**BirdLife Melbourne Agenda**

**Annual General Meeting 23 April 2024**

**Venue:** Greythorn Community Hub, 2 Centre Way, Greythorn

1. **Apologies**
2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
3. **President’s Report 2023**

Alan Crawford – Attachment A

1. **Treasurer’s Report 2023**

Greg Hempenstall – Attachment B

1. **Election of Committee Members**

No new Committee members were nominated.

1. **General Business**

Kelvin Thomson has taken on the role of Education Co-ordinator and the committee thank him and look forward to working with him.

New Committee members are currently sought so any member who wishes to make a contribution please speak with the President!

**BirdLife Melbourne President’s Report for 2023**

In 2023, BirdLife Melbourne was able to return to normal activities and provide a range of activities for members and visitors. I would first like to thank all those who help in running the branch. We aim to support the work of BirdLife Australia and we are also supported by National Office staff and volunteers, in particular Fiona Cahill and Nicola Shadbolt, who took over from James Matcott during the year in helping us with running the branch.

Our membership is around 3000, with many other supporters. We are the largest BirdLife branch, with approximately 20% of total BirdLife membership.

Outings:

We ran a full program of outing during the year and I’d like to thank those who assisted. Many people co-ordinate or lead activities. Co-ordinators are Phillip West (Weekdays’ Outings), Hazel and Alan Veevers (Beginners’ Outings), Maryanne Anderson (Yellingbo birdwalks) and Peter Bennet (Photography Group).

At the end of the year, Hazel and Alan Veevers announced their intention to retire as Beginners’ Outings co-ordinators at the end of 2024, although they have organized the outings program for the remainder of the year. I would like to thank Hazel and Alan for organising and leading successful and popular outings over many years. We are now looking for a successor to take over as co-ordinator.

I would also like to acknowledge Mike Carter, who sadly passed away on the last day of 2023, for his work with BirdLife, particularly in running the monthly surveys at the Eastern Treatment Plant.

Communications:

E-news, our email newsletter, is our main communication to members and was sent out regularly during the year. This contains details of activities and news articles.

With the assistance of others, Adriana Bianchi uploads items such as outing reports to the Blog. Thank you to the contributors and photographers who provide

We are now only maintaining the BirdLife Melbourne information on the new BirdLife Australia website. The old BirdLife Melbourne website is still viewable, with a lot of reference information, but will not be updated. Discussions are ongoing with BirdLife Australia regarding an improved website presence for local branches and changes will be made in 2024, e.g. including local birding sites.

There is also a Facebook page which promotes our activities to a wider group, including non-members – thanks to Chris Farrell and others for posting and setting up events in Facebook and to all those that contribute.

Meetings and Education:

Chris Farrell has done an amazing job of arranging monthly speakers for the meetings and also sets up the room, along with Greg Hempenstall and Scot Sharman. We have had a steady audience of mostly regular attendees and are keen to increase attendance with better promotion of the meetings.

Thanks to Heather Mitchener and Janet Hand for providing the refreshments and to Sonja Ross who welcomes visitors.

Limited talks, walks and other education activities were carried out by members of the committee.

Melbourne Water Surveys and other Conservation Activities:

Scot Sharman co-ordinates and produces reports for the Melbourne Water Dandenong Catchment Surveys. Volunteers from BirdLife Melbourne are now surveying 8 sites, providing useful information for this survey, which has now been running for 16 years.

The monthly Yellingbo birdwalks have continued, run by Maryanne Anderson.

We have also assisted with BirdLife Australia’s conservation campaigns, particularly around the new Nature Laws and proposed marina at Toondah Harbour. We also responded to local requests for help with areas threatened with development. BirdLife Melbourne was represented at a local screening of the Flyways film, which highlighted the importance of shorebird flyways around the world and the threats they face.

Committee

The committee members give time to enable BirdLife Melbourne to continue to grow and develop. It would be great if other members will volunteer to give some time to help us.

In addition to those committee members previously mentioned, Madeleine Jenkins has performed the role of Secretary, assisting with the running of the group, working on activities and dealing with many enquiries.

We appreciate the members who take part in our activities and meetings and are happy to receive any suggestions or comments.

Alan Crawford

**Birdlife Melbourne**

**Treasurer’s Report for the year ended 31 December 2023.**

After a more active year after the Covid period, the branch recorded an accounting surplus of $702 (in 2022 a deficit of $946).

Donations received from our members are not recorded in our books as they are collected by the National Office. A funding system exists whereby the branch office prepares a budget for the following year and the National Office allocates funds. No activities were planned in the periods during Covid period thus no reimbursement was received in the year 2022.

In this year the reimbursement was in two tranches totalled $2,950.

The principal expense incurred each year is the rental of the meeting hall in Greythorn for 11 months of the year.

More specifics of the activities undertaken during the year can be found in the President’s Report.

Greg Hempenstall FCPA

Treasurer Melbourne Birdlife.

7 February 2024

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|  |  | **Birdlife Melbourne** |  |  |
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|  |  | Profit and Loss statement to 31 December 2023 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | 2023 |  | 2022 |
|  |  |  |  | $ |  | $ |
|  |  | **Income** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Donations | 0 |  | 0 |
|  |  | GST Refunds |  86.27  |  | 2.21 |
|  |  | HQ Reimbursements |  2,950.00  |  | 0 |
|  |  | Total |  |  3,036.27  |  | 2.21 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **Outgoings** |  |  |  |
|  |  | Meeting Expenses | 474.5 |  | 197.5 |
|  |  | Hall Hire |  | 1831.5 |  | 726.0 |
|  |  | Communications | 28.0 |  | 25.49 |
|  |  |  |  | 2334 |  | 948.99 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Surplus/Deficit |  702.27  |  | -946.78 |