

At the AGMs on 21 May, members of Birds Australia and Bird Observation & Conservation Australia (BOCA) voted on whether our two organisations should merge. For the merger to go ahead, at least 75% of all Birds Australia members who voted and at least 75% of all BOCA members who voted needed to vote for the merger.

### **The outcome**

Members of both organisations voted **for** the merger of Birds Australia and BOCA to create *BirdLife Australia*. Over 93% of those that voted from BOCA voted *for* the merger and over 95% of those that voted from Birds Australia voted *for* the merger.

A combined total of 4517 Birds Australia and BOCA members voted on the resolution, with over 36% of Birds Australia members and more than 50% of BOCA members voting. This is the biggest response to a proposed resolution that either organisation has ever received. A huge thank you to our members for being part of this process – and welcome to your new organisation - *BirdLife Australia!*

### **What happens next?**

Over the coming months Birds Australia and BOCA operations will begin to come together; however ensuring that the transition from two to one is smooth and successful will take time. Over the next six months, both Birds Australia and BOCA will focus on delivery of our key work as well as implementing the merger and beginning to amalgamate operations.

Between now and December 2011 this includes:

- the first meetings of the 'transition Board' of *BirdLife Australia*;
- meetings of Birds Australia Council and BOCA Board to wrap up organisational and financial operations;
- consulting with groups and branches on future arrangements;
- finalising the *BirdLife Australia* vision and goals and developing a new logo;
- developing the new *BirdLife Australia* website ready for launch in early 2012;
- bringing together both organisations' staff into one building; and
- producing separate membership magazines for the rest of 2011, but working closely together behind the scenes.

By January 2012: *BirdLife Australia* is operational

Early 2012: formal launch of our new organisation, the new website and publications.

Over the next six months we will be keeping you updated through monthly bulletins on the Birds Australia and BOCA merger web pages. These updates will be summarised in the September and December issues of Wingspan and the August and November issues of The Bird Observer, and via Birds Australia's monthly e-news.

By joining forces, we will achieve more for Australia's birds in our conservation and education efforts and will work better for our members in encouraging and facilitating enjoyment and appreciation of birds. We hope that with your help we can make BirdLife Australia a place for everyone with an interest in birds – and look forward to an exciting and successful future together.