



Natural History Society of South Australia
Inc trading as

Wombats SA

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Minutes of the Wombats SA Annual General Meeting 2023
6:00pm on Thursday, 27th May 2023
Meeting held at Blackwood Uniting Church hall and via Zoom

Attendees

Gary Taylor (President), Karen Collins (Treasurer), Adrian Jones (Secretary, Head Ranger), Peter Clements (Vice President), Peter Jones, Kevin Stead, Steve Protopapas, Sally Letcher, Merv Renton (Media Officer), Margaret Renton, Susanne Jahnes (Fundraising), Michael Brindley, Kerrie Davies, Penny Harper, Janine Clipstone, Jill Millhouse, Bill Breed, Peter Matejcic, and guest presenter Charlie Lassaline.

1. Welcome

Gary Taylor opened the meeting at 6.01pm with an Acknowledgement of Country.

2. Apologies were received from:

Valmai Hankel, Barbara Hardy, Anne Collins, Mike Collins, Ian Brett, Michael Dowling, Phil Budich, Anna Donaghy, Brian Donaghy, Kerry Hall, Matt Gaughwin, Jenny Agnew, Margaret Taylor, Mary Holt, Jackie Street, Lidia Rozman, Alex Clements, Jessica Clements, Wendy Clements, Wayne Donald, Cheryl Donald, Brady Stead, Nanette Hill, Barry Powell, Jo Kent, Adrian Jones, Ray Wallis, and Mike Swinbourne.

3. Minutes – AGM 11th May 2022

Minutes from the 2022 AGM had been circulated. The approval of them as a true record was moved Peter Clements, seconded Merv Renton. Passed (no dissension).

4. President's Report

Members were provided with a copy of and Gary Taylor presented the President's Report outlining the activities and achievements of the Society over the last year. The Society particularly misses the late Glen Taylor OAM, who had been an extremely active and dedicated member for so many years. Gary thanked Committee members for the various activities undertaken during the year. No questions arose from the report.

5. Financial Reports

Karen Collins presented the Financial Report for the Society, for the year 1st January to 31st December 2022, the auditor's account and an update on donations and fundraisers over the year. The balance sheet at the end of the year was \$66,860, about \$500 lower than at the same date in 2021. The Society has 119 members, of whom 34 are life members.

The auditor has requested a revaluation of the Society's freehold land.

No questions were raised from the Financial Report.

Karen Collins moved that the report be accepted, Kerrie Davies seconded. Passed (no dissension).

6. Appoint the Auditor for 2023 accounts

Karen Collins moved that Bruce Evans remain the auditor. Peter Jones seconded. Passed.

7. Elect up to ten general members to the Management Committee – nominations

For this part of the meeting, Gary Taylor passed the chair to Jill Millhouse.

As there were only ten nominations for the ten Committee positions, no election was necessary.

The following members were duly named as the Wombats SA Management Committee for 2023:

Adrian Jones
Gary Taylor
Karen Collins
Kerrie Davies
Merv Renton

Peter Clements
Peter Jones
Sally Letcher
Steve Protopapas
Susanne Jahnes

Accepted. Committee members will elect the Office Holders from within this list at the first meeting following this AGM. Meeting turned back to Gary Taylor.

8. Guest Speaker

Gary Taylor introduced the guest speaker Charlotte (Charlie) Lassaline. As she was unwell, and suspected that she was infected with COVID, Charlie presented her talk on line via ZOOM which was simultaneously shared on overhead screen and virtually online.

Charlie was the winner of the Alwin Clements Award in 2022, when she did her Honours project. This has now become her PhD research project. Charlie has been researching the diversity of species involved in the online trade of invertebrates, an understudied issue with potential to threaten Australia's natural environment. Such threats include (i) the introduction of invasive species, (ii) the introduction and spread of zoonotic diseases, and (iii) conservation threats from wild harvesting of native invertebrate populations. In 2022, she found that 264 species from seven different invertebrate classes had been traded, and the three most common invertebrates traded were the spiny leaf eater, Flinders scorpion, and silkworms. Eighty-five percent of all trades involved species native to Australia. Three invasive species, including (surprisingly) the pest land snail *Theba pisana*, were being openly traded without regulation. Her findings have implications for invertebrate conservation and biosecurity, and education for the wider community on terrestrial invertebrates, an understudied yet extraordinary taxa. In future she will be trying to establish just how big the trade is and how many international markets trade in Australian species.

9. Closure

Meeting closed 7.20 pm. Attendees then enjoyed chat over glasses of our own label 'Hairy Nose' wines, coffee/tea and nibbles.