

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY 28 MAY 2021

Held at the Charles Hawker Conference Centre, Waite Road. Urrbrae.

WELCOME: The President, Steven Langley, opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The President acknowledged that we were meeting on ancestral Kaurna land, offering, on our behalf, respect to their elders and forebears.

He also expressed thanks to John Gitsham, the previous President of three years, from whom he had taken over the office of President in December 2020.

APOLOGIES: Alan Suter, Richard Woodland, Lynton Huxley, Wendy Phillips,

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, held online on Friday 30 October 2020 and published by e-newsletter on 25 May 2021.

These minutes were confirmed by the meeting: Moved Alan Burns, Seconded Anita Smyth.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS relating to matters listed on the agenda: None.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Membership

- Birds SA membership continues to grow by about 10 to 25 each month and the Association is fast approaching 1,000 members. Membership numbers and growth are important for our influence and our resources, both of people and financial.
- 1000 is significant in SA, but RSPB in UK has 1.4m in a population of 65 m, so pro rata to SA we should have 27,000. So there is lots of potential to grow. Spread the message!
- We have been keen to help new members on their birding journey and so we introduced a New Members field trip to Laratinga in March where there was one guide per four participants to show new members what they were looking at and the key diagnostics that relate to bird guides. 24 Members attended. It was 'sold out' in 24 hours, and so it was a big success, and we will repeat such events in the future. But this will call for more volunteer guides.

Field Guide

To support new members and potential members we are looking at publishing our own SA field guide. This should be photo based and affordable.

Webinars

Covid 19 restrictions inspired us to introduce webinars so that we could continue to engage with our membership new and established. We have now conducted 14. Typically, these have had 100 viewers and overall 300 different individuals have participated. We are always looking for new speakers — contact webinars@birdssaasn.au

Members Survey

In November 2020 we conducted a poll of our members regarding the Association's activities.

Main outcomes:

- a) Save more birds
- b) More advocacy
- c) Attract more, younger members
- d) Reach out to Regions

How we are Responding:

a) Establishing Virtual Reserves - looking not to own but to improve some patches of land. The Minko property at Mt Compass is progressing with a 5-year agreement being negotiated whereby Birds SA members could access the property 4 times a year to install nest boxes, weed, plant native seedlings, survey bird species to establish baseline data and measure the impact of the Association's work. I will provide a photographic presentation at a future meeting, but the project needs active support from the members.

A bird box expert is required from the membership to assist with these projects.

- b) Petitions / emails e.g. regarding proposed Pastoral Act legislation
- c) Various plans are being considered including changing meetings from Friday, which is generally not good for families. Also we could changing the lecture theatre format of meetings,
- d) Meeting in the Regions combining with field trips. This is to begin in the Arid Lands Garden on a Saturday, probably 11 September.

New membership fees

We have reviewed our membership fees which have been unchanged for 3 years and are going to make two changes from 1 July.

INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS: \$5 increase from \$45 to \$50 and \$55 to \$60

PRINTED PUBLICATIONS: (currently \$10) increase \$20 to \$30. This is because we recently analysed printing costs and came in total to 25% of our income, and is not being covered by the current printing fee.

Conservation Fund

Birds SA continues to support scientific research through our Conservation Fund with grants to various university students and other researchers, so we can understand more about our birds and their habitats in SA. Climate change and Australia's growing population will put pressure on our birds, their resource's and their habitats into the future, and so gaining more knowledge of their needs will become even more critical overtime.

Public Engagement

Covid has restricted involvement in some previous forms of public engagement (WEA Bird courses, public talks and presence at Fetes, fairs etc.) but we hope to re-establish 2021.

But we need volunteers. No volunteers means no events.

Field trips, campouts

Our field trips, campouts and our general meetings guest speakers continue to be popular, along with our branches Fleurieu Birders and Port Augusta Birders field trip activities.

DEW

We are developing a working relationship with DEW. I have met with the Minister for the Environment David Speirs. We are also working with him on Osprey / White bellied Sea Eagle monitoring and artificial nest site programme as managed by Ian Falconburg

Need active support of members

Our Association can only be successful and grow if we get ongoing active support from our members. I encourage all members, whether new or long-term members, to consider volunteering or joining the committee to help share the workload, to bring new fresh ideas, and to continue make our association grow and be relevant.

Current urgent need for a Secretary

We cannot legally operate without one. Presently Alan Burns is valiantly filling both Secretary and Membership roles. Like me, he has a full-time job and cannot continue to carry out two large volunteer roles. Now he is being supported by David Andrewartha and Lawrie Stevens, who are taking notes at management and general meetings, and that definitely helps. But we urgently need someone to step up and take this important role. The scope of this role has been pared down significantly from what it was 18 months ago, and there is more support; it is less of a commitment than it was. But it is a critical role that needs filling.

If we do not get a volunteer, we will have to consider paying a third party, because we have no choice.

Conclusion

As President I thank you all for your support and I hope you can see that Birds SA is becoming an increasingly important conservation, ornithological and scientific voice for birds here in South Australia.

THANKS

The president added a particular vote of thanks to the following people.

Secretaries: Jim Spiker, Lou Jayleigh, Alan Burns And David Andrewartha.

SA Rarities & Distribution Sub- committee: Andrew Black (Chair), Graham Carpenter, Lynn Pedler, John Fennell, John Hatch, Colin Rogers, Bob Green and Brian Blaylock.

South Australian Ornithologist: Philippa Horton (Editor)

Conservation Fund Committee: Jody Gates (Chair), Bea Rogers, Philippa Horton, John Spiers, And David Paton (Alternate Member)

Field Trips: Lynton Huxley (Coordinator -Adelaide), Bernie Haase (Coordinator, Port Augusta), Wendy Phillips (Coordinator, Fleurieu Peninsula), Martin Price, Rod Tetlow, Ali Ben Kahn, Steven Ramm

Finances: Allan Suter & Anita Smyth

Membership Officer: Alan Burns & Sue Winwood

e-News: Karen Donkin & Anthony Collebrusco

Magazine: Cynthia Pyle (Editor), Sue Winwood, Penny Paton and Stephen Ramm for proof reading. Penny also for writing regular historical articles

Library: Karen Donkin, ably assisted by John Donkin & Terri Randle

Bird Record Database: Graham Carpenter

Supper – Members Nights: Karen Huxley, assisted by Lynton

Distribution of *The Birder* and Postage: Barbara & Peter Bansemer

Conservation Sub-committee: Jeff Groves (Chair), David Hansman, William Brooker, Phil Cole, Bill Breed, David Andrewatha, Rodney Attwood, Ali Ben Kahn, Chris Proud, Ray Nias, Davide Gaglio & Richard Woodland

Education Sub-committee: Kate Buckley, Alan Burns, Anna Lester

Image Library: John Spiers, Brian Blaylock

Website: John Gitsham, Jody Gates, Brian Blaylock, & Jordan Graetz from Studio Foster

Campouts: Lynton Huxley

Auditor: Andrew Willing

And thanks also are expressed to all those who have assisted during the year in a variety of roles, e.g. in events such as Sophie's Patch, where a number of volunteers donated just a few hours, Your help was greatly appreciated.

ANNUAL REPORT for year ending 31 December 2020, as distributed 24 May 2021 by eNewsletter. Erratum were published by eNewsletter on 28 May 2021.

This report was tabled, with the addition of notes about webinars and the change of President, as referenced in the President's Report above.

FINANCIAL REPORT, as published in the Annual Report papers.

This report was presented by Anita Smyth, who offered the following explanatory comments:

- Currently interest rates are very low
- Some better deals for investments have been negotiated

- 2021 will see the establishment of a Birds SA virtual office
- Revenue is up
- Expenditure is also up
- Donations have decreased by around \$4,000
- Two ex gratia payments have been made:
 1. to Glossy Black Cockatoos project on Kangaroo Island following the bushfire
 2. to earthworks at Tolderol

ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The following Committee members currently serving were re-nominated, with vacancies for the positions of Secretary and Assistant Secretary noted, as referenced in the President's Report above.

Steven Langley	President
Jeff Groves	Vice President
Richard Woodland	Vice President
Vacant	Secretary
Vacant	Assistant Secretary
Alan Suter	Treasurer
Lynton Huxley	Field Program Coordinator
Graham Carpenter	Bird Record Secretary
Alan Burns	Membership Officer
Philippa Horton	SA Ornithologist Editor
Cynthia Pyle	Magazine (The Birder) Editor
Anita Smyth	Member (Assistant Treasurer)
John Hatch	Member
Jeremy Robertson	Member
Ray Nias	Member
David Gaglio	Member

All positions above were declared elected for 2020-2021. Moved John Gitsham, Seconded Phil Coles.

The following positions were noted and confirmed with the incumbents not being members of the Management Committee:

Anthony Collebrusco	eNews Editor
Karen Donkin	Library Coordinator

AUDITOR APPOINTMENT

It was noted that Andrew Willing has indicated that he is available again.

LONG SERVICE MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION

The Chair congratulated the following members on their long service as members of the Association. The certificates will be mailed to the recipients. (* represents inclusion of family members in addition to the original individual memberships.)

Platinum (40 Years)

Faye Lush

*Joyce West

Paul Taylor

Chris Evans

Gold (35 Years)

Vicki Natt

Silver (30 Years)

Neil Cheshire

Bronze (25 Years)

Graham Gould

*Julie Gould

Nathaniel Doecke

Rob Hogan

*Liz Leibing

CORRESPONDENCE

No items in regard to the AGM.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No notices of other business had been received by 5.00 pm on Monday 24 May.

CLOSE The Chair closed the meeting at 8.10 pm.

SIGNED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD

.....

Date