

**THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF
THE WATERHOUSE CLUB INC**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT
23rd OCTOBER 2018**

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 31st annual report to you.

The Museum continues to evolve:

Our Director Mr Brian Oldman, now with us for four years, has transformed the Museum for the better in a time of government restraint. Of benefit to your Club has been the recruitment of bright young scientists whose new skills open up new opportunities for events and expeditions in diverse fields.

Two support groups

Mr Oldman has created a new support group that accesses a demographic that complements our own and makes every use of the electronic era to spread its message widely. This is to our benefit as we can now focus our energies on our own membership and service them better. These two groups can be delineated as follows:

- 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 - <https://waterhouseclub.com> - 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.

Ocean cruises with Museum scientists have become an important offering allowing us to showcase the international credentials of our scientists and the Museum's collections.

We are proud to report that your Club continues to meet 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 events and 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 both in the office and at our functions 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 very useful discretionary funds are to the Museum's operations. Last financial year, your Club donated \$60,000 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 - there you will also see the names of our recent expedition leaders.

Expedition leaders: We avoid the dead hand of committee decisions by delegating full responsibility to our expedition leaders within endorsed budgetary parameters to carry out their vision 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 to create them are listed below.

Date	Event	Event Organizers
4-9 September	Discovering Chambers Gorge	Tim Tolley
22-24 September	Murraylands Journey of Discovery	Gaye and Tim Fischer
2-5 November	Nuyts Archipelago	Alastair and Rose Dow
14 November	Snakes Alive	Margie Heylen
28 February	Why are we all Fish?	Margie Heylen
9 April	Granites and Glaciers	Don and Margie Heylen
14-15 April	Denziens of the Ancient Skies	Tim and Gaye Fischer
10 May	Keys to the Botanic Gardens	Diarshul Sandhu
17 May	Ediacaran Fossils of Mistaken Point, Canada	Carol and Trevor Ireland

In addition, an expedition of 19 members led by Carol and Trevor Ireland has just returned from exploring the Ediacaran and other fossil beds of Canada, the Museum's biennial collecting expedition to Clifton Hills station was led by Don and Margie Heylen in September supported by 26 members, while in January 2019 Mark and Caroline Mussared will be leading an expedition of 92 members and associates to the Antarctic Peninsula commemorating the survey work of John Rymill.

Scientists share the surplus: Generally, your Club donates up to 20% of the surplus from each expeditions 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. In this financial year our donations to them were as follows:

Event	Scientist	Amount
Ediacara Fossil Fields, Nilpinna Station	Dr Jim Gehling Dr Diego Garcia-Bellido	\$3,627.00
The Giant Cuttlefish Mating Spectacle	Professor Steve Donnellan	\$ 964.00
Murraylands Journey of Discovery	Professor Steve Donnellan	\$1,686.00
Discovering Chambers Gorge	Graham Medlin	\$1,818.00
Nuyts Archipelago	Peter Hudson	\$1,573.00

Snakes Alive	Mark Hutchinson	\$ 216.00
Granites and Glaciers	Jim Jago	\$ 439.00
Keys to the Botanic Gardens	Seed Bank Conservation, Herbarium and Friends	\$1,500.00

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 91 single memberships and 148 family memberships.

Our Annual Accounts show a deficiency for the income year of about \$21,000. We were nevertheless able to make donations to the SA Museum Foundation of \$64,155 while some \$11,823 was paid to our participating scientists. Because of our conservative accounting policy, we only account for unexpended expedition income in the financial year in which the expedition occurred. We ended the income year in good health, holding over \$300,000 in income in advance for expeditions that were yet to take place, predominantly Whale Sharks and Canada expeditions post 30 June in 2018, and Antarctica in early 2019.

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, Carolyn Ireland, Gaye Fischer, Rose Dow, Alastair 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. Deborah Morgan retired during the year to pursue further challenges and we thank her for her robust support and wise counsel over the years.

Special mention is to be made of the documentation of the Club’s practices both to guide new contributors and remind others of the secrets of our success. For this we thank the guiding hand of new Committee member Alastair Dow.

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
October 23 2018