

Inside BOCA



Richard Hunter
Chief Executive Officer



Photo: John Barkla

BOCA BOARD

As noted in the report of the AGM, see page 20, the three retiring directors, John Barkla, Tim Landsberg and David Reid have been returned unopposed for a further term.



Tim Landsberg, President.
Photo: Christine Landsberg

Tim Landsberg has indicated to the Board that, while happy to continue as a Director, he wishes to stand aside as President to allow a fresh approach to the position. Tim has been President for 5 years during a time of real change for BOCA.

As President, Tim has brought a fine strategic approach to the Board's decision-making process as well as an understanding of where our organisation should be heading to meet the challenges facing it. We are fortunate to have Tim continuing as a Director.



Ian Muir. Photo: Elva Muir

Long serving Treasurer, Ian Muir, has decided to step down from that position. In keeping with the growth in BOCA and the Board needing to take a more strategic approach, the responsibilities of Treasurer in overseeing BOCA's financial affairs will be taken on by the Financial & Audit Committee, a standing committee of the Board. Ian will continue as a Director.



John Barkla

In many years as a Director and Treasurer, Ian has contributed an enormous amount to BOCA. His workload and commitment has been second to none as has been his willingness to protect BOCA's interests and viability. Among many contributions has been expansion and refurbishment of the national office as a home

for the organisation. Like Tim Landsberg, Ian's continued involvement at Board level ensures both continuity and stability.

Directors have elected John Barkla as President to replace Tim Landsberg. John has been an avid birder for more than fifty years and a member of BOCA for nearly forty.

John represents BOCA and chairs Melbourne Water's Western Treatment Plant Biodiversity Conservation Committee. This has been a 23 year commitment. His long term involvement and leadership of outings, Challenge Bird Count, talks and study meetings is well known.

John's business background as Managing Partner of a top ten accounting firm is also of great benefit to BOCA at Board level.

STAFFING



Trish Teesdale. Photo: Bob Young

Long serving Administration Manager, Trish Teesdale, has decided it is time to leave the position; hopefully this will allow Trish time to pursue her birding interests.

Many members have benefited from Trish's help and advice over the years and hers are very difficult shoes to fill. Trish's help and advice certainly made my first days at BOCA easier and more enjoyable.

Leanne Curnow has joined us as acting Administration Manager with considerable experience in the field and, in the general office, Sarah Hobba has replaced Jennifer Marriner.

The Bird Observer is prepared and packed for posting by a team of volunteers who donate a full day to the task every two months. Many members of the team have been involved for a number of years and have made a valuable contribution to BOCA. Enid Haskins, for example, has just completed twenty years on the team, a remarkable effort.

At the same time, we should acknowledge the contribution of Membership Officer, Jenny Rogers, who started as a volunteer and subsequently joined the National Office staff. Jenny has seen some twenty-five years on The Bird Observer team.

BRANCH NEWS

- Southern Highboca has hit the ground running, particularly with its efforts in education. The introduction to birdwatching course has been so well taken up applications are now open to a third one. Clearly, this fills a real need in the area.

Planning for the Bignet meeting to be hosted by the branch at Mittagong in September is well underway and will provide an opportunity for other groups to see what can be achieved by a small, enthusiastic team.



Participants at Southern Highboca beginners' birdwatching course Photo: C. Kolhagen

- Photoboca is proving a real success with membership now reaching 80 (we expect to get to 100 shortly). Study meetings are proving popular with members interested in improving their photography skills and the next step will be to add video conferencing so that workshops can be within the reach of all members of the group.

With the introduction of our new website hopefully not too far away we will have an enhanced web library which will allow others to share in the great images being collected by members of the group.

- Work is continuing on development of a BOCA presence in the Wagga Wagga area. Bob and Penne Carr have run a number of outings and are now in discussions with the local Council regarding a BOCA involvement in the proposed establishment of wetlands in the area.

FRIENDS OF THE HELMETED HONEYEATER

We have a little more information on the photograph of the hut printed on page three of our last issue. The photograph shows the BOCA hut which at the time occupied the present day nursery site at Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve. The painters were Noel Arnold and Bryan Mitchell. Photographer was Alma Mitchell.

Sadly, it has now been confirmed that BOCA member, Karma Hastwell, died in the Black Saturday bushfires. Karma had been a member since 1972. Living on a bush block at Kinglake, she recorded daily observations of weather conditions and the birds on her property and nearby. Her interest in conservation led to her donating land to be added to Kinglake National Park.

AUSTRALIAN FIELD ORNITHOLOGY

April this year marked fifty years of publication of Australian Field Ornithology, previously known as "The Australian Bird Watcher". AFO continues with a completely voluntary Editorial Board and team that provides interesting and informative material for its subscribers.

I also need to note some corrections to the editorial team listed in the Annual Report. Chair of the Editorial Board is Associate Professor Alan Lill PhD. The production team comprises:

- Coordinating Editor and Editor, predatory birds: Stephen Debus PhD
- Editor, aquatic birds: Andrew Ley LittB
- Editor, rare birds: Margaret Cameron, BA (Hons)
- Assistant Editor and Production: Julia Hurley, PhD

AUSTRALIA AND BEYOND

Australian Field Ornithology March-June 2009

The combined March-June issue of Australian Field Ornithology encompasses observations from Australian Territories well beyond the mainland. One paper includes the first photographs of a Watercock in Australian Territory. Another features newly described owls further afield in Indonesia. Another paper on owls – this time on Southern Boobooks nesting in Canberra – documents how this species is adversely affected by possums and cockatoos competing for a dwindling number of tree-hollows.

Aspects of bird migration, including over-shooting of normal destinations by vagrants, and physiological adaptations of long-distance migrants, make for further fascinating reading. Papers on diet and feeding of raptors on Christmas Island (Nankeen Kestrel) and Indonesia (Brahminy Kite), and of one of our commonest waterbirds (White-faced Heron on King Island) round out the field observations, and assorted book reviews complete this issue.

Support our Club and subscribe to our quarterly Australian Field Ornithology journal (\$32.00 p.a., or \$40.00 p.a. airmail overseas). Back copies are available from BOCA. Information for contributors is available inside the covers of AFO – so if you have interesting field notes, see what you can do!

Julia Hurley PhD, Assistant Editor

In the list of bequests featured in the Annual Report that of Leslie Feather was omitted and is gratefully acknowledged here.

Richard Hunter

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Helping today's birds survive tomorrow