

## **MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF BIRDS SA**

held on 29 April 2016 at the

CHARLES HAWKER CONFERENCE CENTRE, WAITE ROAD, URRBRAE

### **OPENING**

David Paton (President) opened the general meeting of Birds SA at 7:45pm. He said that he would run this General Meeting in its entirety followed by a brief Annual General Meeting.

### **APOLOGIES**

Kate Buckley, Jody Gates, John Hatch, Karen and Lynton Huxley, Cynthia Pyle, Dan Rogers

### **MINUTES**

Merilyn Browne moved that the "Minutes of the General Meeting held on 1 April 2016 as posted on the website and on the noticeboard be accepted. Seconded by Trevor Cowie. Carried.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

David welcomed the following new members -

Wade Phillips (Warradale)

Ven Thiru and Debi Swamidoss (Linden Park)

### **SPEAKER (John Gitsham)**

Prior to introducing the speaker John spoke about the tree-planting day at Tolderol on 6 June 2016 which had been circulated in an e-Newsletter. Twenty people are need and we already have around ten. If any member was interested please come and see him at the end of the meeting.

John introduced the speaker Greg Kerr, Regional Behavioral Ecologist, Natural Resources Eyre Peninsula based at Port Lincoln. The title of Greg's talk was "A Citizen Science Community Bird Monitoring Project on Eyre Peninsula."

Before talking about the project on Eyre Peninsula Greg spoke about Developing Biodiversity Indicators and Monitoring Programs for Community Based Carbon Credit Reforestation and Afforestation Projects with application in Ethiopia. With funding provided by World Vision Australia Greg helped in setting up two citizen science projects - Event Book (Stuart-Hill et al) and Bird Survey MacKinnon List Methodology (MacKinnon and Phillips).

The problem on Eyre Peninsula was that Natural Resources Eyre Peninsula needed to assess changes in biodiversity arising from changes to land management practices and climate by developing a scientifically valid, cost-effective, long-term and broad-scale monitoring program. The challenges included limited funding and resources, a low population density, limited existing community monitoring expertise combined with an aging demographic; and fauna that is poorly studied.

The solution was to design a long-term monitoring program incorporating scientifically valid collection methods randomised site selection within regional vegetation types and the pairing of bushland monitoring sites and bird survey sites. The community were offered free 10 week 40 hour training courses, a data entry portal that allowed community members to enter and view their own sightings, support for the development of community based monitoring groups across Eyre Peninsula and ongoing specialist training programs.

The outcomes have been the development of an online bird identification quiz for skills practice, over 5000 bird observations entered in Australian Living Atlas portal to date, validation of data prior to upload to Biological Databases of SA (BDBSA), participation of trainees in Shorebird 2020, Beach Nesting Birds, WildEyre and Malleefowl programs, Weekend field trips to some of the 100 odd parks across EP; and ongoing support and skill development using expert bird mentors.

Ongoing challenges include fostering community groups, getting younger people involved, getting a coherent approach across such a large region, funding and the need for community members to form incorporated groups.

Greg answered questions from members at the end of his presentation.

**BIRD CALL (Graham Carpenter)**

Graham said that Double-banded Plovers have turned up at Thompson Beach and around the Lakes. Flocks of migrating honeyeaters e.g. Yellow-faced will show up over the next few weeks. The best time to see them is between 8-9 am on sunny mornings.

- Bush Stone-curlew – Newland Head
- Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo – Minlaton, Woodcroft
- Spotted Nightjar – Innes National Park
- Hooded Plover – near Edithburg – third sitting without success
- Grey Fantail – Minlaton
- Tawny Frogmouth – McLaren Vale
- Eastern Spinebill – Black Forest, Bellevue Heights
- Black-chinned Honeyeater – Strathalbyn
- Scarlet Robin – Eden Hills
- Greater Sand Plover – Baird Bay

**FIELD TRIPS (Ali Ben Kahn)**

- Ali detailed the upcoming field trips –
- Sunday to Monarto Conservation Park
- 10 May to Mount Billy Conservation Park
- 19 May to Shepherds Hill Recreation Park

Ali also announced that the Australian Plant Society would be having its plant sale all weekend.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING**

David Paton closed the meeting at 9:00pm. The next meeting will be on 27 May 2016 and the speaker is Pete Copley, Department of Water, Environment and Natural Resources who will talk about "Volunteering for Conservation Programs in South America".

Signed..... Date.....