

**MINUTES OF THE 66TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BEAUMARIS CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.
HELD AT BEAUMARIS BOWLS CLUB, 1 MARTIN STREET, BEAUMARIS AT 7:30 P.M. ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2018**

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7:30 p.m. and welcomed members and guests.

Present: Mr Gregory Mier (Chairman), Mr Garry Allan, Mr Ken Beadle, Mr Franz Bird, Mrs Nena Brice, Mr Phillip and Mrs Janette Connard, Mr Chris Costley, Mr Allan Cox, Mr Malcolm and Mrs Marjorie Cumming, Mrs Valma Currey, Mrs Shelley Durance, Mr Geoffrey Goode, Ms Justine Gorny, Mr Ron Hayton, Ms Caroline Lawton, Mr John Moller OAM, Mr Ron Morris, Mrs Virginia Mosk, Ms Wendy Parker, Mr Jamie Paterson, Ms Eleanor Philpotts, Dr Peter and Dr Shirley Prager, Mrs Susan Raverty, Mr Lindsay and Mrs Di Rex, Mrs Patricia Salisbury, Ms Heather Stewart, Mr Chris Sutton, and Mrs Joy Taylor (32 members)

Guests: Ms Crystal Cartwright, Associate Professor Vicki Kotsirilos AM, Mrs Mary Larsen, Ms Chelsie Millar, Mr Bradley Rowswell, Ms Artemis Siourthas, and Mr Murray Thompson MLA

Apologies: Ms Georgie Crozier MLC, Cr Laurence Evans, Mrs Lesley Falloon OAM, Mr Duncan Gibson, Mr Fraser and Mrs Anne Gibson, Mrs Patricia Glazier, Mrs Margaret Goode, Ms Jennie Kavanagh, Dr James and Mrs Marian Le Bas, Mr Reg Leslie, Cr Clarke Martin, Mrs Pat Minton, Ms Sue Pennicuik MLC, Mr Peter Russell, Ms Jan Spreyer, Ms Jenny Solomon, Mrs Joy Tate, and Mr Tim Wilson MHR

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved (W Parker/S Durance) (2018A09A) that the [minutes of the 65th Annual General Meeting of Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc, held on 14 September 2017](#), be confirmed.

3. REPORTS

3.1 President's Report

Greg Mier presented his [President's Report](#) on the achievements of the preceding 12 months.

Resolved (D Rex/V Mosk) (2018A09B) that the President's Report be received.

3.2 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Jamie Paterson, tabled and explained the Society's [Financial Statement and Balance Sheet](#) for the financial year ending 30 June 2018.

Heather Stewart asked about BCS Inc's intended future use of its funds. The Treasurer responded by citing the need for continuing investment in its website, the need to invest in having expertise available at VCAT and associated hearings, which come at a cost, and the need to be respectful of the funds built over many years, which puts the Society in a strong financial position. The President referred to needs for financial support in fighting individual planning permit applications that contravene the Vegetation Protection Overlay requirements, and from time to time the need for the engagement of expertise, which comes at a cost.

The Secretary also mentioned the need to assess opportunities for investment as it arises, which would be considered on a case-by-case basis by the incoming Committee. The Senior Vice-President also raised the need for everyone to participate in objecting to yellow Planning Application notices when they appear on properties seeking the removal of vegetation.

Comments from the floor also raised discussion about citizens' urgent notifications to Bayside City Council of apparent infringements of the Vegetation Protection Overlay requirements not resulting in any effective enforcement action fast enough to take effect before the tree involved has been damaged or removed. Speakers said that follow-up from councillors was diminishing, and so again it is the community that needs to constantly keep actively encouraging councillors to raise awareness in Beaumaris.

Resolved (S Prager/W Parker) (2018A09C) that the [Treasurer's Report](#) be approved.

The following motion was lodged by the BCS Management Committee:

“That the Society increase its annual subscriptions as follows, to take effect from 1 July 2019:

- a. Individual Membership annual subscription from \$10 to \$20
- b. Family Membership annual subscription from \$15 to \$30
- c. Member Body annual subscription from \$25 to \$50.”

Ken Beadle asked why there was no justification provided for the proposed increase, such as a budget or statement of how the extra income would be used. The Treasurer responded that costs of engaging experts in VCAT appeals were as high as \$2,800 per day, that the imminent VPO3 event will incur costs, the website changes were expensive, and with a small membership base the ability to replace spent funds is very limited, so the Management Committee unanimously considered that the increase is justified. He said that the present fees had not changed since 2007, so they had not kept up with current costs.

A speaker for the motion referred to the need for investment in increasing the Society’s presence and relevance in Beaumaris. Another speaker, in supporting the increase, commencing in mid-2019, urged the Committee to engage with the membership more. Another speaker for the motion agreed that the Society needed professional expertise in the planning process to support its cases at the VCAT. Chris Sutton spoke about the number of hours Committee members provided, and their need to be backed by much better resources, which cost money.

Resolved (C Costley/G Mier) (2018A09D) that the Society increase its annual subscriptions as follows, to take effect from 1 July 2019:

- a. Individual Membership annual subscription from \$10 to \$20
- b. Family Membership annual subscription from \$15 to \$30
- c. Member Body annual subscription from \$25 to \$50.

4. LAUNCH OF THE NEW VERSION OF THE BCS INC. WEBSITE

The [new home page](#) on the BCS Inc. website - developed for the Society by [Dot Digital](#) at a total cost of \$5,741.45 - was displayed on a large screen, and the meeting was shown and told about related pages accessible from it.

5. ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

The Deputy Returning Officer, Lindsay Rex, in the absence of the Returning Officer, Peter Russell, declared that there was only one candidate for each of the following positions on the BCS Inc. Committee of Management for which a candidate had been nominated, and that therefore he declared each of those candidates to be elected unopposed, as follows:

President:	Gregory Mier
Senior Vice President:	Caroline Lawton
Junior Vice President:	Wendy Parker
Secretary:	Geoffrey Goode
Treasurer:	Di Rex
Zone Leader 1:	VACANT
Zone Leader 2:	Titia Huggard
Zone Leader 3:	Shelley Durance
Zone Leader 4:	VACANT
Zone Leader 5:	VACANT
Zone Leader 6:	VACANT
Zone Leader 7:	VACANT
Zone Leader 8:	VACANT

6. GUEST SPEAKERS

Professor Vicki Kotsarilos, President of the Sandringham Foreshore Association, spoke on the nomination by the Beaumaris Bay Consortium, which includes BCS Inc, for the placing of the Beaumaris Bay Fossil Site on the National Heritage List, which was proceeding steadily, with reasonable prospects of success.

Ms Chelsie Millar, of Beaumaris Secondary College, spoke on work being done, at the College, to foster an awareness of the importance of growing and sustaining plants indigenous to Beaumaris to maintain the well-recognized local character and habitat for indigenous bird and animal life in the area, as well as introducing students to those values.

7. MOTIONS 1 AND 2 ON NOTICE BY MS JANETTE CONNARD:

1. "That Beumaris Conservation Society questions all candidates for state, federal and local council elections regarding their individual and their party's position (if applicable), on the scientifically established reality of climate change and further, what specific policies they or their party have to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with current scientific evidence."

2. "That Beumaris Conservation Society publishes to its members and the Beumaris Community the responses of the political candidates on this issue that is both critical and unavoidable if we are to conserve our beautiful Beumaris."

Ms Connard moved Motion 1 and another member seconded it.

Geoffrey Goode asked the Chairman whether Ms Connard would agree to replacing her motions with the versions shown on the Agenda as suggested by the Management Committee, and she said she agreed to that.

Resolved (J Connard/G Goode) (2018A09E) that Beumaris Conservation Society questions all candidates for the Beumaris area at the next State, Federal and Council elections regarding their individual and their party's position (if applicable), on a number of issues that the Management Committee considers to be important, including the scientifically established reality of climate change and further, what specific policies they or their party have to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with current scientific evidence.

Resolved (J Connard/G Goode) (2018A09F) that Beumaris Conservation Society emails its members, and shows on its website and Facebook page, the responses received.

8. CLOSE

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:20 p.m, and invited those present to join him for the refreshments provided.

Chris Costley, Secretary

Confirming Chairman

Date 2019