

2026 Annual General Meeting

Candidate Statements for the Election of Directors



Hugh Possingham

Hugh Possingham has served as a Director of BirdLife Australia since 2020 and is up for re-election. Hugh has been Vice-President from 2023, and Chair of the Community Grants & Awards, and Finance & Audit Committees.

As a Board Director Hugh's focus will be to improve the support and communication BirdLife provides to branches, affiliated groups, members and supporters - the "BirdLife family". In the past few years the organisation has successfully focussed its purpose on stopping bird extinctions. We need to ensure every member and supporter can be engaged in the delivery of bird conservation – whether that be direct action, systematic surveys, citizen science, lobbying the government, raising funds or others forms of volunteering.

Hugh Possingham is a world-renowned scientist with a highly distinguished career, during which he has published >760 peer-reviewed papers and supervised >150 doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows. He co-developed the conservation planning Marxan software used in more than 180 countries for designing nature reserves and zoning plans (including the Great Barrier Reef).

Over the past 30 years, he has also contributed to innumerable boards and expert advisory committees, including the Myer Foundation, Bush Heritage Australia, Birds Australia, Conservation International, Biodiversity Council and the World Wildlife Fund. He was the inaugural chair of the Australian federal government's Biological Diversity Advisory Committee, and a founding member of the Wentworth Group that leads Australia's water reforms.

Hugh served as Chief Scientist of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) from 2016-2020, then Chief Scientist of Queensland 2020-2022.

He previously directed the Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Science at the University of Queensland, Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions and the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program Threatened Species Recovery Hub. While at The University of Queensland, Hugh raised over A\$100 million in research grants for conservation science, mainly from the Australian Research Council and the Federal Environment Department.

Hugh has one obsession - a compulsive desire to watch birds. His favourite birding spots are in Brisbane and in the Limestone Coast of South Australia where he has done over a thousand 20 min 2 ha counts. While his research covers many areas of nature conservation, he is well known to the global scientific bird community, having been a plenary speaker at an International Ornithological Conference in Tokyo and the only Australian to deliver the Alfred Newton Lecture for the British Ornithological Union. Hugh helped organise the Australasian Ornithological Congress in Brisbane in November 2023.

Hugh's achievements are available in Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugh_Possingham.

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Jarrold Pittson

Jarrold Pittson is seeking election to the BirdLife Australia Board, bringing over two decades of leadership in environmental strategy, governance, and government relations.

Jarrold's commitment to BirdLife's mission predates his Board tenure. In 2014, he secured funding for BirdLife Australia's work to protect the Geum Estuary, in South Korea. Now part of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Yellow Sea tidal flats, it remains a vital refuge for migratory shorebirds along the East Asian–Australasian Flyway, a powerful reminder of what collective action can achieve.

Since joining the Board in 2020, he has helped guide BirdLife through the challenges of COVID-19, ensuring the organisation remained strong and focused on its mission. Jarrold currently chairs the Development Committee and serves on the Governance Committee, supporting both the long-term sustainability and integrity of the organisation.

He secured funding for Avian Sensitivity Tool for Energy Planning (AVISTEP), an innovative mapping tool to better integrate bird conservation into energy development. Its launch at the 2025 Australasian Ornithological Conference marked an important step forward in aligning conservation and industry outcomes.

Professionally, Jarrold brings extensive executive experience in environmental management, climate strategy, and stakeholder engagement, leading large multidisciplinary teams and working across government, industry, and community sectors. He brings this experience to BirdLife in service of its members and mission.

Jarrold has found it a privilege to serve on the BirdLife Australia Board for the past six years and remains committed to supporting the organisation and its members in delivering meaningful conservation outcomes. He would value your support to continue contributing his experience in service of BirdLife's goals.

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Penny McMullin

Penny was first elected to the Board of Directors in 2023 and is now standing for re-election.

Penny is a driven business leader with a demonstrated track record of success in financial leadership. With over 20 years of experience, she has held senior positions in several large corporations, managing profit and loss and driving financial growth, including oversight of a business generating \$1.9 billion in annual revenue. Penny holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting and Business Law) from the University of NSW and is also a Chartered Accountant.

Since her appointment to the Board in 2023, Penny also serves on the Finance and Audit Committee at BirdLife Australia utilising her financial and accounting skills.

Professionally, Penny is currently a Senior Commercial Manager at Qantas Loyalty, following her previous role as a Sustainability Manager at Qantas Freight. Her current responsibilities include complex commercial partnerships, financial modelling and strategic initiatives, within one of Australia's largest loyalty businesses.

Her diverse career started in audit in 2001, since then she's held various commercially focused roles across industries such as FMCG, Financial Services, Media and IT. Across senior roles at Lion, Coca Cola Amatil and Qantas Freight, Penny held accountability for managing the profit and loss, strategic planning, risk management and major transformation initiatives. She led the development of long-term growth strategies, introduced improved performance measurement frameworks, and built complex business cases to support new initiatives.

Penny continues to actively support bird conservation and rehabilitation. She supports BirdLife Southern NSW local branch initiatives, with a particular focus on shorebirds, and remains a committed WIRES volunteer, specialising in native bird care and rehabilitation.

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Tuanh Nguyen OAM GAICD

Tuanh was first elected as a Board Director of Birdlife Australia in 2023 and is standing for re-election. She currently also serves as the Chair of the Governance Committee.

Tuanh is a distinguished legal, governance and risk leader, with a career spanning corporate law, risk management and executive leadership. She is currently the Chief Legal & Risk Officer at Virtus Health, a global fertility services provider, where she oversees legal, risk, compliance and governance functions across operations in Australia, Europe and Asia. Her work focuses on strengthening quality, safety and ethical care within a highly regulated and deeply human sector.

Prior to this, Tuanh spent nearly two decades in private legal practice advising Australian and international clients on complex mergers and acquisitions, private equity transactions and corporate governance. She has held senior roles at global legal and professional services firms, including Norton Rose Fulbright, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) and Baker McKenzie, and previously was a Partner at Norton Rose Fulbright. She has been recognised for her strategic insight, collaborative leadership and commitment to developing diverse talent, receiving multiple industry accolades, including as Special Counsel of the Year in the Women in Law Awards and the Australian Law Awards.

Tuanh is also a recognised advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), with a longstanding commitment to advancing cultural diversity within Australia's professional services and corporate sectors. Her contributions were nationally recognised when she was named one of the 40 Under 40 Most Influential Asian Australians in 2020.

Beyond her executive role, Tuanh serves on several not-for-profit and cultural boards, including CatholicCare Victoria, Vietnamese Museum Australia and the Asian Australian Foundation. Through these roles, she contributes to strengthening governance, supporting vulnerable communities and advancing meaningful social impact.

In 2024, Tuanh was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for her service to the community through governance and advocacy. Tuanh's involvement with BirdLife Australia stems from her personal interest in animal welfare and conservation. She is a keen birdwatcher and has previously worked at the RSCPA as an animal handler, caring for animals awaiting adoption.

Tuanh holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) and a Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) from Monash University and Master of Laws (LLM) from the University of Melbourne. She is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD) and is admitted as an Australian legal practitioner in Victoria and the High Court of Australia.

Across her professional and community work, Tuanh brings a strong commitment to governance excellence and leads with courage, curiosity and integrity.