



Bird Observation & Conservation Australia

Incorporating Bird Observers Club of Australia

Helping today's birds survive tomorrow

March 2011

Dear Member

Proposed Merger of Birds Australia (BA) and Bird Observation & Conservation Australia (BOCA)

Please find enclosed an Information Pack in relation to the proposed merger of Bird Observation & Conservation Australia (BOCA) and Birds Australia (BA). The key objective of the merger is to form a single united organisation which more effectively champions bird conservation and the interests of members. The proposal to merge comes out of 18 months detailed work, overseen by both Boards, and is the natural result of the ongoing harmonious relationship between our two organisations. As you will be aware, the process has included continuing extensive consultation with members of both BOCA and BA, who have indicated overwhelming support for the merger.

As stated in the Information Pack, the resolution to merge is supported unanimously by the BOCA Directors and the members of the BA Council. At the Annual General Meetings of BOCA and BA, both to be held on 21 May 2011, members of each organisation will vote to determine whether the merger should proceed. The merger will proceed only if 75% of the members who vote (either by proxy or in person) from both organisations, support the merger.

In the event of a vote to proceed with the merger, a Transitional Board of BirdLife Australia would be established. Further information about the make up of the transitional Board can be found on the BOCA website or is available on request.

Whatever the outcome of the vote, it is inevitable that BOCA will change. It is the strong view of the Board that a vote FOR the merger will ensure that all such changes would enhance the organisation for our members and for birds. We are less certain that changes following a vote AGAINST the merger would be so beneficial.

If you are a member of both BOCA and BA you will receive one Information Pack with two covering letters, one from each President. As a member of both organisations, you are entitled to vote twice, once for each organisation, and you should do so.

Please read the Information Pack carefully and exercise your vote. If you have questions about anything in the pack, or the voting process, please contact the BOCA National Office and we will endeavour to assist you.

Together with my fellow BOCA Directors, I urge you to vote FOR the merger for the benefit of Australia's birds and the best outcome for our members.

Yours sincerely

John Barkla
President