

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

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT
15th OCTOBER 2019**

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 32nd annual report to you.

You will already have noticed that the format is exactly the same as last year, only the numbers have changed. Each year we ask ourselves if there is some novel presentation that we could adopt to banish this repetition. Each year we come to the same conclusion: We could but to what end? We have decided instead to put our creativity into running expeditions at which we are very good and leave this as it is.

Leadership of the Museum:

Our Director Mr 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. Now with us for five years, he has transformed the Museum for the better in a time of ongoing government restraint. Hence some senior scientists have moved from staff to honorary positions, a move that allows the recruitment of three collection managers in entomology, marine invertebrates and the tissue collection. For your Club, this opens up new opportunities for events and expeditions in diverse fields.

Two support groups

The new support group created by our Director, Museum Member, now has 2,300 members and is growing strongly; we remain very supportive of it as it accesses a demographic that complements our own. Its presence allows us to 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 enjoy meeting and working with scientists in the field; and
- secondly, the new Museum Members 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 with 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 and is seamless with that of the Museum and the Museum Members, with cross referrals to clarify the choices.

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.

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 also fully understand the need to provide local weekend and longer land based expeditions to maintain a diverse offering for our members.

In the office: Our Club Secretary, Margie Heylen administers the Club with great efficiency and the necessary delicate touch from time to time. Further, she and Don provide fulsome support to 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.

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. It works well as our sell out of our expeditions and healthy cash surplus' attests.

Our Expedition and Events Program maintained a high level of innovation this year which is essential to maintain the interest of our members. The Club's offerings and the year's organizers who invested considerable time and wit to create them are listed below.

Date	Expedition/Event	Organizers
4-17 August	Fossils Canada East to West	Trevor and Carol Ireland
1-11 September 2018	Clifton Hills – Museum Biennial Collecting Expedition	Don and Margie Heylen
19-21 October 2018	Pollinators on Yorke Peninsula	Alastair and Rose Dow
27 Oct – 3 November 2018	<i>True</i> North Swimming with Whale Sharks - West Papua	Ant Simpson
4 November 2018	Peeling Back the Geological Layers – Metropolitan Adelaide	Tim Tolley
7 November 2018	Amazing Insects of Nuyts Archipelago	Alastair and Rose Dow
6 February 2019	Savagery of Pacific Island Life – an evening event	Ant Simpson
18 February – 3 March 2019	Antarctica Peninsula	Mark Mussared
1 April 2019	Keys to the Botanic Gardens – behind the scenes and garden tour	Diarshul Sandhu and Margie Heylen

The cash surplus that we generate goes to the SA Museum Foundation: These funds are donated without restriction for we know how very useful untied funds are to the Museum's operations.

The 2018-2019 financial year was a bonanza for our Museum bodies, as three major Club expeditions to Antarctica, Canada and West Papua were completed, along with others listed in the table below, allowing a presentation of a cheque for \$225,000 to the SA Museum Foundation, a cheque for \$39,000 to the Mawson Trust, and generous sums to the supporting scientists.

These donations were gratefully acknowledged by the Director and The Chair of the Foundation, Dr Mary Sutherland. The honour board in the Foyer will now record that your Club has donated over \$1,300,000.00 since its inception along with the names of our recent expedition leaders.

Scientists share in the surplus: Your Club donates up to 20% of the surplus from each expedition to the scientific leader to be spent as they wish on their Museum 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. The attachment to my report

lists the donations to the scientists and a precis of how the funds were expended.

Treasurer's Report:

Our Treasurer, John Goldberg, is currently overseas so he has asked that his report be incorporated as a separate section in my report, which follows.

"The audited financial statements of the Club for the year ended 30 June 2019 are tabled. As our President has reported, it has been financially a very good year for the Club and thus for the Museum. Having donated just under \$76,000 in the previous financial year, our opening funds were a mere \$6,165.

From a total income of nearly \$3 million we generated a surplus of \$338,728 and we made total donations of just under \$300,000 which are listed in note 1(b) to the accounts. We finished the financial year with closing funds of \$46,670. All in all, a very satisfactory year.

Our accounting policies are conservative. We do not account for a surplus from an expedition until the expedition is complete. It follows that quite a lot of the surplus in the financial year reported was a consequence of the hard work of the Committee, expedition leaders, scientists and volunteers, both in that year and previous years.

The administration of the Club is largely by volunteers so administrative costs are kept as low as prudently possible. Membership fees cover a little less than half of normal recurring expenses. The balance is met by the surplus from expeditions and functions which still allows, as you can see, a considerable amount to be donated by the Club to the Museum Foundation, scientists who have contributed to expeditions and, last financial year, a donation of \$39,000 to the Mawson Trust.

I am happy to respond to any questions on my return. They can be directed to me through the President or the Secretary."

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 extraordinary 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 86 single memberships and 146 family memberships.

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, John Goldberg Treasurer, Tony Brooks, Carolyn Ireland, Gaye Fischer, Rose Dow, Alastair Dow, Mark Mussared, Phil Weinstein and Brian Oldman. 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. Tony, a creator of the Club's style also retired and

a dinner was given in his honour illuminated by images of his most triumphant events.

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 Committee member Alastair Dow.

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

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 15 2019

**Waterhouse Club donations to the South Australian Museum Foundation - 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019
for allocation to lead scientist/s Museum Project Lines.**

Expedition	Scientist	Amount	Expenditure of Donation Funds
Fossils: Canada East to West	Diego Garcia-Bellido	\$10,600.00	Purchasing research equipment and for use in fieldwork expenses (Ediacara and Kangaroo Island).
True North – Swimming with Whale Sharks	Steve Donnellan Greg Rouse	\$5,760.00 \$5,760.00	DNA sequencing of the genome of the gastric brooding frog, which has been extinct since the early 1980's - characterise the genetic changes that enabled these frogs to brood their young in the females stomach. This mode of reproduction is unique amongst vertebrate animals.
Denizens of the Night Skies	Steve Donnellan	\$1,017.00	As above
Pollinators on Yorke Peninsula	Remko Leijts	\$800.00	Allocated to the Green Carpenter Bee Conservation project on Kangaroo Island.
Clifton Hills – Museum Biennial Collecting Expedition	Mark Hutchinson (5 SAM scientists)	\$1,720.00	MicroCT scans of some of our reptile specimens - several projects currently that need more images via Adelaide Microscopy.
Antarctic Peninsula	Diego Garcia-Bellido Peter Shaughnessy Mawson Trust	\$2,500.00 \$2,500.00 \$39,000.00	<p>Diego</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above <p>Peter Shaughnessy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Page charges for articles on Antarctic seals – Marine Mammal Science Journal; weight of crabeater seal pups at birth (30 kg). Polar Biology Journal - weight of Ross seal pup at birth (16 kg). Ross seals are rare and this is only the second pup weighed close to birth. Attend annual scientific meeting of the Australian Mammal Society to present a paper on pup weights of those Antarctic seals. Continue the long-term project on monitoring numbers of Long-nosed Fur Seal pups born on Kangaroo Island. <p>Mark</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donation to the Mawson Trust - acquisitions for the Mawson collection and operating expenses – Mark Pharaoh