

# Annual General Meeting



36th Annual General Meeting. Photo: Bob Young

**The thirty-sixth Annual General Meeting of Bird Observation & Conservation Australia was held at National Office on 9 May 2009. Sixty-eight members attended the meeting and a further 135 proxies were received prior to the meeting.**

The Report of the Board was presented by President Tim Landsberg and the audited Financial Statements by Treasurer Ian Muir. The full Report of the Board and summarised Financial Statements can be found in the April 2009 issue of *The Bird Observer*.

Tim Landsberg advised the meeting that he would be standing down as President from the next meeting of the Board and that directors had elected John Barkla as the incoming President. This was greeted by acclamation.

The President also advised the meeting that Ian Muir had decided to step down from the position of Treasurer. He noted Ian's long and dedicated service to BOCA and expressed the gratitude of members. Again, the meeting expressed support by acclamation.

Howard Plowright, on behalf of the meeting, thanked Tim Landsberg for his contribution as President and this was supported by members present.

## ELECTION

At the close of nominations only those of the three retiring directors had been received and thus John Barkla, Tim Landsberg and David Reid were declared elected for a further term.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The meeting considered and passed a motion from Bill Ramsay and amendment from Helen Aston requesting the Board to consider a number of amendments to the Constitution aimed at addressing existing anomalies. The motion requested the Board to bring any necessary changes to the 2010 AGM.

The resolution as passed also provides for members to submit any other changes to the Board by 31 July 2009.

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

As always, the most rewarding task at the AGM is that of giving some recognition to people who have contributed so much to BOCA's work over many years. This year the Board recognised five members for their contribution to BOCA, its Branches and to the cause of birds. Two recipients were able to attend the AGM to be presented with their Awards and the other three will receive theirs as soon an opportunity arises. Citations for this year's recipients are:

### **Xenia Dennett**

Xenia has had a 40-year association with BOCA and has served with distinction on many committees including the Board (1996 – 2000) and as inaugural Chairperson of the Activities Committee (1997 – 2002). She is currently a Trustee of the Australian Bird Environment Foundation (since 1997), Convenor of the Westernport Survey (since 2003), Chairperson of the Conservation Strategic Committee (since 2006) and Scientific Advisor to the Community Monitoring of Bird Utilisation of Melbourne Water Constructed Wetlands (since 2006). To all her many contributions to BOCA, Xenia always brings both scientific stringency as well as her deep commitment to the need for preservation of birds and their environment.

Xenia's award will be presented at a MELBOCA meeting.

### **Laurie Living**

Laurie has been a participant in the Westernport Survey since 1990. He designed and has maintained the Westernport Survey's database since 1994; makes all the entries and provides the quarterly summaries. From this database, he has also provided regular information to Victoria's Department of Sustainability

& Environment and to Environmental Assessment enquiries relating to the Westernport area. He was a member of BOCA Board, 1995 – 1998.

### Joan Peters

Joan joined BOCA in 1977 and the Peninsula Birdwatchers Club (which later became PENBOC) in 1983. She served with distinction on the PENBOC committee and led many outings for PENBOC and MELBOCA weekdays group. Her activities with U3A have seen her extensive avian knowledge passed on to many Peninsula residents with subsequent recruitment of members for BOCA. She has also worked extensively in association with The Briars Park where her birdlists for that site are always available. She has great communication skills and is always successful in passing on her extensive knowledge to both old and new birdos alike.

Joan's award was presented at the PENBOC AGM.

### Richard Stevens

Richard joined Sou'West Branch in Victoria as an inaugural member, serving as Committee member, Secretary, and Bulletin editor. He has produced birding leaflets, organised and led many camp-outs and outings. He was instigator and driving force behind Warrnambird05, a very successful part of BOCA's Centenary celebrations. He was prime mover and compiler of the Sou'West Bird Observers' Guide and also compiles and edits the Sou'West Birdlife Register. He has represented BOCA widely within the community and works with local municipalities, schools, wildlife shelters and coastal parks of the southwest.

### Jon Wren – Bowen

Since 1983 Jon has proved to be a great ambassador for BOCA in that he has single-handedly furthered the cause of bird observation and conservation in the Bowen area of North Queensland some 200kms away from either of the closest BOCA branches at Mackay and Townsville. He has initiated and continued many conservation and education projects to increase awareness and protection of local birdlife by making presentations to local schools and community groups and liaising with local authorities. He has led projects to preserve Beach Thick-knees and reduce deaths of local birds including Wedge-tailed Eagles at rail kills.

Jon's award will be presented at the TRBOCA meeting.

## OTHER BUSINESS

This year's guest speaker was Brian Snape AM who has been appointed as an Ambassador for Bowra by Australian Wildlife Conservancy. As background to Brian's talk, John Barkla's collection of images of birds of Bowra was shown. Brian spoke on the topic "Bowra Station, Acquisition and the Future".

The meeting ended with general discussion.

The AGM marks the formal end to the year for BOCA and, of course the start of another with a great deal still to be accomplished.



Xenia Dennett. Photo: Bob Young



Richard Stevens. Photo: Bob Young



Tim Landsberg presenting award to Laurie Living. Photo: Bob Young



BOCA Vice President David Reid presenting award to Joan Peters at PENBOC AGM. Photo: Keith Hindley



Brian Snape AM. Photo: Bob Young



John Barkla. Photo: Bob Young