

# Countdown to vote



Over the last few months there has been a lot of work preparing the ground for you to vote on the proposed merger between BOCA and Birds Australia.

## Breaking it down—the merger in more detail

Some of you have raised questions and concerns about the planning and implementation of the proposed merger. We have set up a series of groups (comprising Board and staff members from both organisations) to consider key issues: communications, finance, governance and operations.

An important part of this process is investigating the costs and benefits of the proposed merger. This will be available in a summarised form in the New Year, to help inform the voting process. We've also been working hard to clarify the vision and outline the most critical objectives for the new organisation.

## Purpose of the proposed merger

**1** We will become a 'market leader'—the number one, nationally recognised bird conservation organisation that advocates on behalf of Australian birds

*Target – We aim to increase our membership to 20,000 in the next 5 years.*

**2** We will engage with governments, the corporate sector and the community to ensure that the interests of Australian birds in decision-making processes are represented

*Target – Decision-making processes that impact on Australian birds and their habitat include our input and advice.*

**3** We will set the standard for bird research and conservation projects across Australia

*Target - Our projects will work in partnership at government, corporate and local levels and focus on issues that will make the most difference.*

**4** We will become the biggest bird appreciation network and central point for those interested in birds, raising awareness and educating communities to become actively involved with birds and the preservation, restoration and extension of their habitat

*Target - Our extended family of members, volunteers and supporters will increase, giving us greater local relevance, impact, representation and influence across all of Australia\*.*

\*See overleaf for a map of the extended BA/BOCA network

## Objectives of the proposed merger

- We will unify the birding community, valuing involvement at both amateur and professional levels and enhancing capacity to take action
- We will increase the support for, and influence of, the new organisation
- We will invest in and develop our staff
- We will reduce the combined costs of the two organisations
- We will establish organisational structures and processes to support our vision

### Dates to remember: what's next?

**March 2011** Notification of AGMs; look out for the date, venue and outline agenda in March.

**April 2011** You will receive a pack of information putting forward the special resolution and asking you to vote on the proposed merger. *NB: This pack will include proxy forms, because in this situation legislation dictates that votes happen at the AGM or by proxy to the AGM.*

**May 2011** Both AGMs take place: BOCA's in Melbourne, BA's in Perth--make sure you vote!

Looking for more information? Go to [www.birdsaustralia.com.au/merger](http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/merger) and [www.boca.org.au/merger](http://www.boca.org.au/merger) or talk to a BA or BOCA staff member to keep up-to-date

# Combined BA and BOCA network

Total members = **10,688\***

\*Includes overseas membership of 243, and an overlap of c. 1,000 joint members.  
All figures are approximate, dated November 2010

