

**MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
INC. HELD ON 30 NOVEMBER 2021 AT THE THEBARTON COMMUNITY CENTRE**

OPENING: The President opened the meeting at 7:35 pm

APOLOGIES: No apologies were received.

MINUTES: Minutes of a meeting held at The Thebarton Community Centre on 26th October were proposed for acceptance by Jeff Groves and seconded by Richard Woodland. The minutes were accepted as a correct record.

NEW MEMBERS:

The President announced the following new members for the months of September and October:

Tayla Willson	Pooraka
Andrew Sinel	McLaren Flat
Jean Hancox	Bellevue Heights
Justin Brown	Cockatoo Valley
Bev Langley & Glen Langley	Cherry Gdns
Maurie Breust	Chiton
John Munn	Adelaide
Julie Christie & Graig Moritz	McLaren Vale
Robyn Gibbes & Paul Jennings	Lyndock
Jan & Peter McKay	Craigmore
Dean & Penny Hooper	Quorn
Kathy Underwood	Semaphore
Margaret & Tim Woonton	Black Forest
Richard Croll	Whyalla
John Cobb	Marino
Marie-Christine Lamy & Isabelle & Samuel Pollock	Ridgehaven
Kate Barrett	Prospect
Michael & Penelope Damp	Port Lincoln
Susan Allport	Adelaide
Andrew Mitchell	North Adelaide
Fiona & Brooke McLeay	Penneshaw
Gerda Boyce	McLaren Vale
George & Angela Stolz	Ashton
Scott Smith	Hewett
Wendy & Robert Morris	Seaford Meadows
Kathy Harbison	Gilberton
John Seymour	Banksia Park
Rebekah Stopp	Seaton
Katrine & Ian Milne	Albert Park
Neil Semple	Mornington

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

MEETINGS: The President advised that venues for the January and February 2022 meetings were still being sought, but that meetings via Zoom would be held if a venue could not be

secured. The President asked for any suggestions for a venue known to members to be emailed to general@birdssa.asn.au.

LIBRARY: The President advised that there would be no space available for the Library at the Waite Institute following renovations and that an alternative location was being sought. Initial enquiries will be made to the Conservation Council to determine if any suitable space is available at The Joinery.

Ali Ben Khan suggested that security could be an issue at The Joinery.

The President stated that any suggestions for a location from members would be appreciated.

HINDMARSH VALLEY: The President called upon any interested members to contact him regarding surveys at this newly created National Park.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION: The President advised that BirdLife Australia would run the photographic competition.

GUEST SPEAKERS

RICHARD WOODLAND – DEFENCE SHED AND BOOLCOOMATTA SURVEYS

Richard provided an outline of collaboration with the Defence Shed to produce nesting boxes for sale by Birds SA. Richard highlighted the importance of the Defence Shed to former members of the Defence Force and other front-line workers. Richard also noted that the project had featured in a recent newspaper issued by the Defence shed and that the newspaper had a circulation of 100,000 readers. Richard also noted that the Defence Shed had won the 2021 Wellness and Inclusion award under the Health Engagement Learning and People scheme.

Richard provided an update on survey activity at Boolcoomatta and Bon Bon reserves, which are being carried out by Birds SA members on behalf of Bush Heritage.

Richard noted that Bon Bon is a former sheep station located 650km North-west of Adelaide and that facilities accommodated a survey team of 6 to 8 people. Richard detailed some of the birds species seen at Bon Bon.

Richard noted that Boolcoomatta is also a former sheep station located 470km North-east of Adelaide and that facilities accommodated a survey team of up to 16 people.

Richard outlined some of the challenges and lessons learned from the surveys, which would result in improved surveys in future.

RICHARD MARTIN – COOKTOWN TO DARWIN IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2021

Richard gave a presentation on his trip from Cooktown to Darwin including the Atherton Tablelands, Savannah Way, Coburg Peninsula and Kakadu National Park. Richard showed photographs of some of the birds that he saw in his travels, culminating with a sighting of two Chestnut-quilled Rock-pigeons at Ubirr in Kakadu National park.

NEIL CHESHIRE – DRAGONS AND DAMSELS OF TOLDEROL.

Neil gave a presentation on his quest to photograph Dragonflies and Damselflies at Tolderol over the past four years.

Neil outlined the distinguishing characteristics of each group, noting that there are 21 species of dragonfly and 11 of damselfly in South Australia. Neil illustrated his presentation with photographs that he had taken of the most common species seen at Tolderol.

DAVID ANDREWARTHA – BIRDS OF NAMIBIA, BOTSWANA AND ZIMBABWE

David gave a presentation on a 12-day safari to Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe illustrated with photographs of habitat and birds seen on the safari. David's presentation was assisted by Peter Pangani Moyo, tour guide on the safari. Photographs included Masked and Sociable Weavers; Greater Flamingo; Pied and Malachite Kingfishers; African Fish-eagle; Maribou Stork; Little Bee-eater; Lilac-breasted Roller; Southern Carmine Bee-eater; Grey Lourie; and African Finfoot.

CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Jeff Groves presented an update on the activities of the sub-committee.

- **Off-road vehicles** – Jeff noted that an on-line meeting would be held with South Australian Councils on 6th December to discuss control of vehicle on beaches. Steven Langley, Ray Nias and he will participate. We have ensured that BirdLife Australia also received an invitation.

An online conversation had been held recently, organised by Ray Nias, with the mid-Coast Council in NSW on the permit system for off-road vehicles that they operate, what restrictions there are and what the revenue raised is used for.

Steven Langley and I will be meeting with the SA Tourism Commission tomorrow to discuss the off-road vehicle activities that they are promoting, which are totally at odds with the position that we are taking.

Jeff noted that members may have seen the full page spread in today's Advertiser which was clearly supported by the SA Tourism Commission. When Doug Clarke in Coffin Bay sees this article he will be devastated

- **Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board Workshop – Declines in Mt Lofty Ranges Birds** – Jeff reported that he, Ali Ben Kahn and Greg Johnston had attended a workshop arranged by the Board to discuss what could be done to reverse the decline in bird species.

Attendees included other Landscape Boards, DEW ecologists, Nature Conservation Society, GWLAP. Some other key players (Bio-R & BirdLife Aust) were unable to attend.

A message from several attendees was "we have been down this path before with little or no success - how will this be different."

It is too early to say whether this initiative is likely to have beneficial outcomes but we will certainly give it our best shot and keep members informed of any developments.

- **Duck and Quail Hunting** – The annual Reference Panel meeting conducted by DEW, which is the basis for the recommendations that go to Minister Speirs on duck and quail hunting is tentatively scheduled for December 21.

Jeff stated that he will be the Birds SA representative. Jeff noted that he is planning for at least three other Birds SA members to attend under the Conservation Council banner, the Conservation Council gets six seats at the table.

Jeff noted that it looks unlikely that there will be any input data from the Eastern Australia Aerial Waterbird Survey this year.

Jeff noted that this is always a very awkward meeting for us as we oppose the whole basis upon which it is convened.

- **Simpson Desert National Park** – Jeff noted the recent announcement of Munga-Thirri-Simpson Desert National Park, 3.6 million hectares and other National Park additions. He The increased attention on conservation that these announcements bring is welcomed, but we need to temper this with the understanding that mining and oil and gas exploration is still possible in these areas. The National Parks and Wildlife Act provides the Minister with discretion on this.

FIELD TRIPS:

Lynton Huxley provided details of upcoming Field Trips

MEMBERS' INPUT:

The President called for suggestions from the floor for issues that should be addressed in 2022.

John Spiers suggested that there was a need for all bird observations by members to be recorded in in central database.

Theresa Jack suggested that Birdata may be useful in this regard and offered to give a talk about it at a future meeting.

BIRD CALL

Graham Carpenter once again noted that Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos were wondering far and wide at the present. A discussion as to possible cause of this behaviour ensued.

Members reported their observations:

- Latham's Snipe at Port Lincoln
- Little Tern, White-winged Black Tern and Oriental Pratincole at Price Saltfields
- Eastern Yellow Wagtail at Robe
- Collared Sparrowhawks at Fullarton and Underdale
- Eastern Spinebill at Fullarton
- Southern Boobook with four young at Oaklands Park
- White-plumed Honeyeater being mobbed by New Holland Honeyeaters

In response to a question, Graham stated that the most southerly record of an Apostlebird in South Australia was at Red Hill.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The President reported that there was a lot of water at Magazine Road

Alan Burns reported that 27 members had acted as volunteers at the recent Sophie's Patch open garden and that \$800 had been raised at the event. Alan expressed his thanks to all volunteers.

BLIND AUCTION:

Andrew Black announced that the winning bid for the prints was a bid of \$750 for the entire collection by Brian Blaylock.

NEXT MEETING: To be held at a location to be advised on Tuesday 25th January 2022.

CLOSURE: The meeting was closed at 10:10 pm