



**Minutes**

**WEPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**MEETING PAPERS**

Meeting held by email – finalised 25 May 2020

**1. Opening remarks – Gay Spies, President**

Due to the restrictions under the current pandemic and with the health of our members and the community in mind, WEPA undertook the formal aspects of the AGM via email this year. Three reports and one special motion were circulated to members for approval (12 May – 25 May) on a separate voting form.

A quorum (12) was reached in responses (45) from members and the following resolutions were passed:

**2. Minutes of the AGM held 19 March 2019**

*That the minutes of the WEPA Annual General Meeting held 19 March 2019 be confirmed.*

*Moved: Geoff Osborne. Seconded: Meredith Foley*

*AGREED*

**3. President's Report – Gay Spies**

*That the President's Report for 2019-20 be accepted.*

*Moved: John Moratelli. Seconded: Geoff Osborne*

*AGREED*

**4 Honorary Treasurer's Report – Diana Jones**

*That the Honorary Treasurer's Report for the year to 31 December 2019 be accepted.*

*Moved: Christina Pender. Seconded: Cotter Erickson*

*AGREED*

**5. Election of Office Bearers and Committee – Returning Officer**

A call for nominees to the Executive Committee was circulated by email to all WEPA members on 30 April 2020. Nominees are required to be financial members of WEPA for at least 6 months prior to the election and to have attended at least two WEPA meetings.

Nominees were asked to return nominations by 12 May to enable the business of the AGM to be completed by email. All positions were declared vacant. The following nominations have been received and all nominations have been accepted by nominees:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Nominated</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
PRESIDENT	<b>John Moratelli</b>	Meredith Foley	Geoff Osborne
VICE PRESIDENT	<b>Gay Spies</b>	Christina Pender	Meredith Foley
SECRETARY	<b>Sue-Ellen Smith</b>	Meredith Foley	Christina Pender
TREASURER	<b>Diana Jones</b>	Gay Spies	John Pryde
PUBLICITY OFFICER	<b>Heidi Key</b>	Meredith Foley	Sue-Ellen Smith
COMMITTEE MEMBER	<b>Cotter Erickson</b>	Diana Jones	Christina Pender
COMMITTEE MEMBER	<b>Meredith Foley</b>	Diana Jones	Sue-Ellen Smith
COMMITTEE MEMBER	<b>Geoff Osborne</b>	Christina Pender	Diana Jones
COMMITTEE MEMBER	<b>Christina Pender</b>	Gay Spies	Sue-Ellen Smith
COMMITTEE MEMBER	<b>John Pryde</b>	Gay Spies	Meredith Foley

The Returning Officer, John Steel, reported that, as there had been only one nominee for each of the positions, the nominees were declared elected.

### **Gay Spies – Retiring President**

WEPA office bearers and committee would like to acknowledge the massive contribution made by Gay Spies OAM, as WEPA President from 1987 to 2020. In this role she has worked tirelessly to preserve our bushland and to enhance all aspects of our local environment.

We are most grateful that Gay has agreed to continue on the committee as Vice-President to share with us her knowledge and her wisdom in relation to successful environmental campaigning. To honour Gay for her selfless dedication we would like to propose the following motion:

*That in honour of her outstanding contribution to the environment in Willoughby and NSW and her decades of commitment as President, we confer on Gay Spies Life Membership of the Willoughby Environmental Protection Association.*

*Moved: Christina Pender Seconded: Meredith Foley*

**AGREED**

The motion was passed unanimously. In addition, the following comments were made by members on their return forms:

- 'I found Gay's President's Report, in particular her description of the history of WEPA, very interesting and informative. I think it is most appropriate to confer Life Membership on her, and I wish Gay all the best for a long and happy further involvement with WEPA'. (Judy Simpson)

- 'Many thanks to Gay Spies for her contributions to WEPA and the environment over many years'. (Jocelyn Chey)
- 'I would like to express my strong support for the comments about Gay and for the motion to give her Life Membership. Gay's report gives some idea of the extent of her work and her enormous contribution to WEPA and to the local and state environment. WEPA would probably have ceased to exist at some stage if it had not been for the huge amount of time and energy that Gay and Harold put into it'. (Christina Pender)
- 'We would like to thank Gay for the amazing work over the years for the environment in general and particularly in the Willoughby LGA'. (Jill and Richard Newton)
- 'Gay has dedicated decades of her life to maintaining and enhancing Willoughby's reserves, bushland, biodiversity and waterways and contributing to State and Federal-wide campaigns for the environment. Having worked with her closely over the last five years I wanted to put on record my deep respect for her public speaking panache; deep, accumulated knowledge about our district, from local politics to native plants; incisive comments, sense of humour and never-say-die approach to environmental battles large and small; and the sensible strategic path she has lain for WEPA members now and to come. Thank you Gay from everyone on the Executive Committee! We are glad you are continuing on with us.' (Meredith Foley)
- 'Congratulations Gay on your outstanding contribution to WEPA and life in Willoughby for all!' (Mathew Keighery)
- 'We would like to congratulate Gay for her 33 years of service to protecting the environment in Willoughby. This is an outstanding achievement. Thank you!' (John and Diana Pryde)
- 'It is a well-earned recognition – the Life Membership for Gay Spies – and I enthusiastically support this motion'. (David Synnot)

### **Meredith Foley – Retiring Secretary**

Christina Pender sent in the following comments:

- 'I would like to express appreciation of the amazing work of our Honorary Secretary, Meredith Foley, over the last four years. Her agendas, minutes and letters have been superb, regular WEPA Bulletins have been interesting, informative and visually appealing, and she has written amazing submissions on a range of issues. Thank you Meredith.'