

2022 Annual General Meeting

Election of Directors - Candidate Statements

Mandy Bamford

Mandy is re-standing for the BirdLife Australia Board after completing her second three-year term in May 2022. She has been Vice President since May 2021. A Western Australian member, Mandy joined the RAOU as a child in 1976 when she became an atlasser during the first Atlas of Australian Birds. Mandy assisted with promotion when the first Atlas was released and worked as a Project Officer for the RAOU on several wetland projects as a recent graduate in zoology.

Mandy is a partner in an ecological consulting business, where she works as an ecologist and science communicator; presenting workshops, creating interpretative signage, websites, education packages and has taught science communication and animal survey techniques at the University of WA. She is passionate about communicating environmental messages to a broad audience and works collaboratively with communities, companies and governments in professional and volunteer capacities. Mandy was consultant ecologist for Boorna Waanginy *The Trees Speak*, a large scale, environmentally themed installation for Perth Festival, and was part of the design team for the redevelopment of Herdsman Lake Discovery Centre in Perth. She and husband Mike Bamford are guest ecologists on ABC and other media outlets in Perth and were jointly awarded the Inaugural Biodiversity Ambassadorship Award from the Curtin Institute for Biodiversity and Climate in 2011.

Mandy is President of the WA Gould League and Chair of the Herdsman Lake Regional Park Community Advisory Committee.

Gerard Early

Gerard Early was appointed independent Chair of the first BirdLife Australia Board in 2011. He was elected President in 2013 and has been on the BirdLife Board since then.

Gerard ceased being BirdLife President in 2017 after six years in the position and, since then, has been a Director and member of the Audit and Risk Committee and Australian Bird Fund Committee (from 2017 to 2018) and Chair of the Governance Committee (since 2019). Gerard has represented BirdLife in meetings with Ministers, has appeared for BirdLife at Parliamentary Committee hearings and has addressed BirdLife issues at various public meetings. In 2020, Gerard was elected an Honorary Life Member of BirdLife Australia.

Although not professing any specific expertise in relation to birds, Gerard has a strong commitment to biodiversity conservation, having worked in the field for forty-five years. He also has a strong commitment to BirdLife Australia which he believes has been very successful in working with science, BirdLife members and supporters and the general public to save Australian birds and their habitats and to increase community appreciation of Australian birds. He sees the challenge for BirdLife as building on that success to realise its full potential as Australia's national champion of bird conservation.

Prior to joining the BirdLife Board, Gerard had been Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth Environment Department, a position he left at the end of 2010. Previously he had held other senior environment-related appointments, including Deputy Chief Executive of the Australian Nature Conservation Agency and Deputy Director of the Australian Heritage Commission. He was awarded the Public Service Medal in 2007 for outstanding public service in the protection and conservation of Australia's natural environment and cultural heritage.

Gerard has considerable Board expertise as a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and having served on the Boards of the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority, the Japanese-based Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, the Murray-Darling Basin Commission and BirdLife Australia. He also served on various advisory committees for CSIRO and the Australian Fisheries Management Authority as well as a delegate of the WA Environmental Protection Authority. Gerard represented Australia on many occasions at the United Nations, the OECD and a wide range of other international, regional and national fora.

Martine Maron

I am fortunate to be BirdLife Australia's current President, and a member of the Board since 2011. I served as Vice-President to John Barkla, and am past chair of BirdLife Australia's Research and Conservation Committee, the Australasian Ornithological Conference Advisory Committee, and the South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo Recovery Team.

I am an environmental scientist based at The University of Queensland, with expertise in environmental policy and ecology (particularly avian conservation ecology). I work closely with state and federal governments in Australia to improve environmental policy through formal advisory roles and collaborative research projects. I am a member of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists, a group which, like BirdLife, is a trusted, science-based voice on environmental and sustainability issues in Australia. I was Deputy Director of the Australian Government's NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub for six years, an initiative involving 120 academic staff and students across 11 institutions, for which I helped manage significant research planning exercises and allocation and reporting for large research budgets. My substantive position is as a Professor of Environmental Management at The University of Queensland, and in this flexible role, I have opportunity to connect with members, researchers and collaborating organisations on a regular basis.