



Natural History Society of South Australia

INCORPORATED

2014 Annual General Meeting Minutes

7:00pm Wednesday, 21st May 2014

Held at the Charles Hawker Conference Centre, Waite Institute

Welcome: Meeting opened at 7:00pm by Peter Clements

Attendees: Al Smith, Barb Endersby, Barbara Bray, Gary Taylor, Glen Taylor, Graham Nye, Jessica Strauss, John Endersby, Karen Collins, Kerrie Davies, Lynette Carmichael, Penny Harper, Peter Clements, Trevor Carmichael, and Wendy Clements

Guests: Donna Belder and Tristan O'Brien

Apologies: Our Patron – Mary Holt, Barbara Hardy, Michael Brindley, Colin Hutchinson, Jean McLaren, Walter Michelsen, Michael Metz, Barb & Keith Attrill, Linley Elliott, Andrew Beitz, Liz Cousins, Peter Reed & Christine O'Loughlin, Ray & Silvija Wallis and Jill Millhouse

BUSINESS

1. Minutes

- 1.1. Motion to adopt the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 2013.
Moved – Barbara Bray; seconded – Gary Taylor; motion – carried.

2. President's Report – Peter Clements

- 2.1. President's Report presented by Peter Clements (see Annex A).
2.2. Motion that we accept the President's Report.
Moved - Karen, seconded – Graham, motion – carried.

3. Treasurer's Report – Barb Endersby

- 3.1. A summary of the Society's major financial events over the last three years was presented by Barb Endersby.
- 3.1.1. Barbara Bray: we should have indemnity insurance that covers both Members and members of the Management Committee. Barb Endersby assured her we do carry this insurance although it is not listed as a separate item in the finances presented.
- 3.1.2. Motion that we accept the Treasurer's Report.
Moved – Barbara Bray; seconded – Al; motion – carried.
- 3.2. Receive the Auditor's Report of the Society's six-month adjustment financial period 1 July through 31 December 2011.
Note: A 6-month period of adjustment was required to bring our financial year, previously ending on 30 June each year, into compliance with our Constitution.
- 3.2.1. Questions were to be directed to the Auditor, but Andrew Beitz of Pitcher Partners had sent his apologies and said he is, "happy to take questions from any member directly who needs clarification on the numbers presented."

3.2.2. Motion to adopt the financial report of the Society for the six month adjustment financial period 1 July through 31 December 2011.

Moved – John; seconded – Graham; motion – carried.

3.3. Receive the Auditor's Report of the Society's 2012 financial year accounts was presented.

3.3.1. Questions may be directed to the Auditor after the meeting.

3.3.2. Motion to adopt the financial report of the Society for the 2012 financial year.

Moved – Karen; seconded – John; motion – carried.

3.4. Receive the Auditor's Report of the Society's 2013 financial year accounts was presented.

3.4.1. Questions may be directed to the Auditor after the meeting.

3.4.2. Motion to adopt the financial report of the Society for the 2012 financial year.

Moved – Barbara; seconded – Al; motion – carried.

4. Election of Management Committee Members

4.1. Peter Clements turns meeting over to Ray Wallis to conduct elections.

4.2. Nine persons nominated for election to the ten positions on the Management Committee as follows:

- Alister Smith
- Barb Endersby
- Gary Taylor
- Glen Taylor
- Graham Nye
- Jess Strauss
- John Endersby
- Karen Collins
- Peter Clements

4.3. Nominations closed on the 15th of May so no further nominations could be accepted.

4.4. Because there are fewer nominations than positions, motion to vote to accept all nominations by a show of hands.

Moved – John; seconded – Penny; carried.

4.5. Barbara Bray: Concerned that, by electing their own Office holders, the Committee has all the say, makes all the decisions in the Society.

John: Ordinary members are welcome to ask to attend committee meetings.

Carmichael: The Society's Members elect the Committee to act on their behalf.

Peter: If anyone has ideas for a better structure, please bring them up for discussion at the Special General Meeting to consider the proposed Constitution.

4.6. Karen: A special thank you must go to Barb Endersby for all her work in reconstructing the bank records and financial accounts that have now been successfully audited.

5. Appointment of Auditors

5.1. Peter Clements pointed out that our accounts are now fully compliant and Pitcher Partners will start charging a fee which we can ill afford. Peter investigated the possibility of finding a pro bono Auditor for the 2014 financial year through Friends of Parks and Bruce Evans was recommended. He confirmed to Peter that he would be happy to audit our accounts without charge.

Bruce Evans, Finance Account Manager
Finance & Business Services

Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
Hackney Road, Hackney
Ph 8222 9324 or 82049350
Email bruce.evans@sa.gov.au

5.1.1. Motion to appoint Bruce Evans as the Society's Auditor for the 2014 financial year.

Moved – Barbara; seconded – John; motion – carried.

6. Meeting Closure – 7:30pm

7. Guest Presentations:

Peter Clements started the Alwin Clements Prize in Natural History in 2013 in memory of his father, Alwin Clements. His great love of natural history is what kept him going for the Society and wombats. Our guest speakers are the first two recipients of the Alwin Clements Prize in Natural History:

7.1. Donna Belder: Foraging Ecology of the Chestnut-rumped Thornbill. Effect of habitat degradation in the arid lands.

7.2. Tristan O'Brien: Birds and Burns – Prescribed Burns & Birds in the Mt Lofty Ranges. Do birds respond well to controlled burning?

Signed: _____ Date _____

Signed: _____ Date _____

President's Report 2014

In this first year of the Society's new structure as an open organisation we have seen many advances, new opportunities and new challenges.



- We have a new Society website and our Facebook page continues to be very popular with an average of 350 people “Reached” each week. Al Smith has been very busy and has not only taken over management of the website but is in the process of scanning in all of the Society's documents and articles for access by registered members. He has scanned in a large number of archived photos as well. You will have seen a summary of what he has put on the site in your last journal. Al has also installed new signs at two of Moorunde's entrances.
- Karen Collins has taken excellent minutes and her action lists are essential aids. Her support for me in particular and the running of the Society is of incalculable value. Her ongoing management of the Facebook page is a very important public face of the Society.
- Research projects – ongoing from both Society members and universities:
 - John Endersby and Graham Nye – Recovery of Degenerated Former Pastoral Leasehold Land: Vegetation and Wildlife Study on the Twelve Mile Plain
 - Glen Taylor, ongoing – Wombat population survey, and Weed survey
 - Sophie (Topa) Petit's students:
 - Bianca Amato – Nectar flow for pygmy possums
 - Scott James – Plant growth in exclusion plots. UNISA
 - Amanda Camp (thesis study) – Southern hairy-nosed wombat diet reconstruction from scats using Next Generation Sequencing reveals toxic weed species. Uni of Adelaide. [DNA barcoding of plants in wombat scats. This is continuing with support from her project supervisors even though her thesis is completed.]
 - Jessica Strauss (thesis study) – Wombat habitat diet and weed influence. Flinders Uni
 - Lucy Woolford / Wayne Boardman: Jenna Hoffmann – Veterinary studies on wombats. Uni of Adelaide
 - Society members – Data on wombat behaviour (day / night) using motion sensor cameras.
- Revegetation projects
 - NRM Community Grant – Sustainable Wombat Habitat Restoration on Moorunde Wildlife Reserve.

Although we reported in the grant report last September that none of the spear grass that was spread in this enclosure had germinated, there has now been significant germination after the heavy rains in the last couple of months. We note that there has been significant spear grass germination all over the enclosure and particularly in the furrows planted with a cultivator and spread with oats as a carrier. Wallaby grass from tube stock has also been planted out in this enclosure.

○ John Endersby projects – Clay pan revegetation as a grass seed bank

A new area has been prepared with a cultivator and the dry material, mostly Ward's weed removed. This area is being fenced and planted out with grass grown in tube stock by members. Gary Taylor and I plan to visit a DEWNR clay pan ripping activity near Burra for further information on this type of project.

- Latifrons Shed – The new work shed was used for the Open Day last year and, although the floor is still not completed, it is already being used for meetings, study centre and other activities.
- Brenton and Alex Hann have installed a new water tank at Water Point No. 2. Alex Hann has begun reviewing motion sensor camera images a lot of which have no animals of interest in them.
- Our involvement with DEWNR and projects continues with mutual interest. A DEWNR workshop was held recently at Yookamurra Sanctuary, “Western Murray Mallee Patch Scale State-and-Transition Model Workshop”, to look at classifying levels of degradation in the mallee and ways of rehabilitating the areas. The Wombat Alliance continues.
- Relationships with neighbours at Yookamurra Sanctuary and Brookfield Conservation Park continue to be good and very cooperative.
- Application for inclusion in the Register of Environmental Organisations has gone to Canberra and is awaiting ministerial sign off pending approval of changes required in our constitution. We need this tax deductible status to begin serious fundraising.
- Heritage Agreement Grants continue to be a mainstay of our funding for rabbit and fox baiting as well as weed removal and these are prepared and submitted by Glen Taylor.
- Ranger duties continue to have many volunteers and Visitors & Volunteers Days are eagerly attended by many people, but we really need to encourage more participation as the projects on our reserves escalate.
- Wendy Clements is continuing to archive Society records and has started to look at herbarium specimens of plants at Moorunde with help from Amanda Camp.
- Barb Endersby has the Society's finances well in hand after working closely with BankSA to get accounts ready for audits and to get internet banking set up – a huge task! Karen Collins and Al Smith also worked with Barb to get online payments via Paypal set up on

our website which makes things a lot easier for both Barb and for members and supporters.

Some of the challenges are:

- Loss of supporters and funding – We were saddened to learn of the death of Dr Holt last year who had also been our major funding source. Fundraising has now become more urgent.
- Loss of valuable members – Although we have gained a number of welcome new members over the last year, they do not yet match the attrition of ageing members. A membership drive is needed.
- Succession planning –To ensure continuity of our management of the reserves and projects, we need to encourage new members to participate on the Management Committee and on other Working Groups.
- New land offers – The Society has offers of two parcels of land adjacent to Moorunde on both our eastern boundary (the rest of Portee, (\$225,000 needed) and our western boundary (\$240,000 needed). This will require a major fundraising effort as we need to secure enough additional funding to manage land as well. We await tax deductibility to engage this seriously.
- Management plans – These are planned to develop for both old (Moorunde) and new (Twelve Mile Plain and any further land purchases) sections when time permits.
- Nature trail development – While we had a study done by Elizabeth Mapletoft a while ago, we have not had the time to follow up and develop new trail markers and a brochure. This is getting some attention from Al Smith and me. Any offers of help gratefully received.
- New trail proposal for the northern sections of Twelve Mile Plain – This could bring in more serious hikers but access from the Sturt highway is problematic.
- Weeds – We have around 1,000 hectares of onion weed as well as horehound, thistles and heliotrope, to name but a few, which are an on-going challenge. Again, more helpers are needed.
- Cullen Reserve – A Friends of Cullen Reserve group is needed as going on a 4½ hour drive twice a year does not attract enough helpers. The area is small (29 ha) but the weed load is enormous.
- Budget planning – Barb Endersby and Graham Nye are doing a great job developing a budget for the Society which will make our planning a bit easier with all the new projects and funding opportunities.

I have given a talk to the Adelaide Hills Natural Resources Centre at Norton summit which was well attended. Another talk was given to the Tea Tree gully Kiwanis in May. A group of UNISA communication students have done a video project on the Society for which they interviewed me as well as visiting Moorunde and we await the results of this work. Two students, Donna Belder and Tristan O'Brien, have been recipients of the first University of Adelaide Alwin Clements Prize in Natural History.

I thank all members of the Committee for their tireless work in keeping the Society going and all the wonderful volunteers who have given their valuable time in maintaining the Reserves.

Peter Clements