

**MINUTES OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING OF BIRDS SA
MONDAY, 19th JUNE 2017
CHARLES HAWKER CONFERENCE CENTRE, WAITE RD, URRBRAE**

1. MEETING

John Gitsham, (President), opened the meeting at 7.48pm.

2. PRESENT

John Hatch (Vice-President), Brian Blaylock (Secretary), John Spiers (Treasurer), Kate Buckley, Marilyn Browne, Lynton Huxley, Karin Donkin, Cynthia Pyle, Jody Gates, Alan Burns, Bea Rogers.

3. APOLOGIES - Jeff Groves (Vice-President), Simon Brealey, Graham Carpenter.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 Jody Gates moved that, "The Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 8th May 2017" be accepted. Seconded by John Hatch. CARRIED

4.2 Business Arising – Nil

5. STRATEGIC PLANNING

5.1 Event Management for the month of June-August

K Buckley Birds SA decided not to be involved in the Environment Weekend at the Adelaide Show Grounds, June 1-3, because of the cost of over \$500 per stall. The Royal Show organisers would like to know if Birds SA is interested in having at stall in the "Pet Pavilion" during Show Week? 12-20th August is Science Week. David Paton is running "Bird Banding" workshop during the first weekend and workshops for schools during the week. The first weekend is opened to the public. Do Birds SA want to run some activities during this week? Last year we did have bird-watching tours along the River Torrens. Cynthia has suggested a stall out the front of the Museum.

5.2 Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary

J Gitsham Birds SA sent a letter of concern regarding the AIBS to Ministers Hunt and Bignell. A letter of acknowledgement of receipt of our letter was received from Minister Bignell, Minister for Tourism, and an emailed letter of receipt was received from Minister Hunter, Minister for the Environment.

5.3 Glenside

J Gitsham Birds SA did write a letter to the Minister regarding the cutting down of trees at Glenside, but no reply has been received as yet.

5.4 Future Grant Funding Opportunities

J Gitsham I have had a meeting with Michael Stead, President of Nature Conservation Society of South Australia. There may be an opportunity for Birds SA to work in collaboration with this Society in the future.

J Gates Nature Conservation Society of SA co-ordinates annual bird surveys in the Mt Lofty Ranges. I have been part of their survey team.

6 ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Paiwalla – signs

J Gitsham I have seen photographs of the Paiwalla signs. I will be provided with photographs of the finished signs to be published in our Newsletter.

6.2 Community Grant

J Gitsham The Spotting Scope has been purchased with our Grant Funding and Marilyn Browne has donated a tripod suitable to support this Scope.

6.3 Content of Revised Field List

B Blaylock The "Field List", without sub-species, is finished and it will be ready to be made public shortly. It will be available on line.

6.4 Fleurieu Birdwatchers Branch of Birds SA Proposal

J Gitsham They would like to become a "branch" of Birds SA, their AGM is in November and we will get confirmation after that.

6.5 eNewsletter

B Blaylock I will take on the role of sending out the eNewsletter until another person has been found.

6.6 Membership Officer

J Spiers I will take over the role of Membership Officer in the absence of Simon Brealey.

B Blaylock I believe that the administration of the Membership should be done on-line.

6.7 Bird Surveys at Monarto

John Hatch and Alan Burns have volunteered to assist the Monarto Zoo with their Bird Surveys.

7. TREASURER'S REPORTS

John Spiers presented the Birds SA Treasurer's Report for May 2017 and the Birds SA Conservation Fund, Statement of Income and Expenditure for May 2017. (see attachments at the end of this document).

The Treasurer proposed some changes in the monthly reporting methods.

John Gitsham moved that we approve the Treasurer's reports and the actions from it.

Seconded by Alan Burns.

CARRIED.

8. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 Conservation Fund

J Gitsham The Grant Application of Diego Guevera for his work on the Mt Lofty Ranges Southern Emuwren was approved at the May Birds SA Management Committee Meeting, so payment can now be made.

8.2 Birds SA Conservation Fund Members

J Spiers One Member of the Conservation Fund has confirmed their retirement from the Conservation Fund Sub-Committee, so we need a replacement.

Jody Gates nominated Beatrice Rogers to become a member of the Conservation Fund. Beatrice agreed. Seconded by John Gitsham. CARRIED

8.3 Conservation Sub-Committee

J Spiers I became aware of a survey that is being conducted by Shadow Minister for the Environment Mr David Speirs, into the operations of the NRM. I was concerned about several points made by Mr Speirs. I am concerned that his suggested changes will water down environmental protection. I requested at the last Birds SA General Meeting, that Birds SA Members fill in this survey.

J Gitsham We should, as a private organisation, challenge any Government over any issues that we perceive may not be protecting birds and their habitat and praise any decisions that enhance environmental protection.

8.4 Conservation of Stubble Quail.

J Gitsham We need, as an organisation, to obtain data on Stubble Quail numbers. With data we could challenge the hunting of Stubble Quail. At this stage there appears to be no quantifying data or scientific research stating numbers and sustainability to justify hunting of Stubble Quail.

8.5 Closer Links With Other Organisations

B Blaylock To the list of already identified groups with whom Birds SA should more closely liaise, I believe we should add the National Trust of South Australia. John Gitsham will be the contact person. I can be the contact for Natural Resources - SA Arid Lands

J Spiers We also need closer links with Natural Resources - Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges..

9. GENERAL MEETINGS

J Hatch Speakers have been organised to the end of the year.

L Huxley We should invite the "Fledglings" to the July, Members Night Meeting. It would be a good night as it social and the presentations are of a shorter time and we start earlier at 7.00pm.

10. SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORNITHOLOGIST

M Browne I have two articles now. I still have not received a Bird Report from Graham Carpenter. I have not got enough material at the moment to publish another copy of the Journal.

11. WEBSITE

B Blaylock I have added a few more places to go and see birds and a "Birds in your area" page. I would like an any list of bird records of areas where Committee Members live to put up on the web site.

K Buckley Could out-of-date information please be removed from the front page of the web-site.

12. NEWSLETTER - eNewsletter

C Pyle I need an article about Bill Matheson for the next Newsletter.

J Hatch Birds SA representatives attended Bill Matheson's funeral and I will write a short article on his contribution to Birds SA for the Newsletter.

13. CAMPOUTS AND FIELD-TRIPS

L Huxley The October Campout will be at Hallelujah Hills, 20kms from Robertstown. A field trip to Paiwalla is planned for the near future.

Supper for the July Members Night, General Meeting, usually consists of soups, pies and pasties. We therefore need to hire a pie warmer. The Committee approved.

No alcohol will be served at this Members Night.

14. CORRESPONDENCE (including emails)

14.1 Letter of Gratitude

J Spiers I have received a letter of “Thanks” and a donation of \$50 from the Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Para Vista for the work undertaken with the children by Brian Blaylock at Worlds End.

15. OTHER BUSINESS

15.1 Honorary Life Membership

C Pyle Could John Gitsham, as President, write a request to the Membership to change the Constitution regarding the requirement that Birds SA have only 10 Honorary Life Members.

15.2 Training “Wading Bird Survey Team”

K Buckley I have drawn up a chart of experienced Wader Survey members and Members who may like training in this area. Do I have the Committee’s approval to approach these people?

The Committee Approved

15.3 Tolderol Donation

M Browne I felt that the decision made at the May Management Committee Meeting was a little rushed. It was a new Committee, and John Spiers was new to the role of Treasurer. I would like John to give a comment on the likely impact on our annual finances if a donation is made to support Tolderol. We need to know on what basis we have money for donating.

J Spiers We have the money, it is not gaining a lot of interest. It is difficult to comment if we do not know what we plan in the future. Once we have had a Strategic Review meeting, it will be easier to make further comment.

K Buckley My concerns came from the fact that in 2015 we did decide that Birds SA would make a “one off” donation to Tolderol of \$10,000. Is it an expectation now that we will contribute each year? Do we have any guarantee for the future of Tolderol?

J Gitsham I was asked by Kate Mason, Project Officer, for a further contribution from Birds SA because the on the grounds works around the basin is going to cost more than they thought. \$27,000 in total is required to cover these works. The Conservation Wildlife Research Trust will pay \$20,000. CHASA promised \$3,000 to be spent on the conservation area. The initial figure of \$7,000 was voted on at our May Management Committee Meeting. That has now been reduced to \$4,000. This will be the last payment from Birds SA. DEWNR has invested large amounts of money, it is getting a lot of attention, earth works is being undertaken by Contractors, so it would appear that the future of Tolderol is assured as best as is possible to predict. I believe that it is a very important investment for bird conservation into the future.

J Gates The recent report on the River Murray highlighted that the extraction of water is the issue for the future, rather than shooters.

John Spiers moved the motion that:- “ Birds SA donate \$4,000 rather than \$7,000 as moved at the May Management Committee Meeting, to the conservation work at Tolderol”. Seconded Alan Burns. CARRIED

J Hatch Do we need a watching brief of the Tolderol works?

J Gitsham I am on the” Tolderol Working Party” under the auspices of NRM, as are other Birds SA Members Peter Koch, Colin Rogers and John Fennell.

15.4 Purchase Binocular Cleaning Material

K Buckley Do I have Committee approval to purchase cleaning material for our binoculars. Approved

15.5 Vote of Thanks to Committee Members

K Buckley I would like to propose a formal “Vote of Thanks” to David Paton for running the Fledglings “Feet and Feathers” Activity at the May General Meeting, and the following Committee Members who assisted with this event John Gitsham, Merilyn Browne, John Hatch, Karen Donkin.

15.6 Strategic Planning Meeting

J Gitsham I would like to suggest that we have a Strategic Planning Meeting on a Sunday afternoon at a time, date and venue to be determined.

15.7 Apologies

K Buckley K Buckley and M Browne will be apologies for the July General Meeting. K Buckley an apology for the August Management Committee Meeting. Brian Blaylock will therefore have to take the Minutes for this meeting.

16. CLOSE

Meeting closed at 9.55pm.

The next Committee Meeting will be held at 7.45 pm on 10th July 2017.

Signed Date