



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
141st Annual General meeting of the Society
held in the Fig Tree Function Room at Adelaide Zoo
on Thursday 21st November, 2019
commencing at 7.00pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

Zoos SA President, Mr David Sanders opened the meeting, welcomed members attending and confirmed that a quorum was present.

Apologies were received from 17 members.

2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 140th Annual General Meeting

MOVED: P Page

SECONDED: P Clark

THAT the minutes of the 140th Annual General Meeting as published in the Annual Report be confirmed.

CARRIED

3. Review of the year 2018/2019 by the President.

The Chair gave a brief report on the year in review and reserved his further comments to the end of the meeting. He noted 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 noted key financial achievements for the year including:

- Surplus of \$47,000
- Admissions revenue up by 4%
- Membership revenue down by 3%
- Strong utilisation of the Lions 360 experience
- Nearly \$2.5m invested in capital
- Controlled cash flow
- Maintenance and development capital expenditure in line with previous years, with additional investment supported by unbudgeted donation funds.

4. Adoption of Balance Sheet and Accounts for 2018/2019

MOVED: T Whitworth

SECONDED: D Mutton

THAT the Balance Sheet and Accounts for 2018/2019 be adopted.

CARRIED

5. Appointment of Auditor for 2019/2020

MOVED: S Sorensen

SECONDED: M Wright

THAT KPMG be appointed as Auditor for the 2019/20 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. Proposed Revised Rules.

The Chair introduced the proposed changes that fall into three categories as follows:

- Voting rights for group members.
- Future-proofing our membership notifications, financial systems, and assets.
- Governance changes relating to the Board, which will increase the effectiveness of the Board's operations.

He noted that one change being put to vote is to afford group members the same voting rights and therefore, by extension, the same opportunity to stand for Board election as annual and life members. Currently group members are precluded from voting and therefore standing for Board election and there is no documentation as to why this rule was originally instated.

Another key change relates to the Associations Incorporation Act, Zoos SA being an Incorporated Association. Section 43 of the Act prohibits the distribution of surplus assets at the completion of a winding-up to members or former members, or associates of those persons. During this review of the Rules, it was noted they were silent regarding the treatment of surplus assets if the association is wound up. The addition in section 19 clarifies the treatment of surplus assets in the unlikely event that the Society is wound up, and ensures that surplus assets are unable to be distributed to members.

The proposed wording changes were distributed earlier and were also made available to members at the meeting. The Chair briefly introduced each proposed change and invited questions from the meeting. There was some discussion on the discount provided to group members and it was clarified that this is part of an arrangement with the sponsor. It was also confirmed that group memberships are not transferrable. The meeting was also informed that the proposed changes with regard the posting of meeting notices only effects Board members.

There being no further discussion on these proposals it was:

MOVED: S Boxall

SECONDED: S Sorensen

THAT the proposed changes to the Rules of the Society be adopted.

**CARRIED BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY
1 vote against**

9. Membership of the Board.

9.1 Board Election

The Chair reported that Ms Julieann Reidstra and Mr Dennis Mutton had been re-elected to the Board.

MOVED: R Hobbs

SECONDED: S Eastick

THAT the meeting ratify the election of Julieann Reidstra and Dennis Mutton as incoming Board members.

CARRIED

9.2 Board Composition

The Chair reported that his term as President expires at the conclusion of this meeting. The Board had met prior to the Annual General Meeting to elect a new President and Vice-President. The Chair was pleased to announce the Board for 2019/20 being:

Ms Juliann Reidstra	President
Mr Dennis Mutton	Vice President
Dr Susie Robinson	
Prof Carol Tilt	
Mr Kristofer Helgen	
Mr David Sanders	

Board appointed members:

Ms Kate Thiele
Mr Rod Buchecker
Mr Bill Spurr

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

10. Any Other Business:

No notification of other business was received by the Public Officer. Mr Sanders, however, took this opportunity to reflect on the key successes and highlights in his six years as President of the Society.

He noted that the past seven years on the board (six as President) have been nothing short of fulfilling. When he joined the board in 2013, Zoos SA was in the process of embarking on a period of transformational change – both financially and culturally. He suggested that we all, deep down, want to make the world a little better than it was when we entered it and this has been his motivation these past seven years. It has been an exciting time and, while it would be impossible to list all of the achievements, he would speak specifically about six key highlights in the past six years that shaped the future direction of Zoos SA.

Financial sustainability and governance

He suggested that this may not be overly attention-grabbing but it is incredibly important. In his first twelve months, the Board focused on continuing work to strengthen our governance and were very well supported by our two sub committees, Finance and Audit and Risk and Governance.

The Board and senior management team introduced a much-needed 'business' approach to the zoo. This meant introducing governance arrangements, policies, delegations, KPIs, and reporting, to ensure we were measuring our impact in every key area. We developed a Strategic Plan, a Five-Year Business Plan and spent 18 months developing a 20-Year Master Plan for both sites.

This included joint Board and senior management team strategic planning sessions that gave us the chance to review our strategic objectives and discuss our key priority areas moving forward. We also discussed how we could best maximise board input and reshape our board meetings to be more strategic and ensure appropriate risk oversight.

Not only have we returned Zoos SA to a financial surplus and commenced debt repayment ahead of schedule, but staff engagement has increased as well.

He reported that this had reinforced to him that with clear leadership, a strategic approach, and a focus on measurement when combined with passion and commitment, anything is achievable!

Nature Theatre and Nature's Playground

In 2014, we developed the Nature Theatre Team, which put a renewed focus on animal presentations and visitor engagement. Working closely with multiple teams across Adelaide and Monarto, Nature Theatre aimed to improve existing animal presentations and also develop other new and exciting opportunities for our visitors to learn about our animals and connect with nature. This created a value added experience for our visitors and continues to play a key role today.

Not long after, we also announced we were building a Nature's Playground that was officially opened in December 2015. This was a significant achievement for our organisation just ten months after releasing our Master Plan and marked a new era for Adelaide Zoo. Following the launch of our new play space, we reached a significant milestone of 42,530 members.

Lions 360

In November 2017, we threw open the doors to South Australia's newest adventure tourism attraction – Lions 360.

Guaranteed to leave you in even more awe than when you entered, our innovative Lions 360 experience sees visitors walk through a tunnel and emerge within clawing range of one of Australia's largest African Lion prides. Lions 360 has been a roaring success, with almost 27 thousand people taking the walk of the brave since it launched in 2017, generating over \$1.8m in sales for the organisation.

He noted that modern zoos are reversing the traditional zoo experience, putting the animals in the driver's seat while also giving visitors the opportunity to connect with nature.

Wild Africa and accommodation

In the context of highlights, he was pleased to include the announcement that Australian businessman Gerry Ryan OAM will build and operate a luxury resort and glamping facilities at Monarto Safari Park as part of a multi-million dollar expansion. This exciting \$40 million expansion will transform the site into the world's largest safari experience outside of Africa and marked its rebranding as 'Monarto Safari Park'.

He remarked that it's pretty exciting to know that in the not-so-distant future, visitors will be able to sleep nestled in the wilderness under a blanket of stars or retreat to luxury after a day of exploring the park.

This significant highlight is a credit to Ms Bensted and Mr Clark in particular who shared their vision with Mr Ryan and were key to attracting the funds.

Looking to the future

The Chair suggested that no one can deny that zoos started as places for entertainment, but as society has evolved so too has the role of the modern zoo. Today, good zoos are local and global conservation agencies, modern day arks in an age of unprecedented extinction – fighting every day to ensure more species don't disappear.

In the past six years, this call to action has become more urgent and we've become more focused than ever before on connecting people with nature in a positive way and persuading our visitors to make a difference.

As cultural attitudes towards animals have changed, our industry has become much more professional, rigorous and thorough in the way we assess an animal's welfare and make animal welfare decisions. This has been great to see in my time as president. We now have an Animal Welfare Ethics Committee which invites oversight from key partners including the RSPCA and PIRSA. We also use the latest animal science in assessing our animals' welfare and have developed a tool to help our visitors, supporters and the wider community assess their pet's welfare at home.

He reported that the design of zoo exhibits has changed significantly with greater emphasis on spacious and natural-looking animal habitats. Change doesn't happen overnight because exhibit design is expensive but Adelaide and Monarto Zoos will continue to evolve over the next 20 years as we roll out our Master Plan.

He also noted that we don't just focus on 'charismatic species'. Since he took over as President, collections have expanded to include lesser known species and more native species with a greater focus on housing animals for conservation purposes.

In fact, in 2015 (when reporting of this kind started) only 42 % of the species at Adelaide Zoo and Monarto Safari Park were categorised as having Conservation Roles (which means they are considered threatened by IUCN or the EPBC act) in 2019 this figure is 75%.

External recognition

He reported that in addition to these achievements, Zoos SA's broader purpose has grown in prominence and professionalism over the last six years. Community awareness of our efforts continues to grow, as we apply world class zoo standards and contribute to global conservation efforts through our integrated conservation programs.

In the past six years, our achievements didn't go unnoticed. We received a number of prestigious awards:

- We can now lay claim to being among the top zoos, aquariums and wildlife parks across the Australasian region after receiving two of the nine awards at the Australasian Zoo and Aquarium Association (ZAA) Conference in May 2018.
- Zoos SA was awarded the In-situ Conservation Award for returning Warru (a small Rock-wallaby) back to the APY Lands and was honoured with the Innovation Award after being the first zoo in Australia to use iBeacon technology to develop an app.

- Adelaide Zoo was named Major Tourist Attraction of the Year at the South Australian Tourism Awards in 2017, 2018 and 2019, earning our place in the SA Tourism Hall of Fame.

These are a few highlights from a transformational period in Zoos SA's history.

As the Chair reflected on the past six years, he noted that what has become tremendously clear is that the spirit and passion embodied by staff, volunteers and members is contagious. During his time he learned that for a charity to be truly successful, all parts of the organisation are mutually valuable and must all work together in a balanced and intentional way to create change.

It is not merely the giving of financial resources, but giving of one's expertise, passion, talent, and experience.

The Chair extended his thanks to all Board members whose expertise and time helps us secure a sustainable future for many species. Thanks must also go to our skilled and hardworking staff and volunteers, ably lead by Ms Bensted and the leadership team.

In closing, he looked forward to continuing work with you all in our quest to save species from extinction and connect people with nature.

11. Close of Meeting.

The Chair thanked members once again for their attendance and attention and called the 141st Annual General Meeting to a close at 7.27pm.

Signed as a true and correct record:

Chairman

Date