

**MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION INC. HELD ON 31 JANUARY 2023 IN CHARLES HAWKER 101/102 AT THE WAITE CAMPUS**

1. **OPENING:** The meeting was opened by vice-president, Jeff Groves at 19:35 pm, welcoming all members to the first Birds SA meeting for 2023, with 77 members being present at the meeting.
2. **APOLOGIES:** Steven Langley, Richard Woodland, Colin Rogers and William Brooker.
3. **PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Minutes of the previous General Meeting held 29 November 2022, a copy of which is located on the members area of the Birds SA website, were proposed for acceptance by Anita Smyth, seconded by John Gitsham and confirmed by the members present.
4. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Jeff Groves**

With the President, Steven Langley, being an apology, the President's Report was presented by the vice-president Jeff Groves.

**Beach Driving:** In a meeting last November with Susan Close and senior DEW staff, Minister Close requested more evidence of public objections to beach driving. There have been many incidents and Birds SA has launched its campaign to pressure the current state government to uphold its electoral commitments to review the recommendations of the 2019 Parliamentary Enquiry.

We have engaged with BirdLife Australia to assist with this campaign with a petition being launched, media release published (as yet without response) and supporting material being prepared.

There is a link to the petition in the latest E-newsletter. Birds SA's position statement can also be found in the Policies and Statements area of the Birds SA website.

Support is needed from all Birds SA members to:

- Sign the petition (link in E-newsletter)
- Write to your MP and Susan Close
- Ask all friend and family to do the same
- Take any opportunity to raise this issue with politicians – Steven Langley had a chance meeting with Peter Malinauskas at one of his street corner meetings last week and raised this issue and the Duck hunting issue with him.

Steven Langley also met with the Greens who are very supportive of Birds SA position on his issue and regular meetings have been arranged with DEW.

Members voiced their support, citing several instances of inappropriate beach driving activities around the state.

**Duck and Quail Hunting Open Season 2023**

With Susan Close as Deputy Premier we have a unique opportunity to stop this. Details will follow and members are urged to give their support.

At the Open Season Stakeholder Panel Meeting on 19 December 2022, Birds SA was represented by Ray Nias. Steven Langley, David Andrewartha, Greg Johnston and Jeff Groves also attended, representing the Conservation Council (who get 6 seats at the table) and argued

for a highly restricted duck hunting season. Birds SA and Conservation Council argued for no Stubble Quail open season because of the lack of verifiable independent data on quail abundance. Given the bag limits allowed, clearly our arguments were not taken into account at all. Jeff gave an overview of the bag limits allowed and duck abundance taken from the SA Wetlands and Waterfowl Survey and the Eastern Australia Aerial Waterbird surveys.

**Monarto:** Jeff showed a photograph of the seedlings planted in the seed orchard at Hartley near Callington, which are growing well. These plants will eventually be used to support the revegetation activity that will be undertaken in the Adelaide Hills and Mt Lofty Ranges around the Monarto area. BioR also has a large seed orchard underway.

**New Management Committee member:** Jeff welcomed John Gitsham back onto the Management Committee.

## 5. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Jeff Groves respectfully asked John Hatch to leave the room for a short while. Jeff advised the meeting that under the rules of the Association honorary membership may be granted to members for distinguished service to the Association or in the cause of ornithology generally.

Jeff advised the meeting that a proposal in writing to grant Honorary membership to John Hatch was put to the Committee and that this proposal was supported by the Committee. Jeff stated that John had been a member of the South Australian Ornithological Association continuously since 1967 and read out John's achievements and outstanding contribution to the Association. Jeff also stated that by awarding Honorary Membership to John, the number of Honorary Members will not exceed the maximum of twelve stipulated in the Rules of the Association.

The proposal was put to the meeting and unanimously supported by the members present.

Upon returning to the meeting John Hatch was advised of the decision to grant him Honorary membership and was presented with a certificate of Honorary membership by Jeff Groves.

John gave a short speech, saying that the Association has been a very important part of his life in this State since coming to Australia and thanked the Committee and the members very much and that he felt greatly honoured.

## 6. MEMBERS REPORT: Alan Burns

**New Members:** there were eight new individual memberships approved to 12 December 2022:

December Members:

STUDENT	JOHN MADER	Pt NOARLUNGA SOUTH	SA
STUDENT	ASTRID ELIOT	COLONEL LIGHT GDNS	SA
STUDENT	SAPPHIRE LAZULI	GREENWITH	SA
INDIVIDUAL	MICHAEL BLOCH	BURTON	SA
INDIVIDUAL	ROSEMARY McARTHUR	STEPNEY	SA
INDIVIDUAL	BROOKE YATES	MT TORRENS	SA
INDIVIDUAL	SHARON WINTER	ABERFOYLE PARK	SA
INDIVIDUAL	MARISA ALA DEA	MT BARKER	SA

In addition, a further 18 new applications have been received since and these will be advised to members when approved.

**New Membership System:** Alan reported that Member Jungle was working well with special thanks to Anita Smyth who has done a lot of work over a long period of time.

Alan stated the number of financial members has increased but the system shows a drop in numbers from around 1,000 to 800, mainly due to secondary family members not yet being recognised in the system.

Alan reminded members they can contact either Sue Winwood or himself to help with getting all family members into the system. Also, printed copies of the screen pages to assist members with entering information into the system can be obtained from Alan. There is also an App for smartphones.

Alan announced that Claire Bourne has joined the membership team and will take over the new membership contacts and welcome packs, assisting Sue Winwood who has done a fantastic job in increasing membership numbers.

## **7. GUEST SPEAKER: Michael Moore**

John Hatch introduced tonight's guest speaker Michael Moore, who will give a talk on a recent birding trip he undertook to Costa Rica.

Michael gave an informative and highly entertaining presentation of his trip to Costa Rica in June 2022. The presentation was accompanied with photographs of the many spectacular species found there including Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers, Macaws, Toucans & Aracari, Mannikins, Owls and Tanagers.

John Hatch thanked Michael for his entertaining talk and presented him with a small gift.

## **8. CONSERVATION FUND COMMITTEE**

Anita Smyth gave a brief overview of the Conservation Fund Committee and announced the three new members to the Conservation Fund Committee, namely:

- Brian Walker
- Leo Joseph
- Charles Moore.

Anita welcomed the new members and advised that the Committee plans to ramp up activities of the Fund in the coming year. The first meeting of the Conservation Fund Committee with all the members will be held, probably via zoom, in February 2023.

## **9. CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT: Ray Nias**

Ray Nias reported that this year looked like being a big year for Conservation in Birds SA and for the Conservation Sub-Committee.

The main areas of focus being:

- Beach Driving and Duck & Quail Hunting already mentioned and the Conservation Sub-Committee has been very busy on those issues.

- Regional representatives to join the Conservation Sub-Committee - we are pleased to have Fran Solly from Port Lincoln, Karleah Berris from Kangaroo Island and Bryan Haywood from Mount Gambier join the Committee which will help us have a wider reach and better understanding of conservation issues across the whole of the State.
- Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (AIBS) and the Blue Carbon Project - The Nature Conservancy has received a grant from the government and philanthropic sources totalling around \$5M - \$6M for the conservation of coastal vegetation such as sea grasses and mangroves which store carbon dioxide in the ground. This grant will enable some very significant coastal restoration and habitat rehabilitation in the AIBS and we hope to have the leader of the project speak at a Birds SA meeting later this year.
- My Lofty Ranges Bird Recovery Alliance, a group of government and non-government organisations who have got together to halt the decline in bird species in the Mt Lofty Ranges. Predictions in the 1980's about loss of species have sadly been proved right. A grant of around \$800,000 has been received from the SA State Government to kick the project off and hopefully there will be many opportunities for Birds SA members to get involved through habitat rehabilitation and surveys etc. Hopefully this will be the start of a 50+ year project of revegetation of damaged areas and halting the decline in bird species in the Mt Lofty Ranges.
- SA Government to have consultation during 2023 as to whether there is a need for a Biodiversity Conservation Act and Birds SA expect to be engaged with this.

#### **10. FIELD TRIPS: Lynton Huxley**

Lynton reported that last Sunday's field trip at Myponga led by Wendy Phillips was attended by some 35 members. To enable Birds SA to better manage large numbers of members at our field trips we are looking at having a registration system either on the website, Facebook and/or Member jungle. This will also help with notifications such as weather and cancellations.

Up and coming field trips:

Saturday, 11 February 2023 Thompson's Beach will be at 08:00am to make the best of the tide time— Leader Kate Buckley

Thursday, 16 February 2023 Shepherd's Hill R P – Leader Lynton Huxley

Sunday, 26 February 2023 Buckland Park, Port Gawler – Leader Brian Walker

Saturday, 11 March 2023 Deep Creek with possible weekend camp out (further detail will be provided in E-newsletter)- Leader Lynton Huxley

Easter Campout at Balcanoona from 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Accommodation in the homestead is being taken up but there are 6 rooms still available. There are lots of birds in this area at the moment. Birds SA has also been requested by Leigh Creek Community to carry out a follow up bird survey at Aroona Dam, which can be done after the Easter Campout.

#### **11. BIRD CALL: Graham Carpenter**

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo - odd ones still being seen over city, also at Langhorne Creek and in the hills, 5-6 at Shiloh Park in Banksia bushes

Still many birds, Budgerigar and Cockatiel, up north, in places like Flinders Ranges

Crimson Chats at Brookfield

Some 2,000 Pelicans at Jacks Point in the Coorong

Not as many birds as one would expect along the Murray which is in flood  
Big Bend has Spoonbill, Pelican and Ibis but not in the 100's  
Swifts have not appeared yet. Some reported just west of Broken Hill  
3 pairs of Hooded Plover at Port Willunga Beach and 1 pair at Middleton Beach  
Fairy Terns have been nesting late but have hatched chicks on south side of the Murray Mouth  
Gluepot dams still have water and has 1,000's of Budgies, Zebra Finch, and Cockatiels and at least 150 Regent Parrots at Whistler Hide

Teresa Jack reported:

Vehicles on beaches out of control South Aussie with Cosie showing horse riding along with vehicles on beach, excessive vehicles camping on beach at Hardwicke Bay and Streaky Bay possibly due to Caravan parks being full  
Shorebird surveys still happening successfully each month  
FAIBS are starting program for the year  
Milang, Wellington and Jervois almost no birds due to flooding but did see 4 Wood Sandpiper and 6 Banded Lapwing at small pond in Milang  
Price Salt fields- during two surveys observed 19 Greater Sand Plover and surveys in St Vincent Gulf also finding them  
White-bellied Sea Eagle with five year old plumage seen over Price salt fields  
Osprey towers being used by Ospreys approximately 5 on Yorke Peninsula and one at Gleeson's Landing and one at Davenport are being used in the first season. At Edithburgh Ospreys are nesting on a communication tower

## **12. OTHER BUSINESS**

Birds SA Library – Karen Donkin thanked those involved in putting bookcases up at The Joinery and advised the books are now in place. The library will be open two days per month on Fridays, from 12:30pm to 3:00pm. Dates for February are 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Refer to E-newsletters for further dates and details.

There has also been a culling of books and the Management Committee will be approached to see about a book sale to members.

**13. NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, 28 February 2023, at the Waite Campus, Charles Hawker Building rooms 101/102.

**14. CLOSURE:** The meeting was closed at 21:50 pm.