

# CENTRAL OTAGO ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY INC.

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MAY 18, 2013 10.30 am 135 McIntosh Road, Poolburn.

**Present:** Richard Kohler (Chair), Louise Joyce, Graye Shattky, Brian Turner, Wendy & Roger Browne, Gilliam Sullivan.

**Apologies.** Wendy Shattky, John Douglas, Chris Henderson, Jan McLauchlan, David & Helen Hastings.

**Minutes :** The minutes from the last AGM were read.

**Moved:** Louise/Graye that the minutes be adopted.

**Carried.**

### **Correspondence :**

#### **Inwards :**

Material on the Nevis Valley hearings.

Four membership applications were received – Gillian Sullivan, Cathy Harrison, Martin & Irena Kohler.

**Out:** Substantial correspondence on the Nevis Hearings – Graye is keeping all material relating to the hearing in one file.

### **President's report:**

Richard detailed COES activities for the year. (attached)

**Moved** Richard/Wendy that the President's report be received.

**Carried.**

### **Matters Arising:**

CODC Plan Change 5: Nevis Valley Classification.

This was a very expensive exercise but it was well worth it in that the decision came down in favour of classifying the whole of the valley as an outstanding landscape. The cost was \$60,000. (The Environmental Legal fund provided us with \$40,000 and the balance came from the Society and Save Central funds)

The meeting thanked Brian and Graye who spent many hours on our submissions and who attended the hearing and to our experts and legal team, some of whom either waived or reduced their fees.

Brian commented that they obviously felt COES presented a strong case. He also said that COES had made a considerable impact on environmental issues since it was formed.

Central Otago Wilding Pine Group: It was agreed that the environment element must be kept to forefront and that COES continue to press for preventative measures to be put in place.

**Moved** Graye/Brian that Louise Joyce represent COES at the meetings of the wilding pines group and keep members informed.

**Carried.**

Central Otago District Plan Review; Graye is preparing a summary of desired environmental and heritage outcomes we might wish to be considered for inclusion in the revised Plan.

Old Stables – 8a. McDonald St, Alexandra: It is a year since the Central Otago District Council issued conditions requiring various actions to preserve and protect the remains of the building. No action has been taken in spite of urgings by COES. Richard will write yet another letter to keep the pressure on the council.

Otago Regional Council Plan Change 6A: Water Quality.

COES submission is on the web site. The local consequences of the changes are not yet clear but will be addressed by the feasibility study for the proposed Manuherikia water storage scheme. Brian will check on what is happening in regards to the submissions and will keep us informed.

**Finance** : (Graye)

Two reports, COES and Save Central were prepared by Graye. It was noted that royalties had been received from "Timeless Land", donated by the authors, Brian Turner, Grahame Sydney and Owen Marshall.

**Moved** Richard/Graye that the meeting go into committee for a discussion on Save Central finances. **Carried.**

**Moved** Brian/Louise that the meeting come out of committee.

**Carried.**

**Moved** Graye/Richard that the Save Central account be dedicated to issues regarding the protection of Central Otago's special landscapes.

**Carried.**

**Moved** Graye/Roger that COES investigate making a donation to enviro-schools in Central Otago. **Carried.**

**Moved** Graye/Roger that the financial reports be received subject to an audit review and approval given for the payment of accounts.

**Carried.**

**Web Site:** David and Graye have discussed the website but have not taken further action. It was agreed that the site and its management need attention because it is an effective means of communication. It is still receiving a steady hit rate.

Brian will approach Doug Little to assist David to upgrade and manage the web site.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS.**

Gray informed the meeting he was stepping down as Treasurer but would remain a committee member. He was thanked for his contribution as treasurer. In the meantime, inquiries into a suitable replacement will be made by Graye and Gillian.

**President :** Richard Kohler (nominated Brian/Graye)

**Secretary:** Louise Joyce (nominated Brian/Wendy)

**Committee:** Mathew Sole, Brian Turner, Graye Shattky and David Hastings

**Carried.**

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

Three projects were brought to COES attention by Roger.

**Community Plant Nursery:** This has been established to allow community groups access to eco-sound Central Otago natives to plant in public places. A seed bank is also in the process of being set up.

**Alexandra Community Panel:** It is dealing with a significant number of environmental items.

**Make A Difference Central Otago( Mad for CO):** This group is a branch of Reap's sustainability programme aimed at raising public awareness of the environment. It includes a forum on climate change, biodiversity and community gardens. It was suggested COES could work in conjunction with these groups on projects that have a common interest.

**Central Otago Heritage Trust :**(Graye) The Trust is now working on coordinating and achieving proposals on the heritage strategy. Graye will continue to keep COES informed but suggested it would be some advantage if COES was a member of the trust.

The Meeting closed at 12.50 pm.