



Natural History Society of South Australia
Inc trading as

Wombats SA

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Minutes of the Wombats SA Annual General Meeting 2024
2:00pm on Saturday, 6th April 2024
Meeting held in Rm 101/2, Charles Hawker building, Waite Campus,
Waite Road, Urrbrae and via Teams

Attendees

Gary Taylor (President), Karen Collins (Treasurer), Peter Clements (Vice President), Wendy Clements, Kevin Stead, Steve Protopapas, Sally Letcher, Merv Renton (Media Officer), Margaret Renton, Susanne Jahnes (Fundraising), Michael Brindley, Kerrie Davies (Secretary), Brian Donaghy, Jill Millhouse, Deb Berridge, Peter Cullen, Michael Dowling, Penny Harper, Jackie Street, and guest presenter Mollie Slater-Baker.

Anne Bynon and Steve Kilberg - via Teams from Arizona in the USA.

1. Welcome

Gary Taylor opened the meeting at 2.01pm with an Acknowledgement of Country.

2. Apologies were received from:

Adrian Jones (Secretary, Head Ranger), Peter Jones, Mary Holt, Rudi Tromp, Wayne Donald, Barbara Hardy, Enid Jones, Anna Donaghy, Jessica Clements, Michael Dowling, Matt Gaughwin, Jenny Agnew, Brady Stead, Nanette Hill, Barry Powell, Jenny Wightman, and Ray Wallis.

3. Minutes – AGM 27th May 2023

Minutes from the 2023 AGM had been circulated. The approval of them as a true record was moved Peter Clements, seconded Sally Letcher. Passed (no dissension).

4. President's Report

Members were provided with a copy of the President's Report. Gary Taylor presented the Report, outlining the activities and achievements of the Society over the last year.

Condolences were expressed on the death of Cheryl Donald, a long-time member and neighbour at the Moorunde Reserve. A successful open day was held at Moorunde in October 2023, and we were delighted that Mary Holt was able to attend. Gary thanked Committee members for the various activities undertaken during the year. Two new life members were appointed - Jenny Wightman and Enid Jones (who will be 100 in November). Both have been long-term members of the Association, and have made significant contributions to it. 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 2023, the auditor's account and an update on donations and fundraisers over the year. We received \$36,500 as a bequest from the estate of David Pounsett. Donations for the year were \$10,258; down slightly from the preceding year. The balance sheet at the end of the year was \$111,310, about \$45,000 more than at the same date in 2022. The Society had 71 financial members at the end of 2023, of whom 35 were life members. Non-financial members will be discontinued.

Karen thanked the auditor and the accountant (Georgie Fiedler) for their continuing work and support; and gave a huge 'thank you' to book-keeper Margaret Renton. No questions were raised from the Financial Report.

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

6. Appoint the Auditor for 2024 accounts

Karen Collins moved that Bruce Evans remain the auditor. Margaret Renton 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 nine 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
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 Mollie Slater-Baker.

Mollie was the winner of the Alwin Clements Award in 2023, when she did her Honours project. This has now expanded to become her PhD research project. The title of her presentation was 'The biodiversity and taxonomy of braconid parasitoid wasps in Australia'.

Mollie explained that Braconidae is a highly diverse family of parasitoid wasps found worldwide, which need a host to complete their lifecycle. Often, this involves the larvae of the wasps feeding on a host insect while it is still alive! Though gruesome, this lifecycle means that many braconids have important roles in regulating native insect populations, and are also widely used for biological control of insect pests in agriculture. These wasps have incredible diversity, and are tiny, needing microscopic study backed by DNA analyses where possible. This has resulted in slow progress in documentation of many braconid groups. Mollie's research is focused on three under-studied groups of braconid wasps found in Australia. She is exploring the diversity of these wasps using modern taxonomic and

systematics methods, to provide important basic information describing species and distributions. Mollie's talk was illustrated with beautiful images of these fascinating little wasps.

Her talk was enthusiastically received, and Mollie answered many questions from her audience.

9. Closure

Meeting closed 2.50 pm. Attendees then enjoyed chat, coffee/tea and nibbles. 'Wombats' merchandise was also available for purchase.