



Soil & Health Association (Est. 1941)

Healthy Soil, Healthy Food, Healthy People

Annual General Meeting DRAFT MINUTES 25th July 2020, 10am by Zoom Meetings

Meeting opening

1. Welcome & Notice of General Business

The meeting was opened by Marion Wood, Chairperson.

2. Acceptance of Agenda

Decision: the Agenda was approved.

3. Attendance and Apologies

Attending: Peter Huggins, Marion Wood, Jenny Lux, Jenny Gordon, Jim Bennett, Margaret McQuillan, Philippa Jamieson, Alaine Tasker, Derek Broadmore, Peter Wells, Jodie Bruning, Brendan Hoare, Barbara Collis, Chris Morrison, Steffan Browning, Alison White, Greg & Joanne Turner, Bernie Mabbs, David Wilson, Jenny-Kaye Potaka, David Wilson

Apologies: Scott Lawson, Joseph Stuart, Marion Thomson

4. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2019 AGM

Minutes were presented as correct, Jodie Bruning moved, Philippa Jamieson seconded.

Decision: the Minutes of the 2019 AGM were approved as a true and accurate record.

Reports

5. Chair's Report

Marion Wood presented the Chair's report.

Thanks were given to Association staff for rolling with the staff changes in the holiday season and pulling through with a financial success this year. Thanks were given from the floor to Marion for her great work in chairing and stepping in as Association Manager for 3-4 months, a sentiment echoed by National Council members.

6. Management Report

Pete Huggins presented the Manager's report.

Organic NZ magazine currently has 2142 subscribers and Pete is looking to grow memberships over the next 18 months, at the same time as updating internal systems.

7. Acceptance of financial statements

Moved as correct by Chris Morrison, seconded Jenny Lux.

Decision: the 2020 Group Consolidated Accounts were approved.

National Council Elections

8. Appointment of returning officer

Jenny Lux introduced the process for National Council elections.

Pete Huggins reported that nine postal ballots had been received.

Pete Huggins presented the method for online voting for members present at the AGM, that the candidates with the most votes would be elected and that each member could cast up to four votes but only vote for each candidate once.

Jenny Lux voiced a note of thanks to Steffan Browning for his tireless work, as Steffan is now stepping down as National Councillor.

Jenny Lux informed the meeting that Hollie Guyton had withdrawn her nomination due to other commitments.

Pete Huggins was nominated returning officer, Jenny Lux moved, Barbara Collis seconded.

Decision: Pete Huggins was appointed as returning officer.

9. Nominees address to members (3 minutes each)

Nominees addressed the meeting:

- Marion Wood
- Bernie Mabbs
- Ella Lawton
- Barbara Collis

10. Questions for Nominees from the floor

There were no questions for nominees from the floor.

General Business

11. Remits 1-3

Jenny Lux introduced the three remits proposed by National Council.

Barbara Collis explained the wording and rationale for each of the remits:

- **Remit 1** - That R6.1 of the Constitution be amended by the deletion of the words 'not later than the 1st of August'.

Rationale: This allows for greater flexibility in setting a date for the AGM.

- **Remit 2** - Insert the following rule: R6.2.1 General Meetings including Annual General meetings may be held by electronic means in such a manner as shall be resolved by the National Council.

Rationale: To allow for virtual AGMs.

- **Remit 3** - Insert the following rule: R7.5 Voting may take place by electronic means in such a manner as shall be resolved by National Council. The existing R7.5 then becomes R7.6 with following rules re-numbered accordingly.

Rationale: To allow for electronic voting.

12. Questions on Remits from the floor

Joanne Turner asked does the remit to change the AGM date still allow the membership to approve the financials. Would the date be too flexible?

Alison White stated that based on experience, the Association can change their reporting date to the Charities Commission to align with the AGM.

Jenny Lux noted that increased flexibility of the AGM date gives us more ability to match up with the OANZ AGM.

Barbara Collis stated that the financials still have to be presented to the membership and the Association still needs to meet any legal requirement to present minutes within 6 months of the end of the financial year.

Joanne Turner confirmed her question had been answered satisfactorily.

13. Commencement of voting for National Council and Remits

Pete Huggins provided a short demonstration and opened voting for members attending the AGM.

14. Branch Reports

The written report from Auckland Branch chair David Woods was tabled.

A verbal report from Canterbury was given by Peter Wells:

Spring Collective saw a sixfold boost to sales through lockdown, Cultivate ChristChurch has secured space for urban farming and composting in the river corridor (Red Zone), the Otakaro Orchard project will soon be completed to cold shell, The Biological Husbandry Unit at Lincoln is on better financial footing, and has had a promising intake of 27 students the season.

15. Focus discussions

The meeting separated into small groups for discussion on the following topics:

- Organic Week, chaired by Marion Wood

Discussion on the future form of Organic Week with Soil & Health leading. The paid coordinators have been from BioGro and in Wellington, this year Wellington events will include bike tours, citizen science soil health testing, the BioGro conference. There is a strong presence in Auckland too, linking organics and regenerative farming.

Alison White was concerned that the BioGro conference price was prohibitive, \$300 for the conference & \$90 for the webinar.

Jenny-Kaye interested in bringing together a local OFNZ group to watch the webinar collectively, and will liaise with BioGro.

- Glyphosate campaign, chaired by Jodie Bruning

The Organic NZ website has been updated to include new information on glyphosate & pets, an excel sheet of regional use, a template for council submissions, and other resources are available. The science is clear on glyphosate as a cause of cancer, now the challenge is political.

- Organic Products Bill, chaired by Jenny Lux

The Select Committee has been consulting the organic sector on specifics for what the Bill looks like. The sector, via OANZ, has presented a generally united front with one difference on small-scale producer certification thresholds. Members of the Select Committee have assured OANZ that theBill (after re-writing) will not be passed before the next election.

16. Announcement of election results

Elected National Councillors for the 2020-22 term:

- Marion Wood
- Bernie Mabbs
- Ella Lawton
- Barbara Collis

Acceptance of remits:

- Remit 1 approved unanimously
- Remit 2 approved unanimously
- Remit 3 approved by 26 votes in favour, 1 against

17. Closing discussion

Jenny-Kaye Potaka asked whether the organization has more branches than Auckland and Christchurch. Interest in re-starting a branch in the Levin area.

Steffan Browning noted that branches as their own legal entities were driven by key, exuberant people in their own areas, and that interest ebbs and flows over time. Today branches exist more as a social group rather than unique entities. It's very hard to make unique legal branches under our constitution.

Philippa Jamieson reminded members that the constitution was changed at the 2012 AGM to allow branches to be formed with 5+ members and no need for them to be an incorporated society.

Peter Wells echoed that branches ebb and flow. Currently Canterbury is in hibernation but exists as a social structure.

Philippa Jamieson voiced a big thank you to Steffan Browning for his contributions over the years and to New Zealand's organics sector and echoed by members. Steffan gave his thanks to the membership and feeling of leaving national council in good hands.

Meeting Close

Jenny Lux thanked all members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 11:41am.