



R O Y A L  
Z o o l o g i c a l  
S O C I E T Y  
of S.A. Incorporated

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Minutes of the  
138<sup>th</sup> Annual General meeting of the Society  
held in the Fig Tree Function Room at Adelaide Zoo  
on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2016  
commencing at 7.00pm

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chairman, Mr David Sanders, opened the meeting and welcomed 65 members. He confirmed that a quorum was present.

Apologies were received from 6 members.

### **2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 137<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

**MOVED:** S Pearson

**SECONDED:** R Hobbs

**THAT** the minutes of the 137<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting as published in the 2015/16 Annual Report be confirmed.

**CARRIED**

### **3. Review of the year 2015/2016 by the President.**

Mr Sanders provided an overview of the last financial year and highlighted some of the fantastic achievements of the society, staff and supporters.

#### ***Financial overview***

Mr Sanders reported that the Board is exceptionally pleased with what has been achieved in the last financial year. The 2015/16 financial year saw us strengthen our financial position, with the organisation recording another financial surplus – this time of just over \$927,000, which was \$866,000 ahead of our budget surplus of \$61,000.

Pleasingly, this was achieved in a very challenging budget environment with tough revenue targets.

This meant we were able to reduce the Westpac debt by \$221,000, with a balance at 30 June of \$6.3 million. We have budgeted to reduce this by \$500,000 during the 2016-17 financial year.

Mr Sanders went on to outline the things that had helped drive the financial performance over the last financial year.

#### ***Visitor growth***

Zoos SA continued the trend of strong visitor growth, with increases in attendances at Adelaide Zoo and Monarto Zoo of 7% and 8% respectively. This equates to some 566,000 people visiting our sites, which is up from 527,000 in 2014-15. This delivered an increase in admissions and retail income of \$479,000, which was up 6% on last financial year.

He reported that we had focussed on enhancing visitor experience by delivering infrastructure upgrades and creating engaging experiences that attract and inspire visitors. Close to 12,000 people participated in one of our animal experiences and brief encounters.

Significant booking increases were recorded for the Chimpanzee and Rhino experiences at Monarto Zoo following births. At Adelaide Zoo, the Big Cats and Hippo encounters proved to be the most popular behind the scenes experiences. We also launched a daily Giraffe Feeding experience at Adelaide Zoo, offering visitors of all ages the opportunity to interact and feed a Giraffe for just \$10. This has proven to be highly popular and diversified our experience offering.

### ***Education***

Our Zoo Learning team continued to work with teachers and students to develop and deliver education projects to inform, inspire and connect people with nature. In 2015/16, more than 58,000 students, teachers and caregivers visited our site, which is up from 51,000 last financial year.

### ***Membership***

Membership numbers reached the milestone of 40,000 in January 2016, following the opening of Nature's Playground at Adelaide Zoo. This was a remarkable achievement for the organisation as few South Australian institutions ever record such numbers. These numbers are further confirmation that we are one of South Australia's most loved organisations. Importantly, this increase in membership amounts to approximately \$456,000 in additional income.

This strong membership growth equals many more people each year connecting with nature in a fun and engaging way, while supporting us to achieve our conservation goals.

### ***Major sponsors and corporate support***

Mr Sanders gave thanks to a number of generous supporters leaving gifts in their wills with bequest income reaching over \$753,000.

Corporate support from in-kind contributions and sponsorships increased by \$853,000 to \$1,992,000. This increased corporate support is particularly pleasing given the difficult and competitive corporate sponsorship market.

### ***Reducing costs***

Our zoos are not immune to the cost pressures faced by all businesses, so we continued to explore opportunities to reduce costs, consumption and waste. To this end, Mr Sanders noted that operating expenditure was well controlled, with several initiatives being implemented to drive efficiencies and reduce costs.

Late in 2015/16, Zoos SA implemented a solar power purchasing agreement with AGL. This solar PPA has no upfront costs and will be fully owned by Zoos SA after seven years. The financial benefits of this investment will commence this financial year. The effect of these panels will be to reduce our reliance on externally supplied electricity by approximately 20%, and result in reduced emissions of 200 tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup>.

In addition to reducing costs, this allows Zoos SA to showcase environmental sustainability and inspire visitors to do the same.

### ***Capital investments***

Mr Sanders reported that In 2015/16, Zoos SA invested \$2,921,000 in capital projects, with the Nature's Playground at Adelaide Zoo being the most significant development delivered ahead of time and within budget.

We continue to invest in maintenance and improvement capital, balancing the need for maintenance investment with the requirement to invest in new and exciting facilities.

We also increased our investment portfolio, with a purchase of an additional \$30,000 in shares. In 2015/16, our portfolio returned dividends of \$26,000.

### ***Conservation***

The year's successes in the fields of visitor experience, membership and education are important and far-reaching; however Mr Sanders was proud to say Zoos SA's most significant achievements relate to conservation and saving species from extinction.

In 2015/16 Zoos SA continued to contribute to tangible conservation outcomes with a number of significant breeding successes. At the start of this year, we were thrilled to announce a world-first in captive breeding with the birth of fourteen endangered Pygmy Blue-tongue Lizards. At Adelaide Zoo, we successfully bred the critically endangered Orange Bellied Parrot, the critically endangered Western Swamp Tortoise, and the Dyeing Poison Dart Frog. At Monarto Zoo, almost 70 per cent of the animals which call the park home are critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable or near threatened.

Earlier this year, Zoos SA welcomed four endangered African Wild Dog puppies to the family and we have also experienced success breeding the endangered Przewalski's Horse and the critically endangered Addax

antelope. A survey in May this year of Addax numbers in Africa found there are only three surviving in the wild. At Monarto Zoo alone, our keepers have proudly bred more than thirty Addax since 1994.

He noted that these examples demonstrate that modern zoos are much more than a collection of animals and are more important than ever.

Mr Sanders also reported that beyond the zoos' grounds, Zoos SA has been active in field conservation and research. Our conservation efforts continued both locally and internationally with staff from across the organisation continuing to work together to achieve some great outcomes in helping to save species.

On the local front, work has continued across three of our wallaby programs: the Black-flanked Rock-wallaby, the Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby and the Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby. Support of these programs includes a variety of activities ranging from feral control and captive breeding, to the monitoring of released animals.

Likewise, Zoos SA continued to work with local farmers in southeast South Australia to protect and restore stringybark habitat, the main feeding trees of the southeast Red-tailed Black-cockatoo. Zoos SA supported the planting of almost 6,000 native tube stock to protect and restore this habitat. We also supported eight international conservation projects financially to reduce threats to endangered species and protect important habitat for wildlife.

As a conservation charity, Mr Sanders noted that we must continually prioritise financial sustainability so that we can continue to fund and sustain these successful conservation programs.

#### ***Board update***

Mr Sanders reported that the Zoos SA Board remains highly engaged to ensure that the organisation achieves our aspiration of becoming a leading conservation society, while delivering diversified revenue streams and the continuation of a sustainable financial base that supports the organisation.

He extended his thanks to all Board members whose expertise has helped secure a sustainable future for many species.

He also thanked our skilled and hardworking staff, ably lead by Elaine and the leadership team.

He reported that this evening, the meeting will ratify the election of two Board members – Julieann Riedstra and Dennis Mutton – who he is sure will make significant contributions to the organisation.

In closing, Mr Sanders said that he looked forward to continuing to work with Board, staff, volunteers and members to save species from extinction and connect people with nature.

#### **4. Adoption of Balance Sheet and Accounts for 2015/2016**

**MOVED:** P Page

**SECONDED:** R Hobbs

**THAT** the Balance Sheet and Accounts for 2015/2016 be adopted.

**CARRIED**

#### **5. Appointment of Auditor for 2016/2017**

**MOVED:** N Newland

**SECONDED:**

**THAT** KPMG be appointed as Auditor for the 2016/17 year.

**CARRIED**

#### **7. Report of the Board in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 35 (5) concerning disclosure of any benefit to Officers.**

No officer has received any benefit of any pecuniary value.

**8. Changes to the Membership of the Board.**

**8.1 Board Election**

Mr Sanders reported that Ms Julieann Riedstra and Mr Dennis Mutton had been elected to the Board. He also noted that Mr Hobbs and Ms Shepard were retiring from the Board and thanked them for their contribution.

**MOVED:** P Clark

**SECONDED:** R Schrale

**THAT** the meeting ratify the election of Ms Riedstra and Mr Mutton as incoming Board members.

**CARRIED**

**8.2 Board Composition**

Mr Sanders announced the Board composition for 2016/17 being:

Mr David Sanders	President
Ms Julieann Riedstra	Vice-President
Mr Kevin McGuinness	
Prof Carol Tilt	
Mr Dennis Mutton	
Mr Graeme Crook	

Board appointed members:

Ms Kate Thiele  
Mr Tim Jarvis

The meeting congratulated all Board members and thanked them for their continued contribution.

**9. Any Other Business:**

No notification of other business was received by the Public Officer by the due date of 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

**10. Close of Meeting.**

The Chairman thanked all members for attending and declared the meeting closed at 7.15 pm.

Signed as a true and correct record:

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Chairman

Date