

MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION INC. HELD ON 22 FEBRUARY 2022 VIA ZOOM

1. **OPENING:** The meeting was opened by the vice-president, Jeff Groves via Zoom at 19:32 pm and was chaired jointly by Jeff Groves and Alan Burns.
2. **APOLOGIES:** Steven Langley-President.
3. **MINUTES:** Minutes of the meeting held via Zoom on 25 January 2022, a copy of which are located in the members area of the Birds SA website, were proposed for acceptance by Jeff Groves and seconded by Alan Burns. The minutes will be confirmed next month at the face to face meeting.

4. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Meetings: Jeff Groves advised that hopefully the Birds SA meeting in March and for the rest of the year would be held in the Charles Hawker centre at the Waite Institute, the exact room to be confirmed. While there is a limit on numbers due to COVID 19 rules, registration for the meeting will be via Evenbrite.

Minko Scrub: Birds SA is currently engaging with the landowner. An \$11,000 grant has been approved by SA Gov to undertake works at Minko Scrub with an 8 month timeline to 31 October 2022. The area will be a hotspot for birds and we will be looking for volunteers for surveys and other activities.

Location for Library: The library still does not have a location and is currently in storage. If members have any suggestions please let us know.

Webinars: We are still seeking suggestions from members for topics for future webinars and also for presenters. Members can email suggestions to general@birdssa.asn.au .

5. **NEW MEMBERS:** new members for February 2022:

Jane McPherson	Bolwarra NSW
Courtney Glover	Aldinga Beach
Jasper Willoughby	Aldinga Beach
Andrew & Julie Robertson	Teringie
Patrick Torrens	Mt Barker
Paul Parker	Tanunda
Margaret Grocke	Tanunda
Tim McLeod	Aldgate
Richard Letheby	Yattalunga
Beverly Moyle	Hahndorf
Julie Claridge	Hahndorf
Bob Kellett	Forest Range
Rob Guyatt	Angaston
Sarah Ansell	Mount Compass
Janice Vaz	Clovelly Park

6. **GUEST SPEAKER(S):** John Hatch introduced this month's guest speaker, Chris Purnell, Wetlands Birds Program Manager at BirdLife Australia.

Chris' excellent talk, titled "The Floating Roost Trial", dealt with the loss of roosting site for migratory birds in South East Asia and the Yellow Sea in particular, mainly due to filling in of inter-tidal areas. Chris presented the issues and challenges and the trials undertaken with "floating roosts" which are artificial roosts, similar to a floating long line oyster bag system. The trial objectives, carried out both in Australia and the Janghang Coast of Korea, were to provide additional roost capacity for shorebird populations relying on threatened coastlines where natural roosts have been permanently or temporarily rendered functionally useless. While the trials had met with some success, Chris stressed that these artificial roosts were a last resort intervention for emergency cases and that all efforts should be made to restore natural roosts before considering floating roosts.

Jeff, Alan and John Hatch thanked Chris for a highly interesting and informative presentation.

7. **CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT:**

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

Beach Driving and Shore Birds – Jeff advised that following the video launched late last year another incident occurred involving 20 Red-necked Stints which were run over at Goolwa. After a delay of two months, a summary of the workshop, initiated by Minister Spiers in December 2021, has been issued with a broad consensus on the issues/problems, However, conditions continue to worsen.

Birds SA is trying to get National Parks to implement a permit system similar to that being used successfully interstate and will keep members posted.

Whalers Way Rocket Launch site – Jeff advised that Southern Launch has submitted a request for a variation to their approval for three test rocket launches at Whalers Way, originally scheduled for the end of 2021. The variation seeks approval for the test launches to be completed by the end of 2022. There has been as yet no further update from the Commonwealth on the EPBC Act determination of the rocket launch development being a controlled action. Controlled actions require assessment and approval under the EPBC Act before they can proceed.

Jeff stated that Birds SA were not opposed to Southern Launch's objectives but the location of Whalers Way for conducting these launches is not appropriate.

Blue Carbon project– Jeff outlined the Nature Conservancy's funding application to the Commonwealth for a Blue Carbon project in the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (AIBS), between Middle Beach and as far north as Parham. The project involves opening up large tracts of land to tidal flows, promoting the expansion of mangroves and saltmarshes which are very efficient for sequestering carbon dioxide. Birds SA has

provided a letter of support to the Nature Conservancy. Should the funding be secured and the project progress as planned it would be a great outcome for birds in the AIBS. Birds SA has, for some time, been carrying out bird surveys in these areas.

8. FIELD TRIPS:

Lynton Huxley advised the e-newsletter was out and detailed field trips for Gluepot as well as the Babblers and Fleurieu Birders. Up and coming Birds SA field trips:

- Sunday 27 February: Aldinga Scrub CP TRIP LEADER: Alan Burns
- Saturday 12 March: Paiwalla Wetlands TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley
- Thursday 17 March: Apex Park Wetland Reserve TRIP LEADER: Ali Ben Kahn
- Sunday 27 March: Onkaparinga Wetlands TRIP LEADER: Lynton Huxley
- Easter Camp Out will be at Gluepot

9. BIRD CALL:

There was no bird call this month.

10. OTHER BUSINESS:

Richard Woodland advised that Defence Shed in Port Adelaide would be making more nest boxes for sale at the Birds SA stall at Sophie's Patch over Easter. Boxes would mostly be micro boxes for the smaller birds, e.g. pardalotes.

Birds SA will be again looking for volunteers to help out on the Birds SA stall at Sophie's Patch. This will be the last open garden day at Sophie's Patch as the family is moving due to the encroaching development.

Birds SA have three (3) vacancies on the Management Committee and should any members be interested please contact us by email at general@birdssa.asn.au or secretary@birdssa.asn.au .

Birds SA is still looking for a FaceBook manager to start asap and also volunteers in other areas. Details will be in the next e-news.

11. NEXT MEETING: To be held Tuesday, 29 March 2022, at the Waite Institute, Charles Hawker 130 McLeod House Lecture Theatre on level 1 of the Charles Hawker Building.

12. CLOSURE: The meeting was closed at 20:48 pm.