

2024 Annual General Meeting

Election of Directors – Candidate Statements

Ashley Bunce

Ashley is a senior public servant with a strong commitment to biodiversity conservation and animal welfare. With over 20 years of experience, he has held senior leadership roles as a senior executive in both the Queensland and Victorian governments, including for many years as the head of the threatened species section in Queensland where he developed conservation strategies and led recovery actions in the most biodiverse region in Australia. Previously, he held positions in the university sector where he focused on using conservation science to inform effective policy design for reversing biodiversity declines.

Ashley's interest in birds stems from a childhood spent exploring the bush and coasts across the different corners of Australia. He has a particular interest in seabirds and shorebirds and in 2023 achieved a life goal of having seen all three species of gannet and seven species of booby in the world! He first joined BirdLife Australia in the late 1990's and over the years has been involved in supporting it in different capacities including as Treasurer of the Australasian Seabird Group (a special interest group) for many years.

As a board member, Ashley will support BirdLife Australia to advocate for stronger action to halt bird extinctions, focus on partnerships with greater collaboration between government, research, and community conservation groups, and better support rigorous science combined with practical on ground action to save Australia's birds and habitats.

Ashley has considerable Board expertise he can draw on to assist BirdLife Australia implement its Bird Conservation Strategy. He is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and currently serves on the Boards of Vets Beyond Borders, the Pinnacle Foundation and National Regulators Community of Practice. He has also served on various government advisory committees, including the Species Technical Committee (scientific committee for listing threatened species in Queensland), the Intergovernmental Hendra virus Taskforce, National Marine Mammal Advisory Committee as well as the National Plan of Action (Seabirds).

David Mould

David has 25 years' experience of governance and leadership training, having run his own business, "Second Strike", since 1999. The business began by helping primary and high school student governments with strategic planning, meetings, minute taking and whole range of leadership skills to get away from running "casual clothes days" and engage with serious issues as a professional organisation.

As a Board member of BirdLife Australia, David aims to support greater connection and collaboration with young people across the country who share a passion for birds.

David has experience sitting on Boards of other animals, always with an aim to help and support wildlife, including Environment Education Victoria and Kiwi's New Life Bird Rescue where his areas of expertise were in policy drafting and governance compliance.

David, a totally addicted birdwatcher, has been involved in the strategic design of several campaigns for the care and protection of wildlife, most notably with Geelong Duck Rescue, a local campaign seeking the end of recreational duck shooting.

In his spare time, David runs a small animal rescue and rehoming charity, New Life for Animals, specialising in the rehabilitation of birds.

Summary of skill set:

- Training/Facilitation
- Governance and effective meetings
- Organisational Leadership
- Project/Event management
- Campaign design
- Policy development

Gillian Jervis

Gillian is a Certified Practising Accountant and Institute of Community Directors Graduate with extensive experience in financial risk management, forensic accounting, regulatory compliance and governance within the corporate, public and not-for-profit sectors. She also holds a Master of Applied Finance from the University of Melbourne. Gillian's diverse experience in differing roles across varied organisations and industries has provided opportunities to broaden her perspective and adapt to varying organisational challenges and cultures (both in Australia and overseas). During this time, Gillian gained valuable skills in stakeholder communication, financial analysis/reporting and value-added client outcomes. Organisations include ANZ, BHP, The Royal Commission into the Building & Construction Industry and the Consumer Policy Research Centre (a not-for-profit public sector entity with the State Government of Victoria).

After an initial career in the corporate sector Gillian was keen to redirect her skills and energies to the not-for-profit sector which gave her a unique opportunity to combine a long-term passion for the environment with professional skills. She is a firm believer in striving for a more environmentally sustainable world through effective collaboration and community connections. Working in various finance/volunteer roles in the not-for-profit sector during the past 15 years has inspired Gillian to continuously strive for financial innovation and sustainability, endeavouring to make a positive impact no matter how small. She has served as Treasurer on several community organisation boards/committees including the Yarra Riverkeeper Association, Australian Plants Society South East Melbourne Branch and more recently the Kooyong Koot Alliance (KKA), a collaboration of more than 20 Friends' Groups within Melbourne's Gardiners Creek Catchment that advocate for a more healthy and sustainable catchment. Gillian's dedication and work ethic was recognised in 2016 as a recipient of a Higgins Community Award on behalf of the Yarra Riverkeeper Association for dedication and service to the community within the City of Stonnington.

In recognition of her committed involvement in environmental volunteering, Gillian was invited to be a panellist judge for the Premier's Sustainability Awards for 2020, 2021 and 2023 in the categories "Environmental Volunteering" and "Healthy Environment – Community Champion".

Growing up on a sheep farm in South-West Victoria provided Gillian with many opportunities to explore and appreciate natural spaces. Birdwatching and bushwalking activities have been her life-long passion. Gillian is a passionate supporter of preserving our threatened flora and fauna species.

She is a regular volunteer with Cranbourne Botanic Gardens Victoria and Westgate Biodiversity Bili Nursery & Landcare assisting their Nursery and Horticulture Teams with seed collection, plant conservation/revegetation activities (including Raising Rarity Program). She also volunteers at the National Herbarium of Victoria assisting with plant specimen curation.

Gillian is a co-opted member of the BirdLife Australian Bird Fund and Finance & Audit Committees. It would be an honour and privilege to serve on the BirdLife Australia Board, with opportunity to actively contribute to bird conservation and research.

Paddy Moylan

Paddy has been a lawyer for 22 years, primarily in sports law, relationship disputes and corporate advisory whilst enjoying range of Board roles touching on sport, health, agriculture and the like. Paddy is a current President of a listed company in the renewables sector with a strong environmental focus.

Paddy joined BirdLife in 2023 and have spent most of her life in farms in regional Australia. She has always enjoyed native birds and was moved to join and contribute. Apart from her legal and board skills, she has volunteered many time for several organization's.

Stephen Garnett

Professor Stephen Garnett has been involved with BirdLife Australia since he attended his first RAOU Congress in 1971. He was a sub-editor of the first two volumes of the Handbook of Birds for Australia, New Zealand and Antarctica, has served two terms on the Research and Conservation Committee, was on the board of *Emu* (for which he arranged the digitization of the first 100 years), was awarded the Serventy Medal in 2008 and elected as a Fellow of BirdLife Australia in 2016. He established the BirdLife Australia Threatened Species Committee in 2003 and ran it until 2023, initiated the Important Bird Area program in Australia in 2003, has led the creation of all four versions of the Action Plan for Australian Birds (1992, 2000, 2011, 2021) and currently chairs the Taxonomic Advisory Committee.

Away from BirdLife Australia, Stephen is Professor of Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods at Charles Darwin University, where he has been a professor since 2004 including three years as Director of the School for Environmental Research. He currently runs an Australian Research Council funded project on organizational governance. He is an elected Counsellor for Birds with the Convention on Migratory Species and is on the Global Team for the Catalogue of Life as well as running their list governance committee. Google Scholar lists nearly 800 publications under his name including over 300 peer-reviewed papers listed under Scopus. Previously his career has included undertaking detailed research on Golden-shouldered Parrots and Kangaroo Island Glossy Black-Cockatoos, working for the Queensland Government, running a small business, science journalism and consultancies. He is a director of two small conservation NGOs.

Judith Hoyle

Judith is nominating for a second term on the Board of Directors of BirdLife Australia. She has been a member of BirdLife Australia, and its predecessor organisations, since 1996. She continues to coordinate and lead multiple bird surveys for BirdLife Australia and other conservation organisations, from the Queensland coast to the Great Sandy Desert.

Her 9-year term as Convenor of BirdLife Southern Queensland gives Judith unique insights into the strategic importance of maintaining strong regional relationships with BirdLife's branches, networks, volunteers, and supporters, as without them, BirdLife Australia would not be able to achieve its bold conservation goals.

For almost 10 years, Judith has been BirdLife Australia's lead advocate in the campaign to stop 3600 apartments and a marina being constructed within part of the Moreton Bay Ramsar site at Toondah. Judith understands the vital importance of 'people power'. This successful grassroots campaign mobilised tens of thousands of people to take direct action opposing this development. It has become a national and international exemplar of mobilising communities to challenge inappropriate developments in areas of high conservation value that directly threaten bird populations and critically endangered species.

She is the current chair of the Toondah Alliance, coordinating a complex and multifaceted campaign during its most critical phase. In early April the Minister for the Environment and Water announced that she was proposing to reject the development based on its impact on the Ramsar site and the critically endangered animals that depend on it. A week later, the Walker Corporation withdrew its development application.

Judith is a member of BirdLife Australia's Community Grants and Participation Subcommittee, and she represents the board on BirdLife Australia's Participation Strategy Steering Group.