

MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION INC. HELD ON 25 OCTOBER 2022 IN CHARLES HAWKER 101/102 AT THE WAITE CAMPUS

1. **OPENING:** The meeting was opened by president, Steven Langley at 19:40 pm, following the Special General Meeting. Steven welcomed all members, with 63 members being present at the meeting.
2. **APOLOGIES:** Andrew Black, Graham Carpenter, Richard Woodland.
3. **PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Minutes of the previous meeting held 27 September 2022, a copy of which is located in the members area of the Birds SA website, were proposed for acceptance by John Hatch, seconded by Jeff Groves and confirmed by the members present.
4. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Steven Langley**

Monarto: the seed orchard bed is now installed and some initial plants have been planted. Seedlings are being grown by members and will be ready for planting in the seed orchard in about three months. Steven to have discussions with BioR and DEW on the role Birds SA will play in the Monarto scheme.

Minko: 40 nest boxes erected a few months ago and will be inspected during a field trip on 30 October 2022. Details of field trip are on the website. A final landcare day will be held in November 2022, exact details to follow.

Vehicles on Beaches: DEW are very slow in acting on this issue. Steve Langley has been trying to escalate to the Minister, Susan Close and spoke to some of her team on Friday. Susan Close has previously said she will implement the recommendations of the public inquiry and may need to be reminded of this. It may need a public campaign, maybe in conjunction with BirdLife Australia.

It was noted that the Dept of Transport has lowered the speed limit at Goolwa beach from 100 kph to 40 kph.

SA Power Network: has agreed to some changes and retrofits on power poles and in the next few months there should be 20 priority sites trialled.

5. **MEMBERS REPORT: Alan Burns**

New Members: Alan welcomed all new members and reported that as of 30 September 2022 we have 1001 members.

Three additional members joined after the September General Meeting, namely:

IND	DAVID EBLEN	HENLEY BEACH	SA
FAM	MICHAEL & SAMANTHA NORRIS	WOODCROFT	SA

New members for October to 25 October 2022, are:

IND	NICHOLAS BISHOP	ENFIELD	SA
IND	SARA WATSON	BRIDGEWATER	SA
IND	TRISH AUKETT	ADELAIDE	SA

IND	ELSPETH YOUNG	ALDGATE	SA
FAM	LINDA & BRIAN DE VRIES	BRIGHTON	SA
FAM	WILLIAM, MISHA, ELLA, MATILDA & ANNA GODWARD	NAIRNE	SA
FAM	JULIE, TREVOR & VAL HILL AND TIMOTHY O'CONNELL	ASHTON	SA
FAM	DAVID CAMERON & CATHERINE BOWES	MT GAMBIER	SA

Three individual and four family memberships, a total of 17 new members in October.

Alan thanked Sue Winwood for preparing the new member figures.

New Membership System: Alan advised that Member Jungle has been chosen as the new Birds SA membership system and we will be transitioning members whose membership renewals are due in November into the new system. Hopefully all members will be in the new system by January 2023. As advised last meeting there will be an increase of \$5 in fees and also an increase in the cost of publications.

The new membership system comes with a smartphone App feature where members can interface with the Birds SA members area and also receive notifications from Birds SA.

Alan thanked Anita Smyth for all her hard work and effort in getting the new membership system recommended and approved.

John Gitsham, John Hatch and John Spiers run a WEA course titled Birds and Birdwatching and we are looking to record one of the courses next year and put it online for new members. It will not be interactive but will be a virtual classroom to assist new members with bird watching skills. If successful we will look to do others.

6. **GUEST SPEAKER: David Paton topic "Kangaroo Damage to Habitat."**

John Hatch introduced tonight's guest speaker David Paton, who has been involved in birds in this State for most of his life and was, amongst other things, an Associate Professor in the biological science department of Adelaide University and the author of numerous publications. David's focus has mostly been with South Australian and Australian birds.

David gave a passionate and educational talk on the damage to habitat by Kangaroos citing data and observations across multiple sites and a diversity of plant species and relating the consequences of damage to woodland birds.

The sites used in the study were:

Sandy Creek CP
Cromer CP
Big Flat Forest Reserve
Charleston CP
Newland Head CP

The study involved fencing off an area 20m x 20m or 25m x 25m and monitoring the difference in plant growth and success in flowering plants inside the fenced area compared to outside, where Kangaroos are present, over periods of up to 10 – 15 years.

The study shows not only a marked improvement in growth inside the fenced areas compared to outside but also a significant improvement in flowering plants and food source for woodland birds.

After taking a few questions from members, David was thanked by John Hatch for a fascinating talk and presented David with a small gift.

7. CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT: Ray Nias

Ray Nias presented the following Conservation Sub-Committee report:

- Regional members being sought for the Conservation Sub-Committee. Already have Fran Solly from Port Lincoln.
- Mt Lofty Ranges Bird Recovery Alliance – concerned with habitat regeneration to reverse the decline in woodland bird species, mainly due to loss of habitat. With only 10% of original habitat remaining we have lost 10 species already. The Alliance members include Birds SA, DEW, Landscape Board, Greening Adelaide Trees for Life CFS and Indigenous groups.
- We are working with the Nature Conservation Society on the issue of the rocket launching facility at Whalers Way on the Eyre Peninsula which directly threatens one of the most important populations of southern emu wrens. There are links in E-newsletter on how you can put your voice to the state government on how this development is not acceptable in this location. It not only affects emu wrens but also other birds such as Ospreys, in this area.
- State Government dog & cat management act is under review by various groups such as the RSPCA and Birds SA will be getting involved and having a say.
- Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (AIBS) and the Blue Carbon Project is a large scale coastal restoration project north of Adelaide being run by the Nature Conservancy with a several million dollar budget for coastal restoration. It will be launched this week and is one of three projects in Australia demonstrating the Blue Carbon process.
- We continue to try and talk to the state government about vehicles on beaches but it is slow going. Our position statement has been posted on the Birds SA website. There is supposed to be a discussion paper on this issue coming out very soon and once out Birds SA will be having an input. There is even a proposal to allow horses on beaches which we will try and find out more about. Tomorrow there is a meeting of the AIBS group in which a presentation from the Adelaide Plains Council about this equine activity that they are proposing and there will be an opportunity for Birds SA to its say.
- Bittern Survey - BirdLife Australia is carrying out a survey which covers the whole of SE Australia. Green Adelaide will be carrying out its own survey of known Bittern locations with the appointment of a professional ornithologist and is looking for volunteers to check out other areas which may have Bitterns – members can contact Ray Nias, if interested.

Ray thanked members of the Conservation Sub-Committee for all the work they put in.

8. **FIELD TRIPS: Lynton Huxley**

Up and coming field trips

Sunday, 30 October 2022 Minko Scrub – leader Steven Langley - registration via Eventbrite and will start at 9:00 am so that participants enter as a group, as Minko is on private property

12 November 2022 Deep Creek trip has been cancelled.

The Port Augusta Babblers field trip noted as 17 November 2022 in the Birder Magazine is actually Sunday, 13 November 2022 at Devils Peak near Quorn

The trip to Paiwalla Wetlands on 10 December 2022, has been postponed due to water issues. Further information on an alternative will be forthcoming.

2023 Easter Camp Out – Lynton has written to DEW to try and get the shearer's quarters at Balcanoona for next year's Easter camp out.

The November General Meeting on 29 November 2022 is members' night with four guest speakers. Afterwards there will be supper and members are requested to bring plate of food to share. Tea and coffee will be provided.

9. **BIRD CALL:** John Gitsham took the bird call in Graham Carpenters absence

This week was National bird count week.

Hindmarsh Island – Hindmarsh valley walk along river 45 species including lots of White-plumed Honeyeaters, Brown-headed Honeyeaters and Crested Shrike-tit

Tolderol - only saw 57 birds total of 15 species. Works going on there for maybe the next year affecting water levels and will not be so good for birds.

Laratinga – 14 woodland species and 16 waterbird species

Fulham Gardens – along river 2 Reed Warblers, White-faced herons x4, Superb Fairywrens male & female, New Holland Honeyeaters.

West Beach Wetlands – Superb Fairywrens, flocks of New Holland Honeyeaters.

John Gitsham property White-browed Scrubwren first time for 34 years.

Brookfield – Scrub Robin, Trillers, Red Back Kingfisher, Southern Whiteface; many more birds there than several years ago.

Aldinga Scrub – pair of Ospreys hanging around.

Torrens Mouth –up to Hindmarsh Bridge is a mess at West Beach Wetlands with works going on and poor for birds.

Driving into Gawler River beach – Glossy Ibis in channel

Shorebird monitoring held once a month in St Vincent Gulf run by Kate Buckley, if any members interested. Last survey in October counted 83 Eastern Curlew at four locations in St Vincent Gulf and 5 Whimbrel.

Paiwalla lookout – Little Eagle

Port Clinton – 1 Common Sandpiper and 2 Grey-tailed Tattler

Bool Lagoon and Hacks Lagoon have water throughout and should be good to visit in November.

Laratinga Bird Fair Sunday, 13 November 2022 from 10:00am to 3:00pm. There will be a Birds SA stand and there is a need for another three volunteers.

Rockleigh – Bee Eaters and 3 Diamond Firetails.

Firetails also at Browns Road in large numbers.

Budgies coming further south and on Yorke Peninsula.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Leo Joseph who was guest speaker in June, is also a jazz musician and will be playing at Tanunda on Friday and at the Wheatsheaf this Thursday, 27 October 2022.

11. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 29 November 2022, at the Waite Campus, Charles Hawker Building rooms 101/102. Will be a supper night and will start at 7:00pm

12. CLOSURE: The meeting was closed at 21:43 pm.

Signed as a true and correct record

Steven Langley

29 November 2022