

GLOUCESTER ENVIRONMENT GROUP 2025 AGM MINUTES

(subject to adoption at 2026 AGM)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 17 December 2025 at 5pm in the Meeting Room at The Roundabout Inn Church St Gloucester 2422

Present: Tibor Kovats, John Watts, Sue Watts, Dianne Montague, Chris Russell, Janine Phillips, Terry Hardwick, Penny Drake-Brockman, Pat Burrows, Peter Moon, Louise Duff, Carolyn Davies, Rod Eckels, Sue Sedgewick, Megan Dewsnap and Michael Samerski.

Acknowledgement of traditional owners: Tibor Kovats.

Apologies: Jamie Coffill, Megan Benson, Steve Robinson, Pippa Robinson.

Minutes of Previous AGM: Sue Watts.

Minutes of the previous AGM held on Thursday 5 December 2024 have been circulated.

Moved by Sue Watts that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Seconded by Penny Drake-Brockman. Carried.

President's welcome and Report: Tibor Kovats

Report attached.

Moved by Tibor Kovats that his report be accepted. Seconded Janine Phillips. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Terry Hardwick

Report attached.

Moved by Terry Hardwick that her report be accepted. Seconded by Pat Burrows. Carried.

Walks Co-ordinator Report: Rod Eckels.

Report attached.

Moved by Rod Eckels that his report be accepted. Seconded by Sue Watts. Carried.

RiverCare Co-ordinator Report: Louise Duff.

Report attached.

Moved by Louise Duff that her report be accepted. Seconded by Di Montague. Carried.

KoalaWays Co-ordinator Report: Tibor Kovats.

Report attached.

Moved by Tibor Kovats that his report be accepted. Seconded by Di Montague. Carried

Feasts and Social Report: Sue Watts.

Sue gave an oral report that we would change the way feasts will run in 2026. It was proposed that there be two picnics and two other feasts. One at Waukivory Hall and one at Megan and Tibor's home.

She also reported that International Women's Day event will be held on Sunday 8 March. Di Montague is to co-ordinate.

Membership Report: Janine Phillips.

Report attached.

Moved by Janine Phillips that her report be accepted. Seconded by Megan Dewsnap. Carried.

Birdwatching Report: Pat Burrows.

Report attached.

Moved by Pat Burrows that her report be accepted. Seconded by Terry Hardwick. Carried.

Submissions Report: Megan Benson.

Report attached.

Moved by John Watts that the report be accepted. Seconded by Megan Dewsnap, Carried.

Website Report.

Michael Samerski provided a written report about where things were up to with establishing a GEG website. See attached.

Seed Saving Report. John Watts reported that the committee had resolved to discontinue this project because of an inability to find a co-ordinator. The area where the work was undertaken has been cleaned up and vacated.

Determination of the number of ordinary committee members for the next year: John
The rules of the Model Constitution provide 4 Office Bearers and at least 3 others.

-This term we had 8 committee members

-There are 8 committee member nominations for this AGM

John Watts moved that 8 members be accepted as ordinary committee members for this term's GEG committee. Seconded by Janine Phillips. Carried.

Election of Office Bearers and committee:

Megan Dewsnap chaired the meeting for this procedure.

All positions were declared vacant. There being no additional nominations the following Office Bearers were declared elected unopposed.

Position:

President Tibor Kovats

Vice-President Di Montague

Treasurer Terry Hardwick

Secretary Sue Watts

Committee Members:

Megan Benson

John Watts

Pat Burrows

Penny Drake-Brockman

Rod Eckels

Janine Phillips

Michael Samerski

Sue Sedgewick

(Note: The committee will be appointing the following: Membership secretary, RiverCare Co-ordinator, Walks Co-ordinator, KoalaWays Co-ordinator, Publicity Co-ordinator, Social Co-ordinator, Birdwatching Co-ordinator, IT person and any others)

The AGM closed at 6.05pm

GLOUCESTER ENVIRONMENT GROUP-PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2025 AGM

GEG acknowledges the traditional owners of country we are meeting on, the Gathang speaking people and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the elders past and present.

It has been an honour to be President of the GEG Committee this year. I am grateful that all Committee members have agreed to continue in 2026.

Each Committee Member has energetically, enthusiastically and effectively contributed, through their portfolios, assignments and attendance at the Committee Meetings.

- To our new boys – Rod Eckels who has been a tower of strength – from organising exhilarating and safe bushwalks to looking after the GEG trailer and turning up at every planting (and weeding) event; and Michael Samerski, who will soon be releasing a GEG website that will gain us global recognition.
- To the new girl – Sue Sedgwick for helping with Events and Members.

And to –

- Secretary, Sue Watts for keeping the informative emails flowing to members, managing our Facebook page, preparing Minutes of meetings and organising Seasonal Feasts;
- Terry Hardwick for counting the pennies as Treasurer and keeping us debt free;
- Janine Phillips for looking after our new Members;
- John Watts as Past President, VP and writer for NOTA who is always promoting GEG and occasionally stirring the pot;
- Megan Benson who has been indefatigable when it comes to written submissions on significant development issues and speaking up at public hearings;
- Di Montague for continuing being the guiding light for the continuation of GEG's iconic endeavour – KoalaWays, her commitment to coordinating community environmental education forums into 2026 and organising our presence at the Gloucester Markets, not to forget scrumptious cakes when hosting Committee meetings and caring about frogs;
- Pat Burrows for, amongst her many activities, organising early Sunday morning Bird Watching;
- Last but by no means least Penny Drake-Brockman for keeping an eye on everything, particularly the birds, inspiring all of us and reminding that life is for living!

GEG Member, Louise Duff has successfully taken on the role of RiverCare coordinator from Penny and also attended Committee and other meetings when needed. Despite floods we

have a whole crop of new trees and understorey in District Park and thereby greatly contributed to one of GEG's greatest legacies. And when Louise was off walking the Camino, GEG Member and all round doer, Carolyn Davies stepped up to keep things going. Members can read more about our year's activities in the portfolio reports submitted for the AGM.

It is pleasing that, whilst Members come and go our total membership remains at around 120. I extend grateful thanks to Members who have hosted Feasts or been involved in some way in our various activities - particularly some who seem to turn up at just about every event.

A couple of times this year we were at the Markets to promote the Group. On each occasion the community response was very positive.

I am happy to acknowledge the support that MidCoast Council gives GEG. From chats with the Mayor, to the expenditure to support KoalaWays and RiverCare. I estimate that each plant that goes in the ground, gets watered and is given a guard and stakes, costs about \$10. So, the landowners that benefit from a KoalaWays planting get around \$3,000 worth of infrastructure for free. Around 2,000 plants have gone in the ground in 2026. Thanks to Council staff, including the ecologists, managers of parks, nursery managers, even the grass cutters, including - Mat Bell, Caitlin Orr, Anthony Marchment, Kim Gollan and Nic Coleman. It is sad to note that the Seedlings Project on the site of the Gloucester Creatives isn't continuing. This was a major and worthwhile initiative, but it needed the focus of a committed, long term coordinator. It was a success whilst it lasted. Thanks to Gloucester Creatives for making the site available. Special thank you to Marnie Johnston and David Jenkins for organising its establishment. Marnie ran informative and productive workshops. Thank you to the Members who turned up to the building and then the growing of around 2,000 seedlings.

We will soon be undertaking a planting with Gloucester Lions who have their own Nationwide "Green Canopy" and selected us for funding to an amount of \$300. We are hoping to continue this collaboration in 2026 with other projects.

Sorry if I haven't properly acknowledged anyone or any organisation who has contributed this past year to the successes of GEG.

I look forward to 2026, when we will happily continue with the Objects of the GEG – written back in 1991 –

"Promoting public awareness in environmental issues."

Sincere Thanks,
Tibor Kovats
16/11/2025