

MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION INC. HELD ON 30 AUGUST 2022 IN CHARLES HAWKER 101/102 AT THE WAITE CAMPUS

1. **OPENING:** The meeting was opened by the president, Steven Langley at 19:34 pm, who welcomed all members, with 48 members being present at the meeting.
2. **APOLOGIES:** Graham Carpenter, Lynton & Karen Huxley.
3. **PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Minutes of the previous meeting held 26 July 2022, a copy of which is located in the members area of the Birds SA website, were proposed for acceptance by Steven Langley, seconded by Jeff Groves and confirmed by the members present.
4. **VALE BRIAN BLAYLOCK**

Andrew Black announced that members will be saddened to learn of the death of Brian Blaylock on the morning of Monday, 8 August 2022, following a period of illness.

Brian was Birds SA's longest serving Honorary Secretary, serving 18 years. Beyond his duties and term as secretary, he contributed tirelessly to the functioning of the Association and was instrumental in setting up the Conservation Fund and the 2006 Associations Rules, helped setup the birds SA website, management of bird record data, ran the photo gallery, bird distribution maps and looked after "ask an expert".

A notice is also included in the current issue of The Birder.

Steven Langley advised that in recognition of Brian's long, voluntary and distinguished service and contribution to Birds SA, the Management Committee had supported a proposal that Brian be granted an Honorary Membership and it agreed that the Honorary Membership be granted posthumously.

Steven Langley proposed a motion that Honorary Membership be granted posthumously to Brian Blaylock and the proposal was overwhelmingly supported by the members present (the Rules require a two-thirds majority).

5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Steven Langley**
Monarto Seed Orchard: the seed orchard has now been installed at Callington and a workshop held to demonstrate how to plant the seeds/tubes. Seeding Natives gave 1200 plants ready to sow and conducted the demonstration.

Steven Langley advised he had 30 boxes of seeds and compost and requested volunteers to assist with the growing of the plants, which should be ready for planting in the seed orchard in about 3 months. The seed orchard will require around 7,200 plants.

Minko Scrub: Steven Langley advised that 40 nest boxes of various types have been installed and there have been three successful Landcare days, where large areas of broom have been cleared. The fourth Landcare Day is on Saturday, 8 October 2022.

Beach Driving:

Steven Langley and Jeff Groves will attend a meeting with senior personnel from DEW on Friday, 2 September 2022.

SAPN Stobie Pole modifications:

SA Power Network (SAPN) has made a commitment to modify the design of stobie poles to protect birds, mainly Ospreys and White-bellied Sea Eagles, from electrocution.

SAPN are taking positive steps and will commence at 10 priority sites in breeding areas of Ospreys and White-bellied Sea Eagles.

It was noted by members that the issue is not confined to Australia and that there have been reports from other countries of birds being electrocuted after contact with power lines/poles.

6. NEW MEMBERS: Alan Burns advised the following new members for July/August 2022

From late July, not previously acknowledged:

Lydia Callaghan	Christies Beach	SA
Krystal Knight	Old Reynella	SA

August Members

Robert Anderson	Mt Gambier	SA
Sarah Lyons	Maslin Beach	SA
Cathy Deland	Humbug Scrub	SA
Bronwyn Woodward	Keilor Park	VIC
Fran Solly	Port Lincoln	SA
Pauline Baltussen	Littehampton	SA
John Colman	Forestville	SA
Kasun Abeydeera	Magill	SA
David & Karen Fatchen	Freeling	SA
Shane Canney, Kylie Booth, Adele Canney & Marcus Canney	North Brighton	SA

Alan Burns read out an announcement regarding Wally Klau, a member of Birds SA for just short of 45 years and also a Management Committee member for a short period, who passed away on 28 June 2022.

Wally was a valuable member of the Gluepot Reserve Management Committee for almost 21 years. He had an in-depth knowledge of birds in general and particularly the Black-eared Miner.

He also guided and assisted many students and researchers in the art of bird banding and was awarded the Order of Australia in 2009 for his outstanding contribution to the field of ornithology.

A more detailed notice is included in the current issue of The Birder.

7. GUEST SPEAKER: Ali Ben Kahn topic “The Mount Lofty Ranges Woodland Birds Monitoring Project: What we actually do and what happens to our data.”

John Hatch introduced tonight’s guest speaker Ali Ben Kahn.

Ali has worked in the biodiversity conservation sector for over 30 years. After graduating with a Masters Degree in Environmental Science from University of Adelaide in 1993, one of her first jobs was as Scientific Officer with The Nature Conservation Society of SA (NCS). Since then, Ali has worked in or with Government agencies including the Department of Environment, Mines and Energy/PIRSA, the Attorney General's Department and with private consultancy companies, farming groups and several NGOs. Ali has served as a member of several Statutory Authorities along with many Boards and Committees.

Ali gave a very informative presentation on the Mount Lofty Ranges Woodland Birds Monitoring Project as a follow on to the talk given by Hugh Possingham in January 2022 and the article in November 2020 issue of 'THE BIRDER'.

Ali explained the Project and the data collected from surveys run by the Nature Conservation Society of South Australia and made an appeal for volunteers, who are desperately needed, to carry out surveys.

Steven Langley thanked Ali for her informative talk and made a call for volunteers.

8. CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT: Ray Nias

Ray Nias presented the following Conservation Sub-Committee report:

- Sub-Committee meets every month and has finalised Terms of Reference;
- Birds SA position on beach driving is now on the Birds SA website (Position Statement: Recreational Motor Vehicles and Threatened Coastal Birds under the Policies and Statements area of the website);
- Mt Lofty Ranges recovery alliance – various groups, including Birds SA, with relevance to birds. Alliance to put forward a proposal for landscape priorities for restoration of habitats across the ranges, including funding, management structure and co-ordination. The Sub-Committee will report on the proposal in coming months;
- State Government policy on domestic animals, especially cats & dogs, coming up for review. Birds SA to be involved in the review;
- Green Adelaide is looking for volunteers to carry out Bittern surveys – members can contact Ray Nias, if interested;
- Regional members of Birds SA being invited to join the Conservation Sub-Committee, we already have one good prospect.

9. FIELD TRIPS:

Up and coming field trips

Saturday, 10 September 2022 Altona CSR Landcare Reserve, leader Ali Ben Kahn

Thursday, 15 September 2022 Tangari Regional Park, leader Lynton Huxley

Friday, 30 September to Tuesday 4 October 2022 Birds SA Long weekend camp out Lawari Conservation Park, Hindmarsh Island.

Details of the above are in The Birder and on the Birds SA website, however, details of future trips beyond these dates are not yet available and did not make it into the recent issue of The

Birder. Members requested to keep eye out in the next E-newsletters regarding future field trips.

10. BIRD CALL:

In Graham Carpenter's absence the Bird Call was taken by Andrew Black.

Barbary Doves x2 seen in Prospect

Brown Quail seen in the Botanical Gardens

6 Ground Cuckoo-shrikes on the Willochra Plain north of Quorn

Grey Falcon on Birdsville Track nr Mungerannie

Black-tailed Native Hen

White-bellied Sea Eagle seen around Bolivar (thought to be nesting in Torrens Island Mangroves)

Glossy Black-Cockatoo observed at Deep Creek

Andrew advised that the "Ask an Expert" space on the Birds SA website, previously looked after by Brian Blaylock, was now being redirected to him. Andrew shared some photographs which had been sent in:

- Magpie with extra white on tail and belly – an example of Leucism (a wide variety of conditions that result in the partial loss of pigmentation in an animal)
- Female Fairy Wren on KI – thought to be a Variegated Fairy Wren but is a sub-species of Superb Fairy Wren where the KI females have greyer plumage and more colour on the tails and quite dark eye patch.
- Striated Pardalotes feeding in groups on the ground in the Clare region, possibly looking for lerp that have fallen to ground
- Buff-rumped Thornbill at Scott Conservation Park
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11. OTHER BUSINESS

1 Hooded Plover webinar by the BirdLife Australia Hooded Plover team to take place at 7:00pm on Wednesday 07 September 2022.

2 John Hatch reported that he had been in contact with John Bransbury author of "Where to see Birds in Australia", who was still alive and well and living in Devonshire.

3 John Gitsham advised that the Laratinga Bird Fair is back this year and requested volunteers to help with a Birds SA stand and walks around Laratinga, most likely on 6 November 2022. It was pointed out that the Lobethal Garden Festival is on 6 November 2022 also.

12. NEXT MEETING: to be held Tuesday, 27 September 2022, at the Waite Campus, Charles Hawker Building rooms 101/102.

13. CLOSURE: The meeting was closed at 21:48 pm.