not meet the criteria for the existing Society awards or for whom a Meritorious Service Award is not appropriate. The proposed new rule is to allow Council to consider such cases on their merits with greater flexibility than the current rules of the Society allow. The proposed wording requires a three-quarters majority of Council before this memberships category is agreed. The proposed addition of this rule provides criteria and more certainty to the implementation of Rule 6.4 (which provides that Council may at its discretion vary the subscription rate for ordinary members). There will be a small financial impact on the Society insofar as an Honorary member will not pay an annual membership fee.

Notice of Motion 2

It is moved that a **new rule** relating to the establishment of a young birders membership category is inserted into Rule 5.

5.2.8 Young Birders is a membership category for young people linked to and supported by the Society through a Memorandum of Understanding with Young Birders New Zealand. Young Birders New Zealand aims to encourage the study of birds and their habitat use amongst young people and to support other activities that are consistent with the Objects of the Society. Members of Young Birders New Zealand will be non-financial members of the Society.

Explanation

Against a background and concern about the increasing average age of the membership of the society, Council has been exploring how to make the Society and membership of it more appealing to young people. The aim is to increase membership of young people in Birds New Zealand. Council has established that a gap exists between the Family and the Full Time Student membership categories. This rule change recognises that Council has responded to this concern and that a new and innovative approach is needed to encourage enthusiastic young people to develop their birding knowledge, skills and commitment to being a member of our Society in the future. Young Birders New Zealand is a self-managing group of young people under 18 who wish to associate with the Society but at the same time maintain their own identity and develop their birding interests in a way that suits their lifestyle. This rule change reflects the relationship that Council has established with Young Birders New Zealand through a Memorandum of Understanding. A financial impact on the Society through this rule change is not expected because not all members of Young Birders New Zealand are current financial members of the Society.

Notice of Motion 3

It is moved that a **new rule** relating to the election of the position of Vice President is inserted into Rule 8.

8.7.1 The positions of President, Secretary, Treasurer, plus seven other Councillors shall be elected from the membership of the Society following the calling for nominations by the Secretary.

8.7.2 The position of Vice-President shall be elected by Council from a member who has been elected as a Councillor. Election of the Vice-President shall be at the resolution of a majority of Councillors, excluding the nominees.

Explanation

As part of assessing work and succession planning for achieving better long-term governance of the Society Council would like to change the basis for electing the Vice-President from being elected at large by the membership to being elected by the Council following an Annual General Meeting. It is eminently desirable to establish the principle that the Vice-President should be elected from the Council and so as to build experience from within Council to ensure that at once the President of the day retires an experienced person is available to step into the role subject to receiving the endorsement of the membership.

Notice of Motion 4

It is moved that Rule 9.1 and 9.9 be **amended** to formalise the use of electronic ballots for the Society's business.

9. ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS

9.1 Councillors shall be persons who are financial Members of the Society and shall be proposed, seconded and elected by Members by postal **or electronic ballot**, the result of which shall be announced at the Annual General Meeting.

9.9 The Secretary shall announce the names of the elected Councillors at the Annual General Meeting and move a motion requiring the ballot papers **including, where appropriate, the entire electronic records of ballots**, to be destroyed.

Explanation

The Society has recently used electronic platforms to run Council elections. This amendment recognises that this change is happening, is a functional and efficient voting mechanism and reduces costs to the Society. The legality of previous ballots is not at question. What is not previously explicit is how to manage the electronic ballots after the elections and the fact that this is a legitimate and effective way to run the Society's affairs.

Notice of Motion 5

It is moved that Rule 14.15 is **amended** to recognise the potential for election as well as appointment of each Regional Officer.

14.15 Each region shall **elect, or** appoint, a regional Treasurer and such other regional officers, as the activities of the region require.

Explanation

Rule 14 as a whole sets out the Regional Organisation of the Society. The establishment of Regional Officers to support the work of the Regional Representative is the subject of rule 14.15. This amendment seeks to ensure that if there is a competition for a Regional Treasurer position that an election is a valid democratic option for the selection of a person.

Moved: Bruce McKinlay, President
Seconded: Ian Armitage, Vice President