

The Wilderness Society

Members' Forum

16 December 2019



Attendance

Twenty-three of the 25,000 The Wilderness Society Members attended the Members Forum.

The forum was run via Zoom webinar for the first time, and the new technology worked relatively well. Members were able to submit feedback and questions live during the session, and the panellists responded to questions and discussed several topics.

Discussion centred around

- The Wilderness Society Finances, how they can be improved with careful work and that The Wilderness Society Group Members can be engaged in collaborating in this work.
- Growth opportunities for fundraising.
- Communications and the newsletter.
- What can be done to enhance collaboration across the The Wilderness Society Group / states / Centres.
- The Wilderness Society Strategic Plan.
- The opportunities provided with a new National Campaign Director in collaborating across The Wilderness Society Group on setting the strategic campaign direction
- Community Organising its achievements, how it might look like in 2020, deepening its reach into communities and finding a way of making connections between teams and members.
- That The Wilderness Society will continue to engage members and the community in the way in which we can contribute to the environmental challenges we are facing. The Wilderness Society is not in competition with other organisations, we need to fulfill our Purpose.

Based on feedback and questions from the 2019 Members Forum, the Board directed

- That participatory element of the Forum be developed to improve the connection with and between Members.
- After reviewing the Governance Scope of the Members Forum, that it be redrafted as a Charter to ensure the Members are provided with the opportunity to
 - Provide input to what they would like to discuss in the Members' Forum;
 - Attend a Members' Forum either in person or via a digital platform;
 - Join in a facilitated discussion at the Forum; and
 - View the report back from the Forum and the Board's responses.
- To take the opportunity to discuss the impact of the bushfires on The Wilderness Society work.
- Hold the Forum in a Zoom meeting format that will allow participants to engage with each other.