

Bird Observation  
& Conservation Australia

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ANNUAL REPORT  
2010

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John Barkla  
President



Richard Hunter  
Chief Executive Officer

## Merger with Birds Australia

At the Annual General Meeting to be held on 21 May 2011, members will vote on the proposed merger with Birds Australia. This vote is the culmination of over 12 months work by members of the BOCA Board and Birds Australia Council and by members and volunteers of the two organisations. A considerable effort has been made to inform members on the merger and to listen to their views. The BOCA Board members and the Birds Australia Council members both unanimously agree that a merged organisation will provide the best outcome for the conservation of Australia's birds and the interests of members.

BOCA, with only 2,487 members and no real profile, cannot make an impact on its own in the conservation of Australia's birds or the education of its people to act to protect our natural values. A single national organisation with a louder voice is the only answer.

BOCA continues to work for the conservation of birds and for the enjoyment of members in a very difficult economic environment.

Despite reducing our expenditure by almost \$100,000, BOCA incurred another operating loss of \$78,461 in 2010, which is a significant improvement on the operating loss of \$174,520 we incurred in 2009. Gains we achieved in diversifying our income with paid contract work, together with increased income from fundraising, were offset by a further loss of income from members as our membership responded to their own economic pressures.

Turnover in the Blue Wren Gift Shop continued to decline, but with very tight controls over inventory, it was able to trade at a modest profit and thus avoid possible closure.

## Staff & Volunteers

With only one full time paid employee and five part time paid employees, BOCA continues to rely on the work of its loyal volunteers. To assist our efforts to reduce BOCA's ongoing operating losses, our CEO, Richard Hunter, resigned in March 2010, but continues to work as a volunteer. The Board is grateful to Richard for this magnificent gesture. Richard has indicated his intention to step down after the May 2011 AGM which leaves us with a challenge: BOCA does not have the financial resources to pay a CEO and it is unlikely we would find someone who would fill this important role on an honorary basis. Whilst it is difficult to single out other contributions, the work done by

- our many Branch committee people;
- Bill Ramsay in writing the Bird Notes for the past 9 years;
- our library volunteers lead by Frances Ashburner and Virgil Hubregtse;
- our Vice President, Pat Bingham, who has worked one day a week in the National Office; and
- Don Saunders and the members of The Bird Observer editorial team deserve special mention.



Cinnamon Quail-thrush Mt Lyndhurst Station SA 2010

## Supporters

Our member, Geoff Jones, continued to fund the development of our website with the work being undertaken by BOCA Director, Dave Torr. The new website is a major advance on the old and is attracting around 7,000 hits a month. We also continue to rely on the generosity of our donors to fund important work for bird environment.



Common Bronzewing Kalamunda WA 2011.

## Branches and Affiliates

BOCA Branches continue to organise outings for members and to be involved in an array of local conservation and educational activities. Branches also increased their paid survey work using volunteers to support both the financial position of the Branch and also the National Office.

The bi-annual Forum in Leeton was attended by most branches and many affiliates and provided a wonderful opportunity to discuss the BOCA/BA merger and conservation and education initiatives.

We gained one new Affiliate during the year when the Brolga Recovery Group of south-west Victoria joined, but we lost the Illawarra Bird Observers Club due to a change in their committee. We therefore continue to have 21 Branches and 26 Affiliates and full lists of both can be found below.



Juvenile Australasian Gannet. Photography -Steb Fisher

# Photoboca

Photoboca continued to grow in 2010 and now has over 250 members. The digital image library has been established in is now integrated into the BOCA website so that members can upload their images of Australian birds. Photoboca continues to organise outings for members. A weekend in Gunbower in Victoria was particularly well attended and attracted much support from the local community. Training sessions in camera use and photo editing techniques for beginners to advanced users, have also been popular.



Chestnut-rumped Heathwren  
Bailieston Historical Reserve Vic 2010



Major Mitchell's Cockatoo Eyre Bird Observatory WA 2011



Bourkes Parrot 10 km north of Warri Gate Qld 2010



Brush Bronzewing Eyre Bird Observatory WA 2011



Sharp-tailed Sandpiper WTP 2010

# Clarksdale Bird Sanctuary

Since the end of the financial year, the Clarksdale Bird Sanctuary suffered a significant setback when flooding caused damage to the roadways and the footbridge to be washed away. The Claire Miller Environment Centre, which was constructed in 2009, was available for use in 2010, but it has been challenging to find ways in which it can be used to provide a source of revenue to meet the costs of operating the sanctuary. It costs BOCA around \$40,000 a year to maintain the sanctuary and finding this money presents an ongoing difficulty.



## Australian Bird Environment Foundation (ABEF)

ABEF continued to support the conservation and education work of BOCA by making grants for specific projects or initiatives. ABEF also provided external grants totaling \$15,495 for conservation projects of merit. The ABEF Trustees, Pat Bingham, Xenia Dennett, Ian Muir and Tim Landsberg, continued to provide the honorary work needed to administer this important trust

## Conclusion

The proposed merger with Birds Australia is clearly the most significant event for BOCA for many years. If the merger proceeds, a new organisation, BirdLife Australia, will become the only true national advocate for Australia's birds and the organisation to pursue the recreational and bird study interests of members. If the merger does not proceed, BOCA will continue as an independent organisation, but will face challenges as to how it can become an effective truly national advocate for birds with less than 2,500 members and how it can maintain its present services to members.

### Current Honorary Life Members (HLM) of BOCA

Geoff Deason	Rosemary Payet
Beryl Jarman	Howard Plowright
Reg Johnson OAM	Len Robinson
Alma Mitchell	Ken Simpson
Peggy Mitchell	Fred Smith

### Current Holders of BDSA awards

Marleen Acton	Julia Hurley
Peter Allen	Tania Ireton
Marjorie Andrews	Dorothy Johnstone
David Ap-Thomas	Laurie Living
Frances Ashburner	Tess Kloot
Colin Barraclough	Barbara Longmuir
Ronald Bone	Marlene Lyell
Ian Boyd	Clare Miller
Alan Brown	Nance Marriott
Celia Browne	Helen O'Donnell
Shirley Cameron	Joan Peters
Wallie Coles	Jill Plowright
David Coutts	Leonie Robbins
John Crowhurst	Don Roberts
Stephen Debus	Jenny Rogers
Xenia Dennett	Richard Stevens
Tina Dotto	Keith Stockwell
Ian Dowling	Nancy Taylor
Barbara Garrett	Trish Teesdale
Alan Giles	Bessie Tyers
Alec Hawtin	Barb Williams
Virgil Hubregtse	Jon Wren

## Donations over \$250

Michael Barnett &

Suzanne Sellwood

Donald & Suzanne Birch

BundyBOC

W Cooper & R Drummond

Heather Cleland

Peter & Anne David

Megan Davis & Tony Isaacson

Gary & Lisa Deayton

EGBOC

Brian & Anthea Fleming

Rosemary Flora

Raja Gnanam

Gras Foundation

Catherine Guy

Geoffrey &

Geraldine Harris

Gina Hopkins

Amanda Hough

John & Pam Hutchison

Tania Ireton

Ann Jacobs

Geoff Jones

Manning Valley Birdwatchers

Nancy Marriott

Ian & Margaret Ross AM

Frank Rouch

Beitske Smallegange

Diana & Brian Snape AM

Alasatair & Molly Stevenson

Jim Stockton

Betty Thornton

Dave Torr

Elizabeth Turnbull

Anna Watt

Wood Family Foundation

## Bequests

Estate of Leila Kathleen Darbyshire

Estate of Marion Belfrage Field



Australasian Gannet Port Phillip Bay 2011



# Directors' Report

As at 31 December 2010

Your directors present this report on the company and its controlled entity (referred to hereafter as the Group) for the financial year ended 31 December 2010.

## Directors

The names of each person who has been a director during the year and to the date of this report are:

- John Barkla (President)
- Pat Bingham (Vice President)
- David Reid (Vice President)
- Rod Bloss
- Ian Boyd
- Graeme Hosken
- Tania Ireton - resigned 18 February 2010
- Tim Landsberg
- Ian Muir
- Brian Snape AM  
- appointed a full Director 18 February 2010
- Dave Torr

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

## Principal Activities

The principal activities of the Group during the financial year were to encourage and facilitate the conservation and study of birds and their habitats, especially in the Australian region, and to provide its members with facilities to encourage participation.

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

## Objectives

The Group's short and long term objectives are:

- (i) to promote public understanding of the ecological and economic importance of Australian birds and their habitat;
- (ii) to monitor and investigate threats to the survival of Australian birds and their habitats and to take action to maintain, protect or enhance that survival;
- (iii) to develop and promote educational programs and materials which engender attitudes sympathetic to the protection, well-being and appreciation of Australian birds;
- (iv) to encourage the scientific study and research of Australian birds and their habitats, so as to facilitate their conservation and well-being; and
- (v) to foster ethical bird observing as a social and individual activity directed to benefit Australian birds.

To achieve these objectives the group has adopted the following strategies:

- (i) to build the Group's membership and profile within the Australian community;
- (ii) to undertake scientific surveys and engage in conservation activities and education programs;

- (iii) to produce high quality publications on Australian birds;
- (iv) to organise and conduct a variety of birding activities for the benefit of members and the wider community; and
- (v) to merge with Birds Australia following the votes by members at the Annual General Meetings to form a stronger truly national organisation pursuing the same objectives.

## Information on Directors

### Qualifications & Experience

John Barkla - President	B.Ec, FCA, Member of BOCA since 1974, Chair of Executive and Member of Finance & Audit Committee.
Pat Bingham - Vice President	M.A., D.Phil (Oxon), Member of BOCA since 1973, ABEF Trustee (1993 to present), Member of Executive Committee, Chair of Awards Committee & past President (1980-82).
David Reid - Vice President	Member of BOCA since 1996. Member of Executive Committee and Chair of Marketing Committee.
Rod Bloss	Member of BOCA since 1999, President of Brisbane branch (Brisboca), Member of Conservation Strategy & Marketing Committees.
Ian Boyd	DipFrontlineMgt., Member of BOCA since 1996, past president of Townsville Branch
Graeme Hosken	Member of BOCA since 1956, President of Melbourne branch (MELBOCA).
Tim Landsberg	MBA, B.Sc (Hons), Member of BOCA since 2001, Member of Executive and Conservation Strategy Committees, past President (2005 - 2008) & ABEF Trustee.
Ian Muir	Cert Bus Admin (Accounting), Member of BOCA since 1997, Member of Finance & Audit Committee, ABEF Trustee since 1998.
Brian Snape AM	B.Sc, Chair of Finance & Audit Committee. Member of BOCA since 1967. Director of BP Australia for 9 years.
Dave Torr	B.Sc, ARCS, Website Manager, Member of Marketing Committee. Member of BOCA since 1997.

## Meetings of Directors

During the financial year 9 meetings of directors were held. Attendances by each director were as follows:

Directors	Directors' Meetings	
	Number eligible to attend	Number attended
John Barkla	9	8
Pat Bingham	9	9
David Reid	9	6
Rod Bloss	9	6
Ian Boyd	9	7
Graeme Hosken	9	6
Tania Ireton	1	1
Tim Landsberg	9	7
Ian Muir	9	6
Brian Snape AM	9	7
Dave Torr	9	9

## Legal Status

Bird Observation & Conservation Australia is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 and is a company limited by guarantee. If the entity is wound up the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$20 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the entity. At 31 December 2010 the collective liability of members was \$49,740 (2009 \$55,760).

BOCA's Honorary Solicitors **Anderson Rice**, and Honorary Auditors **RSM Bird Cameron**, contribute valuable professional expertise to our organisation, giving us very high quality advice and a considerable saving in funds which can be applied to our environmental work. BOCA owes a great deal of thanks to both firms.



**ANDERSON RICE**  
*Lawyers*

**RSM! Bird Cameron**  
Chartered Accountants

## Branches and Special Interest Groups:

Ballarat, Vic	<a href="mailto:helenodo@googlemail.com">helenodo@googlemail.com</a>
BAYBOCA, Vic	<a href="mailto:davcampbell@primus.com.au">davcampbell@primus.com.au</a>
BELLBOCA, Vic	<a href="mailto:cmdodd@bigpond.com">cmdodd@bigpond.com</a>
BrisBOCA, Qld	<a href="mailto:brisboca@boca.org.au">brisboca@boca.org.au</a>
BundyBOC, Qld	<a href="mailto:nativeflora@bigpond.com">nativeflora@bigpond.com</a>
Cairns Birding, Qld	
Echuca & District, Vic	<a href="mailto:stocky@echuca.net.au">stocky@echuca.net.au</a>
EGBOC, Vic	<a href="mailto:egboc@wideband.net.au">egboc@wideband.net.au</a>
Hamilton BOCA, Vic	<a href="mailto:ozsal66@hotmail.com">ozsal66@hotmail.com</a>
Horsham BOCA, Vic	<a href="mailto:tandewood@bigpond.com">tandewood@bigpond.com</a>
MACBOCA, Qld	<a href="mailto:madge@bigpond.com">madge@bigpond.com</a>
MELBOCA, Vic	<a href="mailto:janetfh@dodo.com.au">janetfh@dodo.com.au</a>
Murray-Goulburn, Vic	<a href="mailto:barry_mclean@bigpond.com">barry_mclean@bigpond.com</a>
Nhill, Vic	<a href="mailto:sadie.williams@bigpond.com">sadie.williams@bigpond.com</a>
Ovens & Murray, Vic	<a href="mailto:dpphillips1966@hotmail.com">dpphillips1966@hotmail.com</a>
PENBOC, Vic	<a href="mailto:jeanyarpent@bigpond.com.au">jeanyarpent@bigpond.com.au</a>
PhotoBOCA, National	<a href="mailto:photoboca@boca.org.au">photoboca@boca.org.au</a>
Southern Highboca, NSW	<a href="mailto:ckohlhagen@internode.on.net">ckohlhagen@internode.on.net</a>
Sou'West, Vic	<a href="mailto:majstone@bigpond.net.au">majstone@bigpond.net.au</a>
SunBOCA, Vic	<a href="mailto:georgekerridge@bigpond.com.au">georgekerridge@bigpond.com.au</a>
TRBOC, Qld	<a href="mailto:contact@trboc.org.au">contact@trboc.org.au</a>
WESBOC, Vic	<a href="mailto:maddigan@aapt.net.au">maddigan@aapt.net.au</a>
Yarra Valley, Vic	<a href="mailto:almaemm@gmail.com">almaemm@gmail.com</a>

## Affiliated Groups:

Bellingen Birdwatchers, NSW  
 Birding NSW, NSW  
 Black-throated Finch Recovery Team, Qld  
 Blue Mountains Bird Observers, NSW  
 Brolga Recovery Group, Vic  
 Canberra Ornithologists Group, ACT  
 Clarence Valley Birdos, NSW  
 Coffs Coast Bird Observers, NSW  
 Cumberland Bird Observers Club, NSW  
 Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater, Vic  
 Gold Coast Birdwatchers, Qld  
 Gould League Bird Study Camp Club, NSW  
 Hastings Birdwatchers, NSW  
 Hunter Bird Observers Club, NSW  
 Manning Valley Birdwatchers, NSW  
 Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc, NSW  
 Nambucca Valley Birdwatchers, NSW  
 NSW Bird Atlasers, NSW  
 Port Augusta Bird Observers, SA  
 South Gippsland Bird Observers, Vic  
 Sunshine Coast, Qld  
 Tamworth Birdwatchers Inc, NSW  
 Toowoomba Bird Observers, Qld  
 Tweed Bird Observers, NSW  
 Werribee Wagtails, Vic  
 Woodend Bird Observers Club, Vic

# Statements of Financial Position

As at 31 December 2010

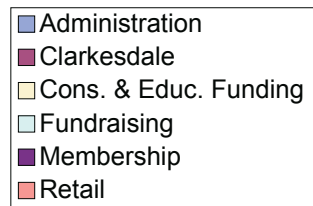
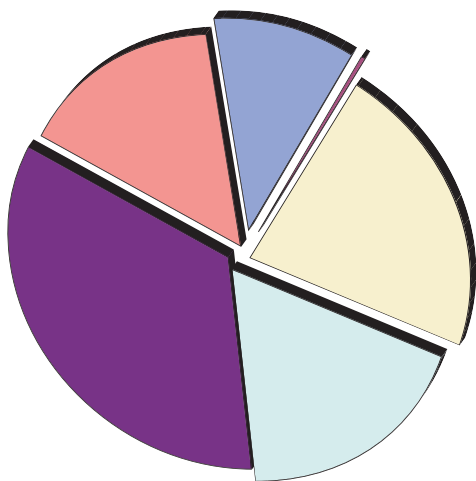
		Consolidated		Parent	
	Note	2010	2009	2010	2009
		\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	3	21,675	38,439	13,347	30,539
Investments	4	1,330,359	1,395,741	-	-
Inventories	5	63,785	39,509	63,785	39,509
Trade and other receivables	6	28,760	16,816	25,260	42,836
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>1,444,579</b>	1,490,505	<b>102,392</b>	112,884
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Property, plant & equipment	7	1,167,142	1,193,684	1,167,142	1,193,684
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>1,167,142</b>	1,193,684	<b>1,167,142</b>	1,193,684
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>2,611,721</b>	2,684,189	<b>1,269,534</b>	1,306,568
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
Trade and other payables	8	142,709	113,596	142,709	98,872
Provisions	9	53,108	67,045	53,108	67,045
Unearned Income		49,198	46,624	49,198	46,624
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>245,015</b>	227,265	<b>245,015</b>	212,541
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>245,015</b>	227,265	<b>245,015</b>	212,541
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>2,366,706</b>	2,456,924	<b>1,024,519</b>	1,094,027
<b>EQUITY</b>					
Reserves	11	2,084,109	2,104,819	741,922	741,922
Retained Surplus	10	282,597	352,105	282,597	352,105
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>2,366,706</b>	2,456,924	<b>1,024,519</b>	1,094,027

# Statements of Comprehensive Income

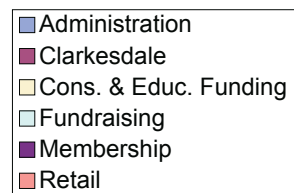
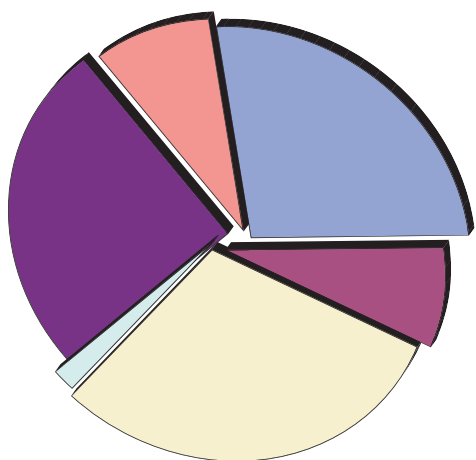
For the year ended 31 December 2010

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2010	2009	2010	2009
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Revenue from Ordinary Activities:</b>				
Activities	5,830	18,638	5,830	18,638
Clarksdale Bird Sanctuary	1,909	19,100	1,909	19,100
Conservation	119,761	65,798	173,391	159,298
Education	11,688	46,400	11,688	46,400
Fundraising	107,307	75,607	107,307	75,607
Interest and dividends	58,669	47,497	117	1,601
Membership	165,168	184,196	165,168	184,196
Publications	28,897	20,955	28,897	20,955
Retail operations	92,123	107,806	92,123	107,806
Other revenue	2,800	3,000	2,800	3,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>594,152</b>	<b>588,997</b>	<b>589,230</b>	<b>636,601</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Activities	19,973	21,102	19,973	21,102
Employee benefits	100,106	236,917	100,106	236,917
Auditors' remuneration	2,000	3,000	2,000	3,000
Administration costs	43,272	110,265	43,272	110,265
Depreciation and amortisation	26,543	20,101	26,543	20,101
Clarksdale Bird Sanctuary	53,875	41,863	53,875	41,863
Conservation	127,169	87,270	127,169	87,270
Education	60,988	36,597	60,988	36,597
Fundraising	12,275	11,403	12,275	11,403
Grants ABEF	13,875	14,724	-	-
Membership	53,324	18,977	53,324	18,977
Publications	99,827	93,698	99,827	93,698
Retail operations	59,386	67,600	59,386	67,600
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>672,613</b>	<b>763,517</b>	<b>658,738</b>	<b>748,793</b>
<b>Operating surplus (deficit) from ordinary activities</b>	<b>( 78,461)</b>	<b>( 174,520)</b>	<b>( 69,508)</b>	<b>( 112,192)</b>
Bequests	27,368	3,475	-	45,475
Realised & unrealised gains (losses) on investments	( 39,125)	137,349	-	-
<b>Operating surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>( 90,218)</b>	<b>( 33,696)</b>	<b>( 69,508)</b>	<b>( 66,717)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>				
Surplus on revaluation of land & buildings	-	47,821	-	47,821
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>( 90,218)</b>	<b>14,125</b>	<b>( 69,508)</b>	<b>( 18,896)</b>

INCOME 2010



EXPENDITURE 2010



## A Legacy for the Birds

Bird Observation & Conservation Australia (BOCA) is a registered environmental charity and all donations are tax-deductible. It is an incorporated organisation, able to accept gifts of land or buildings. **Bequests do not attract any form of tax.**

BOCA is dedicated to advancing the appreciation and protection of Australia's birds, promoting understanding of their diversity, behaviour and habitat needs and working for the benefit of our birds and their habitat.

**How do we do this?**

- We educate the public to understand the value of old, mature trees as well as other habitat.
- We provide funds for habitat restoration and ornithological research.
- We run publicity campaigns for vulnerable bird species such as the ground-dwelling Stone-curlews, the wetland Brolgas, and all the parrots needing nest-hollows for breeding, such as the Glossy Black- Cockatoo.
- We give advice on government recovery plans for endangered species such as the Black-eared Miner and the Plains-wanderer, and make sure that protection for bird habitat is included in management plans for parks and reserves.

- We lobby governments against planning decisions which adversely affect bird habitat, such as highways, developments and broad scale mining.
- We manage **Clarksdale Bird Sanctuary** near Ballarat, a 400 hectare reserve dedicated to the creation of habitat for birds
- Through our network of branches, we carry out many on-ground projects aimed at protecting or restoring bird habitat. This of course also has a beneficial effect for all native animals.
- We undertake and manage long term surveys of birds.

All this work is possible through the generosity and support of people who care about our wild birds.

**How to Make a Bequest**  
 We recommend that you seek the advice of a solicitor to ensure that your wishes are carried out correctly. In certain circumstances, BOCA is able to help in this regard. Please contact Richard Hunter at National Office if you wish to discuss a bequest.



*Helping today's birds  
survive tomorrow*



Front cover image: Superb Fairy-wren  
Photo: John Barkla

**BIRD OBSERVATION &  
CONSERVATION AUSTRALIA**

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**Website:** [www.boca.org.au](http://www.boca.org.au)

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Fax: 03 9894 4048