

MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION INC. HELD ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2022 IN CHARLES HAWKER 101/102 AT THE WAITE CAMPUS

1. **OPENING:** The meeting was opened by the vice president, Jeff Groves at 19:33 pm, who welcomed all members, with 57 members being present at the meeting.
2. **APOLOGIES:** Steven Langley, Cynthia Pyle.
3. **PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Minutes of the previous meeting held 30 August 2022, a copy of which is located in the members area of the Birds SA website, were proposed for acceptance by Jeff Groves, seconded by Richard Woodland and confirmed by the members present.
4. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Jeff Groves**

Brian Blaylock: a memorial to celebrate the life of Brian Blaylock was held at Belair on Sunday, 18 September with many Birds SA members among the large number in attendance. The memorial was excellent and a very fitting celebration of Brian's extensive life and service to Birds SA and the community.

Vehicles on Beaches: Steven Langley and Jeff Groves met with Jason Irving and Kathryn Nicolai of DEW on 2 September to try and get some commitments and to present Birds SA's position statement. While the meeting was cordial there is no real progress with DEW having a huge workload. Birds SA will attempt to get DEW to make commitments on four actions:

- o Legislative Framework
- o Inventory of Critical sites
- o Design of Permit System – examples have been provided to DEW
- o Selection of Trial Sites

The only commitment from DEW was that we would see a discussion paper in 6 – 8 weeks. It is also very difficult to get to see the Minister, Susan Close.

New Membership System: see item 7 below..

New Management Committee member: Sue Winwood was voted on to the Management Committee at the last Management Committee meeting and was greeted with applause.

5. **GUEST SPEAKER: Ian Falkenberg topic "Recovery of the White-bellied Sea Eagle and Eastern Osprey and the use of artificial nest platforms and satellite tracking."**

John Hatch introduced tonight's guest speaker Ian Falkenberg, who amongst other things is the Chair of the Gluepot Management Committee and the South Australian representative of the BirdLife Australia Raptor Group and recently the co-ordinator of the Eastern Osprey and White-bellied Sea Eagle Recovery Plan on the Yorke and Eyre Peninsulas and KI

Ian gave an interesting and educational talk on the status of White-bellied Sea Eagles and Eastern Ospreys in South Australia and the use of artificial nest towers for the Eastern Osprey, which have been very well accepted by the Ospreys. The talk also included very interesting and informative information on the use of satellite tracking of Ospreys showing the distances and travel patterns covered by the birds.

While the South Australian population of White-bellied Sea Eagles (about 60 pairs) and Eastern Ospreys (about 50 pairs) is small compared to the rest of Australia, Ian believes the future for the birds, especially Ospreys, looks promising.

John Hatch thanked Ian for his informative talk and presented Ian with a small gift of chocolate.

6. CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT: Ray Nias

Ray Nias presented the following Conservation Sub-Committee report:

- Mt Lofty Ranges Bird Recovery Alliance – held a 2 day workshop about two weeks ago to discuss an ambitious revegetation plan which should have started 20 years ago. The Mt Lofty Ranges used to support around 110 woodland bird species and with only 10% of habitat remaining it is predicted over half of these species will disappear over time. We have lost 10 species already. It has been estimated that to reverse this and save the remaining species there needs to be recovery from the current 10% to 30% of habitat vegetation, which equates to about 150,000 ha. The Alliance members which include Birds SA, DEW, Landscape Board, all agreed the project should go forward and that it was a make or break project for South Australia.

Further information on progress will be released as the project develops and there will be involvement from Birds SA members.

- Bittern Survey - Green Adelaide will be carrying out its own survey 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 for a list of potential sites, if interested. Elisa Sparrow, Urban Ecologist at Green Adelaide, DEW is the contact for this survey. This survey will be collaborating with the larger BirdLife survey which covers the whole of SE Australia.

7. MEMBERS REPORT: Alan Burns

New Members: Alan reported 17 new members for September 2022, and in addition there were 3 further members after the meeting. New members for September 2022 are:

IND	JULIE HOCKING	HALLET COVE	SA
IND	LIAM BRYARS	RED CREEK	SA
IND	KRISTINE MILLS	DAINTREE	QLD
IND	JOHAN VAN DER WALT	KENSINGTON GDNS	SA
IND	PETER PHILIPPS	FLAGSTAFF HILL	SA
IND	JOE HANNON	ABERFOYLE PARK	SA
IND	PETER WOOD	MELROSE PARK	SA
IND	BILL O'BRIEN	MURRAY BRIDGE	SA
IND	TABITHA MCGORM	VICTOR HARBOR	SA
IND	CHRIS KIRBY	CRAIGBURN FARM	SA
IND	DIANA WARWICK	VICTOR HARBOR	SA
IND	DAVID EBLEN	HENLEY BEACH	SA
FAM	ROD LONG & BILL WILLIAMS	HALLETT COVE	SA
FAM	MICHAEL & SAMANTHA NORRIS	WOODCROFT	SA
FAM	KATHERINE, KELTON, ZARA & ISABEL TREMELLEN	STIRLING	SA

12 Individual and 3 Family memberships for a total of 20 new members.

New Membership System: Alan gave an update on the status of the new membership system and the working group progress. The current system is aging and in urgent need of upgrade according to IT specialists. An increase in the fees, which was due July 2021, was delayed until

the new system is in place and fees will eventually increase by \$5 and the cost of printed materials by \$20. The delay is costing the Association around \$7,500 per year. Early estimate for a new system was around \$30,000 for the system to be rebuilt. so it was decided to go with off the shelf system. Over a dozen systems were reviewed, many eliminated as they did not adequately meet the requirements of Birds SA. Demonstrations of a number of systems have been performed and the working group is close to arriving at two final candidates, with a final recommendation to the Management Committee shortly after. Annual costs for the new system are estimated between \$3,000 to \$4,000 and the timeline is to have the system up and running before Xmas. Alan thanked Anita Smyth for her expert application to this task and also to Sue Winwood, both of whom have contributed huge amounts of their time to this project.

8. FIELD TRIPS: Lynton Huxley

Up and coming field trips

Friday, 30 September to Tuesday 4 October 2022 Birds SA Long weekend camp out Lawari Conservation Park, Hindmarsh Island. There will be a \$20 fee for group costs. On the Saturday morning we will join Fleurieu Birders at Spring Mount CP, and the location of the group will be posted on the white board.

Saturday, 8 October 2022 Browns Road, Monarto, leader Lynton Huxley
Thursday, 20 October 2022 Laratinga Wetlands, leader John Gitsham

9. BIRD CALL: Graham Carpenter

Migratory birds are starting to return

Shining Bronze Cuckoo and Black-eared Cuckoo at Mt Kitchener

Koel heard at Prospect

Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo at Altona CP and Highgate

Southern Whiteface feeding young, White-winged Chough on nest, Purple-backed Fairywren and Hooded Robin at Browns Road last week

Rufous Songlark, Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo (H) & Rainbow Bee-eater (H) on Saturday at Gawler Trillers at Mt Kitchener

Brown Songlark and Spotted Harrier on the Adelaide plains

Glossy Black-Cockatoo still in Deep Creek area

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos at Gawler, Hindmarsh Island and Old Reynella (50)

A report from Tooperang of Tree Martins in their thousands

Still many birds along the Birdsville Track

Western Sandpiper sighted at Bald Hills Beach by Paul Taylor in April has been accepted by BARC

10. OTHER BUSINESS

- 1 Jeff Groves advised that the Register of Environmental Organisations (REO) require a minor change to rules of the new Rules of the Association which will need a Special General Meeting, either in October or November, to approve the change.

Jeff read out the proposed changes to rule 27.3 and rule 27.4

Current 27.3

The Conservation Fund was established to receive gifts of money or property from the general public for this purpose and any money received from such gifts must be credited to

the Conservation Fund bank account as specified in 27.7. The fund must not receive any other money into its account and must comply with subdivision 30 – 55E of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

Proposed 27.3

Members of the public are to be invited to make gifts of money or property to the fund for the environmental purposes of the Association. Any money received from such gifts must be credited to the Conservation Fund bank account as specified in 27.7. The fund must not receive any other money into its account and must comply with subdivision 30 - 55E of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

Current 27.4

The Conservation Fund will be administered by the Conservation Fund Committee of no fewer than three persons.

(a) The Conservation Fund Committee will be appointed by the Committee of the Association.

(b) A majority of the members of the Conservation Fund Committee are required to be “responsible persons” as defined by the Guidelines to the Register of Environmental Organisations.

Proposed 27.4

The Conservation Fund will be administered by the Conservation Fund Committee of no fewer than three persons. The Conservation Fund Committee will be appointed by the Committee of the Association and will have a majority of members who are “responsible persons” as defined by the Australian Taxation Office.

A motion that these changes to the Rules be put to a Special General Meeting was proposed by Jeff Groves and seconded by John Hatch and carried by a majority of members present.

Jeff also read out a definition of “responsible persons” and confirmed the Conservation Fund Committee met the requirement.

2 John Gitsham advised that the Laratinga Bird Fair will be on 13 November 2022 between 10:00am to 4:00pm and requested some 6-8 volunteers to help with Birds SA stand and three guided walks. Alan Burns is the contact person for Birds SA. There is a lot of water at Laratinga at present but it should dry out a bit by November and should be a good day out.

3 Lynton Huxley advised the library cupboards being stored on the Fleurieu Peninsular will be inspected early next week and will need volunteers to help relocate these to the new library location to the city later in October. Members can contact Lynton if available to help.

11. NEXT MEETING: to be held Tuesday, 25 October 2022, at the Waite Campus, Charles Hawker Building rooms 101/102.

12. CLOSURE: The meeting was closed at 21:30 pm.