

**MINUTES OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING OF BIRDS SA
MONDAY, 7th MARCH 2016
CHARLES HAWKER CONFERENCE CENTRE, WAITE RD, URRBRAE**

1. MEETING

David Paton (President) opened the meeting at 7.40pm.

2. PRESENT

David Paton, (President), John Gitsham, (Vice President), Daniel Rogers (Vice President), Brian Walker (Treasurer), Brian Blaylock (Secretary), John Spiers, Kate Buckley, Cynthia Pyle, John Hatch, Lynton Huxley.

3. APOLOGIES

Charles Moore, Graham Carpenter, Simon Brealey, Marilyn Browne, Jody Gates, William Brooker.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 John Gitsham moved that, "The Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 8th February 2016, be accepted. Seconded by Brian Walker, with the following amendment to item

7 :- "John Hatch has been reinstated as a signatory to Birds SA Cheque Account" CARRIED

5. STRATEGIC PLANNING

No further strategic action at this point.

6. ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Education Sub Committee

B Blaylock Lou and Merinda are happy to continue with the Education sub-Committee, on the proviso that they get more help from the Committee. They will have to get new materials with the new Birds SA logo.

D Paton They need to advise the Committee of the nature of the help required.

D Rogers DEWNR, Adelaide Region, have a strong school programme including Bird Fact Sheets and educational displays.

6.2 Garden Open Day – Sophie Thompson's

B Blaylock I will attend Sophie's Open Garden Day and contact Jody Gates regarding this matter. We need to organise a "Stand" and a roster for other volunteers to attend to support Birds SA at this function.

B Walker I will call for volunteers for Sophie's Garden Open Day in the eNewsletter.

B Blaylock/B Walker – Investigate the purchase of 'sail' type promotional banners for Birds SA.

7. TREASURER'S REPORTS

Brian Walker presented the Birds SA Treasurer's Report for February 2016 and the Birds SA Conservation Fund, Statement of Income and Expenditure for February 2016. (see attachments at the end of this document).

New Members

Michael & Joanne Louend Renown Park

Graham Field

Alicia Zakarevicius North Plympton

Brian Young Aberfoyle Park

Abel Coelho Mawson Lakes

Brian Walker moved that "The Treasurer's Reports and New Members be accepted and payments be approved." Seconded by J Gitsham. CARRIED.

B Walker The Annual Audit has been completed and I have lodged the annual REO Return. I have circulated the Tolderol donation letter and would like the Committee to approve that I sign the letter when it arrives and that we pay the donation when we get the bill. CARRIED

J Hatch Moved that the long term Members who have recently resigned, be contacted by the President on behalf of the Committee, to thank them for the long term commitment to Birds SA. Seconded B Blaylock. CARRIED

L Huxley Moved that we purchase a suitable ladder in order to better access the Birds SA Library. Seconded J Hatch. CARRIED

8. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Conservation

8.1 “Duck and Quail Shooters”

- J Spiers Three Members of Birds SA attended a meeting with DEWNR on 15th February to gain,
- a better understanding of the hunting season “meeting process”,
 - an understanding of the method used to arrive at their conclusions.

The method used to arrive at their conclusion is not scientific. It does not include ecological or scientific data.

There should have been no hunting this year if conditions were considered. I will draft a response to the Minister, basically saying that we are not happy with this decision. Conditions throughout eastern Australia are extremely poor. The number of ducks that we have in SA is because ducks are seeking refuge here, but those number should not signify that hunting go ahead. Data upon which decisions are based are dependent on Hunters putting in their returns on how many ducks they have shot. This is not reliable data collection and there is no independent check.

The point that we need to make is that conditions are different from 20-30 years ago when the studies were done, when they found that hunting had no effect on duck populations.

Surveys have shown that duck numbers have been decreasing for the past 33 years. If we want to carry on hunting we should have a proper model and proper monitoring. If the Government cannot do the monitoring then they should not be approving hunting.

8.2 “Seaweed Harvesting”

- J Spiers Birds SA sent a letter to the “Minister” regarding Seaweed harvesting by a Chinese Company. We requested that harvesting not take place during the season when migrating birds were present. The Conservation Sub-Committee asks that we approach Maureen Christie to ask her to bring us up to date with what has happened.

D Paton July 29th is “Members Night”, I suggest Maureen Christie be invited to show images of the Harvesting of Seaweed at that meeting.

8.3 “Laratinga”

- J Gitsham Concerns have been expressed over the lack of water in Laratinga. Meetings have been held with the local Mt Barker Council regarding water regimes as the wetland had been too dry for too long. The Council’s Environment Officer requested a small ‘reference group’ of three people from Birds SA. J Gitsham, J Gates, D Rogers, will review the Laratinga Wetland management plan or the watering regime.

The Mt Barker Council and the SAMDB NRM is planning a “Bird Fair” at Laratinga on the last day of bird week, Sunday 23rd October. Birds SA will be the major “birding group” presence at this event. There will be walks, talks and family activities. The aim is to make it a significant event of Bird Week. Birds SA will be the beneficiaries of any donations and raffle monies raised, for their Conservation Fund.

We need to be working very closely with the local Council so that Laratinga is managed well.

8.4 “Tolderol”

- J Gitsham The SAMDB NRM have organised a small working group for Tolderol. The Birds SA representatives on this group are, J Gitsham, C Rogers, J Fennell. We plan to meet three to four times per year.

Website

8.5 Web-site

- B Blaylock I have been adding materials to the web-site, such as details on enquiries regarding funding from the Conservation Fund. However, I will not put up the latest Journal (Vol. 41 Part 1) until pdf content can be searched.

9. GENERAL MEETINGS

- B Blaylock Change of date and room for the June General Meeting, Room 130, Friday 1st July, 2016. Discussion followed on various prospective Guest Speakers for General Meetings.

L Huxley We have organised people to undertake supper duties at General Meetings while we are away.

10. SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORNITHOLOGIST

- M Browne (Apology) Nil Report.

11. NEWSLETTER - eNewsletter

C Pyle Materials for the May Newsletter need to be presented at the beginning of May.
B Walker E Collier will take over the eNewsletter in a couple of months.

12. CAMPOUTS AND FIELD-TRIPS

L Huxley Fields trips need to be organised in advance because I will be away. I have approach W Brooker and Ali Bin Kahn with regard to coordinating the collation of the Reports on Fields Trips, so that they will be sent to Cynthia in good time for publication in the Newsletter.
The Easter Camp-out promises to attract good attendance.
The October Long weekend camp-out will be at Glenelg River. The Strathalbyn bird watchers will join Birds SA at this event. Camp-outs in 2017 will continue to be in the south eastern part of the State.

13. CORRESPONDENCE (including emails)

13.1 Pied Oystercatcher at Coffin Bay CP – Doug Clarke

J Spiers In 2014 we wrote a letter to the Minister regarding this matter.

D Paton In principal we do not support activities that might disturb the life cycle of birds on beaches.

I will write a letter to Doug Clarke regarding the incongruence of large number of birds given current activities.

13.2 BirdLife Australia re IBAs – Reece Pedler/Golo Maurer

D Paton to contact Graham Carpenter to request that he be the Birds SA representative on the inaugural BirdLife Committee to identify new wetland “Important Bird Areas” in this State.

14. OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 AGM

D Paton Please advise the Committee if you are planning to re-nominate for a Committee position 2016-17.
(J Spiers and L Huxley advised that they would not be re-nominating)

14.2 WEA Course

J Hatch The next Birds SA WEA Course will run from 19th October to 23rd November, Wednesday evenings from 6.00pm-7.30pm.

14.3 Price Salt Fields

J Hatch We need to again raise the issue of access to Price Saltfields by Birds SA, especially considering the International Bird Sanctuary and its implications for Price. I have become aware that Chris Purnell, BirdLife, has access to Price Saltfields once a year.

15. CLOSE

Meeting closed at 9.10.pm.

The next Committee Meeting will be held at 7.40 pm on 11th April 2016.

Signed Date