

**MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION INC. HELD ON 29 MARCH 2022 IN CHARLES HAWKER 130 MCLEOD HOUSE LECTURE THEATRE AT THE WAITE CAMPUS**

1. **OPENING:** The meeting was opened by the president, Steven Langley at 19:35 pm, who welcomed members back to the Waite Campus for the first face to face meeting of the year.
2. **APOLOGIES:** none
3. **MINUTES:** Minutes of the meeting held via Zoom on 22 February 2022, a copy of which are located in the members area of the Birds SA website, were proposed for acceptance by Steven Langley and seconded by Roger Bourne.

4. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

**Minko Scrub:** Steven Langley advised that while the \$11,000 grant had been approved by SA Gov, the money was yet to be received. Two field trips have been arranged for Sunday 3 April and Sunday 10 April 2022, details of which are in the e-newsletter.

**Hindmarsh Tiers National Park:** Birds SA will be undertaking bird surveys and members who are interested in participating should contact Steven Langley. Terrain is rugged and will require 4wd vehicles to access. The ecologist understands Bassian Thrush and Chestnut-rumped Heathwren have been seen there and he believes it has got potential for Southern Emu-wren.

**Location for Library:** this is still an issue and unless the Waite relents it will require a new location. If members have any suggestions please let Steven Langley know.

**Education Webinars:** will restart this year and we are still seeking suggestions from members for topics for future webinars and also for presenters. Members can contact Steven Langley or email suggestions to [general@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:general@birdssa.asn.au) .

**Sophie's Patch:** we still need the assistance of three members for the Birds SA stall at Sophie's patch over Easter, one each for Saturday & Sunday mornings and one for Monday afternoon.

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

Julie Palmer	Meningie
Barbara Parker	North Haven
Nanou Carbourdin	Point Turton
Ann Nancarrow	Victor Harbour
Richard Irving	Netherby
Sue Brown	Coromandel Valley
Ian Radbone	Glenalta

6. **INTERACTIVE PANEL DISCUSSION:** John Hatch introduced the four panel members, namely John Gitsham, Anita Smyth, Merilyn Browne and John Hatch.

The panel discussed and answered questions on topics such as:

- how did you start birding?
- which field guide do you use in preference?
- bird photography v skins.
- taxonomy and changes in bird names.
- what is the best Australian songster?

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

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

**Duck Hunting** open season has commenced 19 March – 26 June 2022

- Bag limit 8 ducks/hunter/day
- Seven species – Grey Teal, Chestnut Teal, Black Duck, Shelduck, Wood Duck, Pink-eared Duck & Hardhead

**Quail Hunting** season 30 April – 31 July

- Bag limit 20 birds/hunter/day
- Stubble Quail

Jeff recommended members read the article by Geoff Russell in the latest issue of The Birder on the wounding and crippling of ducks by shooters.

**Implications of the Recent State Election**

As you are no doubt aware, many of the conservation issues which we face are affected by Govt actions or lack of action, policy decisions and bureaucracy. With the new Labor Govt there may be an opportunity to get greater priority for some of Birds SA concerns with which Govt has a role to play.

Susan Close - as well as her position as Deputy Premier, Susan Close has taken on the roles of Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, and Minister for Climate, Environment and Water.

Gaining access to the Deputy Premier and ensuring that Labor's commitments are followed through will be quite a challenge.

Some Key Commitments by Labor in the lead-up to the 2022 State Election were stated as follows:

Recreational hunting of native birds

Labor recognises the concerns of many people about recreational hunting of native birds which are not overabundant and will hold an inquiry into this practice.

St Kilda Mangroves

Labor will continue to work closely with locals and the Save St Kilda Mangroves coalition to develop a restoration plan for the damaged areas of mangrove forest and samphire

marsh in the St. Kilda area. Labor will also ensure the investigation into the cause of the die-off is completed as soon as possible to ensure any future incidents are avoided and ensure those responsible are held accountable for their actions

#### Off-road Vehicles

Labor will review the recommendations contained in the report of the Natural Resources Committee from June 2020 relating to vehicle access to sensitive environments, including beaches, which were not acted upon by the previous government.

#### Changes to the Pastoral Act

- Labor will retain the current 42 year lease terms.
- Labor will increase funding to the Pastoral Board by \$1m to get through the land condition assessments needed to give certainty to leaseholders in the pastoral lands. The decline in assessments in recent years is unacceptable.
- Labor will bring the pastoral team back to the environment portfolio and ensure it is properly funded to do its job.
- Labor will ensure the Pastoral Board is balanced and represented by all relevant sectors in accordance with the requirements of the Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act, including a representative from the Conservation Council of SA.

#### Rules of the Association

- It is still possible to comment on a draft of updated Rules of the Association
- Log in to Birds SA website and go to “Read the Minutes”
- Feedback Closes on 15 April 2022.

### 8. FIELD TRIPS:

Up and coming Birds SA field trips:

- Saturday 9 April: Browns Road TRIP LEADER: Phil Cole.
- Easter Camp Out at Gluepot, Bellbird campsite – note quarantine rules have changed in the Riverland.
- 11/12 June long weekend Brookfield CP TRIP LEADER: Ali ben Kahn – quarantine rules also apply

### 9. BIRD CALL:

Eastern Spinebills in the Adelaide plains

Pacific/Fork-tailed Swift

White -throated Needletail

Tree Martins in large numbers in Leigh St in the city

Crested Shrike-tit x2 Macclesfield

Royal Spoonbills in the Adelaide plains and many at Tolderol and Goolwa

Pelicans 4,000+ at North Pelican Island in the Coorong

White-breasted Sea Eagles in the Coorong

Square-tailed Kite nesting at Belair

Hooded Plovers 20+ at Middleton Beach

## **10. OTHER BUSINESS:**

Management Committee re-elections in May AGM as well as three (3) vacancies on the Management Committee. Should any members be interested please contact us by email at [general@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:general@birdssa.asn.au) or [secretary@birdssa.asn.au](mailto:secretary@birdssa.asn.au) and secretary will issue out Nomination Forms.

FaceBook manager is still required as well as volunteers across several areas (ad hoc commitment for specific tasks). E-newsletter article to follow.

Live streaming speakers at General Meetings – should be possible in the refurbished rooms and will be looked into.

Finally, the Panel's favourite place to Bird in SA

John Gitsham - Bool/Hacks Lagoon

John Hatch – Laratinga Wetlands

Merilyn Browne – Port MacDonnell Pelagic

Anita Smyth – Browns Road

**11. NEXT MEETING:** To be held Tuesday, 26 April 2022, at the Waite Campus, Charles Hawker Building rooms 101/102.

**12. CLOSURE:** The meeting was closed at 21:35 pm.