MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF BIRDS SA

held on 27 April 2018 at the

CHARLES HAWKER CONFERENCE CENTRE, WAITE ROAD, URRBRAE

OPENING

John Gitsham (President) opened the meeting at 7:45 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular visitors from BirdLife Australia.

APOLOGIES

Andrew Black, David Paton

MINUTES

David Robertson moved that the “Minutes of the General Meeting held on 23 March 2018 as posted on the website and noticeboard be accepted". Seconded by Jeff Groves. Carried.

NEW MEMBERS

John Gitsham announced the following new members -

Tina Woods and Tracy Sinclair (Lyndoch)

Stephanie Wyton and David Donovan (Tennyson)

Mark, David and Jonathan Friswell and Stella Jacobs (Erindale)

Margaret Wallace (Adelaide)

Kevin Back (Mylor)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Gitsham – BirdLife Australia will be holding an environmental law forum here at the Charles Hawker Conference Centre on Thursday, 3 May.

John Gitsham – David Paton will be giving a talk on ABC Radio National on Sunday Morning over the next two weeks about "the state of the Murray System."

John Gitsham – The first official Birds SA trip to Gluepot Reserve was a success with 122 species seen. Highlights of the trip were Major Mitchell's Cockatoo and Little Friarbird at Gluepot.

John Gitsham presented a carving created by the bus driver on the Gluepot trip to Miles Ramm for his outstanding observations.

SPEAKER

John Hatch said that in previous years we have had talks by John Young, Leo Joseph, Shaun Dooley and tonight's guest speaker is Tim Low who would talk about his book "Where Song Began".

The main points from his talk were:

* Compared to the Northern Hemisphere birds in Australia are much more aggressive.
* Honeyeaters are dominant in Australia.
* Australia is the only continent with vast tracks of bird-pollinated trees.
* The Myrtaceae and Proteaceae are a major source of food for nectar feeding birds.
* In Australia lerp-producing psyllid bugs, manna and honeydew are a good source of food (sugar) whereas aphids are the main source of food in the Northern Hemisphere.
* Early papers by Mathews (1911), Sibley & Alquist (1986), Christidis & Schodde (1991).
* Australian songbirds have three voice-box designs compared to one design elsewhere.
* Promiscuity in Australian birds
* Australian songbirds have been evolving for a much longer time and there is more genetic diversity.
* Parrot diversity in Australia
* Phylogenetic Tree
* Pigeon diversity in Australia

Jeremy Robertson, Bill Breed, Robert Rowlands, David Hansman, Barbara Wheaton and Sonia Kleindorfer made questions and comments.

John Gitsham said that it was a very stimulating discussion and thanked Tim Low for coming along.

BIRD CALL (Graham Carpenter)

Australian Bustard, White-winged Tern, Wood Sandpiper, Pink-eared and Freckled Ducks – Tolderol

White Grey Currawong – Bridgewater

Eastern Barn Owl – near SA Museum

Grey Fantail – Lochiel Park, Gilberton

White-bellied Sea Eagle – Outer Harbor, Port Willunga, Bool Lagoon

Cattle Egret – Naracoorte Road

CONSERVATION

Jeff Groves said that the sub-committee had a meeting with Graham Finlayson from Bush Heritage.

FIELD TRIPS (Lynton Huxley)

Trips are on the noticeboard.

Sunday's field trip is to Brookfield Conservation Park.

A couple of containers were found after the Easter Campout at Balcanoona.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

David and Sue Harper will be leading the next pelagic trip on 17 June from Port MacDonnell.

John Gitsham said that the final agreement on the affiliation with BirdLife Australia is on the website in the "Members" area.

NEXT MEETING

John Gitsham closed the meeting at 9:00 pm and said that there will be a five-minute break before the Annual General Meeting would commence. The next meeting is on 25 May 2018.

Signed……………………………………………….. Date………………………