



Natural History Society of South Australia Inc  
trading as

**Wombats SA**

**AGM 2020**



## **Treasurer's Report**

Wombats SA had a largely quiet financial 2019 with a lot of work carried out and one big surprise (more on this later).

Membership numbers for 2019 remained steady at 109, although we lost some members we also gained some throughout the year. While some memberships have been converted to Life or Honorary, the amount received for membership subscriptions was \$1,950. This is down from the \$2,914 received in 2018.

Discounting an unexpected bequest, membership subscriptions formed 43% of the income (\$4,544) for 2019.

Donations brought in \$1,610 for the 2019 financial year, although that is well down again from \$2,394 the previous year, we are grateful for these donations as they go directly to projects on our reserves and research. Monies spent on "administration" of Wombats SA comes entirely from members' subscriptions and other income (e.g. events and promotions).

So what was this "unexpected bequest" mentioned earlier? Anderson Law, the lawyers acting for the Estate of Margaret Helen Anthony (died 26/09/2017) contacted us to confirm our details so they could send a cheque as a bequest from her estate. When the cheque arrived in the post, we were stunned to find it was for the sum of \$75,000 and it was deposited in our Public Fund account on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February 2019! We do not have any contact information for her next of kin, so we were only able to send a grateful thank you to the lawyers.

This money will be used for projects that may fall outside those typically paid for by donations and beyond the ability of our other incomes. One of these has been the purchase of a specially-built trailer with a tank and pump that can be used for weed treatments or bush fire efforts (this is now on site). Another project has been to organise solar panels, batteries and electricity with LED lights for the Latifrons Shed. This will make it possible for researchers to make full use of the Shed while they carry out their work, as well as for our own usual needs. For both of these projects we must extend our huge thanks to

Adrian Jones and Peter Jones. Further projects from this bequest will be considered as we move forward.

The bequest was extremely welcome because a comparison of our income (without the bequest) of \$4,544 to our expenses for the year of \$5,117 means that we operated at a loss of \$573. We would like to improve this ratio to positive territory by increasing memberships, donations and, hopefully, some events in this year... in spite of the COVID-19 restrictions.

What is important is increasing the public awareness of Wombats SA and encouraging more people to become involved in and support our work.

Some of the Repairs & Maintenance expenses have been toward such items as the installation of shade cloth, guttering and a rainwater tank for the Latifrons Shed. A huge thank you to Glen Taylor for this much-welcomed work – no more rainwater undercutting the back of the shed floor. Repairs to the Woodcutters Hut are still on-going but great progress is being made thanks to our volunteers.

People are always welcome to offer their skills, interests, time and elbow grease to the myriad of tasks that need doing – sometimes as one-off projects and others as on-going work, some out on the reserves and some that can be done from home. Those wishing to support the work of Wombats SA but are unable to commit to an active role are encouraged to donate. Not only is this money ear-marked for projects, but it is more tax efficient for the donor.

As ever, I am grateful to Georgie Fiedler for her good-natured and patient assistance in helping with the final preparation of the accounts for audit and another thank you to Bruce Evans for taking on the job of auditing our accounts.

So I would like to add my thank you to everyone who has been able to 'attend' our Zoom AGM today and for your incredible and generous support over the last financial year and as we move forward.

Karen Collins

Treasurer, Wombats SA / NHSSA