

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION INC. HELD AT THE CHARLES HAWKER CENTRE, WAITE ROAD, URRBRAE ON FRIDAY 25TH JUNE 2021 AT 7:36 PM

APOLOGIES: Anita Smyth

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The President advised that the minutes of a meeting held on Friday 28th May 2021 had been posted on the Association's website and that copies were available for inspection at the entrance.

Alan Burns proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true and correct record. Brian Blaylock seconded the proposal. Members voted to accept the proposal.

NEW MEMBERS:

The President advised that the following people had become members in May 2021:

- Darcy Whittaker - Macclesfield SA
- John Spencer - Hazelwood North VIC
- Susie Nugent - Woodside SA
- Joshua Martin - Stockwell SA
- Barry Neylon - Hillier SA
- David Roshier - Mount Barker SA
- Callum McDonald - Linden Park SA
- Sarah Wilkie - Tusmore SA

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

CHARLES HAWKER CENTRE: The President advised that the Centre is being refurbished from August 2021 until the end of January 2022 and so it will not be available for the Association's meetings. A search for a new venue is underway and the date of meetings may be changed to Tuesday to better cater for families. The President also advised that the September 2020 meeting would be held in Port Augusta on the afternoon of Saturday 11th at 1:30 pm. The meeting would be preceded by a walk in the Arid Lands Botanic Gardens and a field trip at Mambray Creek would be held on the following day.

PASTORAL ACT: The President advised that the Government had not responded to a request for a meeting to discuss the proposed changes and that Member support may be needed to progress discussions.

GUEST SPEAKER:

John Hatch advised that he had arranged four presentations for the Member's Night in July.

John introduced the guest speaker for the night, Dr Andrew Black, noting that Andrew was a past President of the Association; an Honorary Researcher at the South Australian Museum; author of a book on Grasswrens; a Member of the Order of Australia (for services to medicine and ornithology); and a recipient of the BirdLife Australia's Hobbs Medal in 2018.

Andrew's presentation was titled "The Adelaide Rosella. What is it and what do we call it?"

Andrew acknowledged the assistance in research and preparation of the presentation from David Donato, Brian Blaylock, Greg Dare, Bernie Haase, Stephen Walker and Philippa Horton.

Andrew stated that the Adelaide Rosella was part of the Crimson Rosella complex, with five sub-species in South Australia.

Andrew outlined the historical classification of Adelaide Rosella by Gould, Matthews and Schodde and Mason.

Andrew also noted that DNA analysis by Leo Joseph had shown that the Adelaide Rosella was related to Crimson Rosellas south of the Hunter River and that it was distinct from the Yellow Rosella.

Andrew showed a series of slides demonstrating the variation in plumage from a study of skins held by the South Australian Museum and Australian National Wildlife Collection in Canberra. He noted a range of plumage colours varying from yellow to red in the Fleurieu Peninsular population and colour variation in main population and Flinders Ranges population.

Andrew noted that scoring of the colour of different populations showed clinal variations from scarlet in the South to yellow in the North.

In a series of photographs Andrew demonstrated the extent of sexual dimorphism of Rosellas in the Clare region.

Andrew questioned whether there should be three sub-species or one single sub-species. Andrew suggested that from his research he was inclined to suggest two sub-species (Adelaide including Fleurieu, and Flinders). Andrew indicated that further regression analysis would be undertaken.

Andrew responded to questions from members.

Where does the Yellow Rosella fit? Andrew indicated that the Yellow Rosella is a separate species.

Where does the Kangaroo Island Rosella fit? Andrew indicated the Rosellas on Kangaroo Island are all bright crimson and that they are generically closely related to the Adelaide birds.

Is species determined as the ability to produce viable offspring? Andrew noted that the hybridisation of some species of parrots and of Black-eared and Yellow-throated Miners were examples of two species producing viable offspring. He noted that sub-species are geographically confined.

Is there any size difference between the different populations? Andrew stated that measurements had not been formally recorded, but that his observation was that Adelaide Rosellas were smaller than Crimson and Yellow smaller again.

CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE:

Jeff Groves provided an update on Conservation issues:

ALDINGA WASHPOOL: Conservation Park status has been granted.

OFF-ROAD VEHICLE DOCUMENTARY: Davide Galglio has almost completed the presentation and this will be shown at a future General Meeting.

SOUTHERN LAUNCH SITE AT WHALERS WAY ORBITAL LAUNCH COMPLEX: Approval has been granted for three trial launches to be carried out before the end of 2021.

CAT MANAGEMENT POLICY: The Association's policy is almost complete.

MIGRATORY SHOREBIRDS: Ray Nias has recently joined the Committee and will represent the Association in discussions with the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary,

including future strategies for Dry Creek Salt-fields. A presentation by Peri Coleman will be arranged for a future General Meeting.

MONARTO WOODLANDS: Jeff Groves updated the meeting on the fate of Monarto Woodlands. Jeff stated that areas with PIRSA's portfolio were scheduled to be sold, but that the Government had indicated that it was favourably disposed to a transfer of land to DEW. The Association has been negotiating with GWLAP, BIOR and LandCare about revegetation initiatives. Trees for Life has also shown some interest in the project.

Jeff noted that David Paton had advised that a decision had been made to only transfer two of the four blocks to DEW and that the other two (Northern) blocks would be sold. DEW have also indicated that it will not provide any funding for revegetation.

BIRD CALL: Graham Carpenter noted that Orange-bellied Parrots had been observed on Hindmarsh Island.

Graham recommended the Bluff was a good place to visit in rough weather to look for Gannets, Shy Albatross and Southern Fulmar.

Graham also noted that this was the time of the year to keep an eye open for Rose, Flame Robin (sometimes reported at Browns Road) and Pink Robins (sometimes reported in the South East).

- John Hatch reported that White-bellied Sea-eagles with young had been observed at Bolivar.
- Alan Burns reported nesting activity in Adelaide parklands.
- Andrew Black noted that Terry Denis had reported sightings of White-bellied Sea-eagles on the Murray River.
- John Gitsham reported that two adult White-bellied Sea-eagles had been seen on the Younghusband Peninsular.
- Jeff Groves reported that a Southern Boobook had been roosting in Rundle Mall.
- Philppa Horton reported a sighting of a Tawny Frogmouth at Malvern. There was also a report of four Tawny Frogmouths at Leabrook.

FIELD TRIPS: Lynton Huxley noted coming field trips:

- 27th June - Kaiser Stuhl
- 10th July - Glenthorne National Park

Lynton advised that nest boxes, provided by the Association, were being installed at Paiwalla Wetlands.

Lynton advised that four bird walks would be held at the West Terrace Cemetery in September.

Lynton advised that a location for the October Campout was still to be determined.

OTHER BUSINESS: Graham Carpenter noted that there had been some sightings of Alexandrina Parrots. Graham asked that, as this is an invasive feral species, any sightings should be reported to him to allow appropriate action.

NEXT MEETING: To be held on Friday 30th July 2020 at the Charles Hawker Centre.

CLOSURE: The meeting was closed at 9:12 pm.