

THIRTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WATERHOUSE CLUB INC

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 19TH SEPTEMBER 2017

Members of The Waterhouse Club, my fellow Committee members, our Director Brian Oldman and staff of the South Australian Museum, it is my pleasure to present this 30th annual report to you.

The Museum continues to evolve:

The Director Mr Brian Oldman is strengthening the capacity of the Museum to showcase its collection and research efforts and to address the reducing financial support available from the State Government. Noticeable is the greater emphasis placed on the Museum's in-house exhibitions that draw on the sparkling talents of the staff and the riches of the collection.

The Museum has two support groups with carefully delineated fields of endeavour:

- Firstly, our Waterhouse Club, whose members are generally those entering their second age with time to be intrigued by the science of the natural world, a taste for adventurous scientific expeditions and who enjoy meeting and working with scientists in the field.
- Secondly, the new Museum Membership support group that caters for families and young people and offers a diverse program largely offered from within the Museum's spaces.

Your Club is the principal provider of access to the Museum's scientists and provides opportunities to mix with and learn from them on both local and far ranging expeditions of discovery. Our web site presents the current program and the benefits of membership. The website is seamless with that of the Museum and the Museum Membership, with cross referrals to clarify the choices. We are grateful to Sonya Hender and Mark Luckett for their work on this area. Members will soon be able to use electronic funds transfer to make payments to the Club, while payment by cheques, credit cards and cash will continue to be welcomed.

We are proud to report that your Club has met its targets of excellence in innovation and implementation, against a background of significant change.

In the office: Our Club Secretary, Margie Heylen administers the Club with great efficiency and the necessarily delicate touch from time to time. Further, she and Don enthusiastically support the expedition program as can be seen in the table below. The Club's Administrative and Membership Liaison Officer Natalie Rollinson provides valuable and enthusiastic support and we thank her for this.

We support the SA Museum Foundation: All our surplus funds are donated to SAMF without restriction for we know how important discretionary funds are to the Museum's operations. In the last financial year, your Club donated \$102,000 to the SAMF, which was most gratefully acknowledged by the Director, Brian Oldman and Chair of the Foundation, Dr Mary Sutherland. The honour board in the Foyer will now record that your Club has donated over \$1,000,000 since its inception and there you will also see the names of this years expedition leaders.

Expedition leaders: We avoid the dead hand of committee decisions by delegating full responsibility to our expedition leaders to carry out their vision and this has been reaffirmed with sparkling performances by all.

Our Expedition and Events Program maintained a high level of innovation which is essential to maintain the support of our members. Our principal events and the names of the organizers who invested considerable time and wit in creating them are listed in the table below.

Date	Event	Event Organizers
12 July 2016	Antics in Atlantis	Margie Heylen
1 – 10 Sept 2016	Orkneys Fossils Expedition	Tim Tolley
4 – 6 Nov 2016	Burra Mines Expedition	Don and Margie Heylen
14 Nov 2016	Exploring drill cores at Tonsley	Mark Mackintosh
30 Nov – 10 Dec 2016	East Papua Cruise	Ant Simpson
4 Dec 2016	The render works at Bolivar	Mark & Caroline Mussared
7 March 2017	The Sounds of Yidaki	Margie Heylen
9 April 2017	Coastal Curiosities	Ron and Sonya Langman
25 – 30 May 2017	Ediacara Fossils Expedition	Trevor and Carol Ireland
16 – 18 June 2017	Cuttlefish Mating Expedition	Tony and Anne Williams

Scientific Leaders: Your Club donates up to 20% of each expedition's surplus to the scientific leader to be spent as they wish on their work; again the flexibility we give them is warmly welcomed. We remain very appreciative of the knowledge and enthusiasm of the scientists who support our adventures and we plan to increase the number of scientists that participate. In this financial year our direct donations were as follows:

Event	Scientist	Amount
Lake Gregory 2013	Dr Cath Kemper	\$2,570
Searching the Line 2015	Dr Cath Kemper	\$2,670
Orkneys Fossils	Dr John Long	\$3,500
Burra Mines	Dr Ben Gruguric	\$1,200
Drill Cores at Tonsley	Dr Ben Gruguric	\$100
East Papua Cruise	Prof Steve Donnellan	\$8,780
	Dr Greg Rouse	\$8,780
Render works at Bolivar	Dr Cath Kemper	\$185
The Sounds of Yidaki	Prof John Carty	Pending
Coastal Curiosities	Dr Rachael King	\$280
Ediacara Fossils	Dr Jim Gehling	Pending
	Dr Diego Garcia-Bellido	
Cuttlefish Mating	Prof Steve Donnellan	Pending

Our objective is to build public awareness of the good work done by the Museum and to build a membership of community leaders, they in turn will influence outcomes favorable to the Museum. The Club also provides opportunities for an exchange of ideas between our

diverse membership and our scientists. The Club raises money from these events and the prices reflect the significant value added by our association with the Museum.

Our Strategy is simple to describe but challenging to implement. We seek to:

- attract top-quality people to run our events and delegate to them the authority to implement their vision;
- create unique experiences for our members by showing them what is best in the Museum, drawing on staff, the collections and its access to locations;
- Entertain our members with good science, unexpected outcomes and may “teeter on the brink of bad taste” to make a point.

The results: As an indicator of the community support for the Museum, Club membership stood at 94 single memberships and 139 family memberships. Our Annual Accounts show a surplus of a little over \$165,000 and a donation to the SAMF of \$102,000, while some \$28,000 was paid to our participating scientists. Very special thanks are due to those members who organized these complex projects and to those who supported them.

The Club membership is truly full of miracle workers!

Our hard working Committee members this year were; Tim Tolley Vice President and Chair of the Expeditions Sub-Committee, Tony Brooks, John Goldberg Treasurer, Deborah Morgan, Carolyn Ireland, Gaye Fischer, Rose Dow, Mark Mussared, Brian Oldman and special thanks to our Secretary and Public Officer Margie Heylen. Particular mention is also made of the professional contributions of John Goldberg of Cowell Clark and Tony Brooks of Brooks Public Relations. After years end, we welcomed Alastair Dow onto the Committee to fill a vacancy - already his contribution has been significant.

Our Director Brian Oldman remains very supportive of our Club and in his methodical approach to Museum leadership provides a good environment in which our volunteer organization can thrive.

Our event organizers receive much assistance from firms who generously provide their services to the Museum and in particular Zonte’s Footsteps, and Dandelion Vineyards.

In conclusion I would like to thank all the Committee members and volunteers for their enthusiastic support for the Club and also to thank you all for joining us this evening.

Antony Simpson
President
September 19, 2017