

**36th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THE WATERHOUSE CLUB INC**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT
Financial Year 2022/23 and Calendar Year 2023**

As another year of our club draws to a close, I thank you for your ongoing engagement and I hope you have enjoyed the offerings this year. The expedition leaders, event organisers, and your committee have worked hard to regain some of the ground we lost during Covid, and I believe we have achieved a positive trajectory again. Nevertheless, the world is an unpredictable place, and we are needing to adapt to local phenomena (like restructuring at the Museum) right through to global disruptions (like avoiding flightpaths over war zones). Despite such uncertainties, we will continue to do our best to meet the core aims of our organisation, which is for members to have unique and enjoyable experiences, whilst supporting research at the South Australian Museum.

In the year that was, we managed to run 6 expeditions in a travel environment still recovering from Covid and held 4 events at the Museum; these are listed below. Our expedition coordinator and event coordinator have details of these successes to share with the AGM.

Your treasurer will give more detail to the financial summary below, but in essence our activities generated a healthy surplus which is now available to the museum once their current restructuring has settled into place. You, our membership, are obviously the critical factor in delivering this surplus, so thank you for your support and for allowing the club to continue its mission successfully.

Our Activities 1 Jan 2023 to 14 November 2023

This year we will report on the Expeditions and Events for the *calendar* year 2023, as we feel that it more closely marries with the thinking of our largely mature membership, than financial year reporting.

EVENTS

Feb: Celebrating access into Tutankhamun's Tomb. Steve Zagala and Phil Weinstein. Organisers - Margie Heylen and Natalie Rollinson.

May: Sharks: Magnificent, Misunderstood, Endangered. Mark Smith. Organisers - Mark Mussared and Natalie Rollinson.

Aug: Are we alone in the Universe. Rod Hill. Organisers - Mark Mussared and Natalie Rollinson

Nov: Overbrowsing by the Western Grey Kangaroos. David Paton. Organisers - Mark Mussared and Natalie Rollinson.

EXPEDITIONS

April: Wangayarta Burial Ground – Laying the 'old people' to rest. John Carty. Organiser – David Cox and Jan Paterson.

May: Bilbies, Bettongs, BHP and Bling - An arid lands weekend adventure around Roxby Downs and Andamooka. Organiser - Tony Williams.

Sept: Coral Atoll #2 Expedition on 'True North'. Steve Donellan. Organiser - Ant Simpson.

Sept: Morning bus tour of historical Port Adelaide and Semaphore. Peter Shaughnessy. Organiser - Gaye Fischer.

Oct: The South Australia Museum Biennial Biological Survey - Kangaroo Island. Matt Shaw. Organisers - Alastair and Rose Dow.

Nov: In the footsteps of George French Angas: Painting True Vistas - Expedition #2 Philip Jones. Organiser - Tim Tolley.

Membership

As of this week the membership is 204, 120 family and 84 singles, making a total of individuals 324.

Financial position

The Club's Financial Report for the *financial* year ending 30 June 2023 will be presented by Mark Mackintosh.

The Treasurer's Report is summarised as follows.

The Club's major source of income is from Expedition and Event income. Continued limitations as a result of Covid impacted the range of activities which were offered during the year and as a result income was a relatively modest \$141,116.

While there were increases of around 10% to fixed costs (principally insurance and office expenditure) the majority of costs are variable and proportional to the level of activity, producing a surplus of \$7,931 after donations of \$2,460 to the Museum scientists. A further \$6,250 related to events during the financial year was donated to the Museum scientists in early July.

The Club continues to be in a secure financial position with retained equity of \$69,037 (compared to \$61,106 for the year end 2022) and a strong cash balance.

Recent expeditions (Coral Atoll expedition and the Kangaroo Island biannual survey with Museum scientists) are expected to lead to a stronger result during the 2023-24 financial year.

Looking ahead, we again have a list of exciting expeditions and events planned for 2024, albeit with some uncertainty still because of changes at the Museum. Thank you for your patience and watch this space; we will be locking in offerings and dates as soon as we are able and circulating these to you. In the interim, thank you again for the year that has been, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and we look forward to catching up again soon!

Very best wishes

Philip Weinstein
President
14 November 2023