

BIRDLIFE NORTHERN QUEENSLAND

Minutes of the
FORMATION MEETING
Yungaburra State School
21st April 2012.

Meeting was declared open by the Chairman Alan Gillanders at 4.30 pm.

1. **ATTENDANCE:** Alan Gillanders, Maria Gillanders, Greg Bortolussi, Ceri Pearce, Jon Nott, Peta Nott, Jun Matsui, Kath Shurcliff, Angela McCaffrey, Hazel Howard, Virginia Simmonds, Graham Harrington, Sandra Clague, Ian Sinclair, Harry Cassidy, Doug Herrington, Dave Houghton, John Frois, Marg Merrall, David Merrall, Lourdes Frois, Sandi Oswald, Sandra Christensen.
2. **APOLOGIES:** Beth Snewin, Neville and June Pedersen, John Winter and Helen Myles, Ian Northcott, Dominic Chaplin, Peter Sprigg, Keith and Lindsay Fisher, Martin Cachard, Trish and Andrew Forsayth, Neil McGilp, Elna Kerswell, Alastair & Amanda Freeman, David Westcott.
3. **COMMITTEE ELECTIONS:**
 - **Convenor – Kath Shurcliff** (nom. G. Harrington/sec. A. Gillanders)
 - **Deputy Convenor – A. Gillanders** (nom. G. Harrington/sec. K. Shurcliff)
 - **Secretary – Murray Hunt** (nom. Ian Northcott/sec. Kath Shurcliff)
 - **Treasurer - Ian Northcott** (nom. Murray Hunt /sec. G. Harrington)
 - **Committee members –**
 - **Virginia Simmonds** (nom. Alan Gillanders, sec. Graham Harrington)
 - **Graham Harrington** (nom. Kath Shurcliff/sec. D. Houghton)
 - **Doug Herrington** (nom. Alan Gillanders/sec. Ian Northcott)
 - **Martin Cachard** (nom. Alan Gillanders/sec. Kath Shurcliff)

The new Convenor Kath Shurcliff then assumed the Chair.

4. CONVENORS REMARKS.

Kath indicated that we had an exciting time ahead of us in the new organisation of Birdlife Australia. She anticipated that the Committee would be contacting all members personally to discuss what they would like the Branch to be doing in the future. She mentioned that the CEO of Birdlife Australia had offered to come to a meeting to meet the members and assist in settling into the new organisation, which was an opportunity for the Branch which we should make the most of. She thanked the past Committee for their energy and dedication and welcomed the new Committee members, whom she looked forward to working with.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS.

- (i) Sandra Christensen asked what the new boundaries were now that Birdlife Townsville had separated from Birdlife Northern Qld. (BNQ) Kath replied that we should not concern ourselves with the formal boundaries but adopt a flexible approach to our activities and feel free to participate in any activity organised under the Birdlife banner anywhere.

The following motions were put to the meeting and passed unanimously
Motion 1. “That Contact Call, the newsletter of Birdlife Northern Queensland, will be sent to all members of BNQ and Birdlife Townsville except where a member indicates they do not wish to receive it”, proposed Graham Harrington, Seconded Kath Shurcliff.

Motion 2 “That Birdlife Townsville to be requested to reciprocate by sending their newsletter to all members of BNQ unless any member requests otherwise”
Proposed Graham Harrington seconded Doug Herrington.

It was noted that whilst the newsletters were available on the Birdlife website, this did not render the above motions redundant. Receiving an email or hard copy in the post was a much more effective means of communication to meet the cooperative spirit in which these motions were framed.

(ii) There was some regret expressed at the separation of Birdlife Townsville from BNQ, which had resulted in a reduction in both the membership and area of the branch. In response to questions from the floor the Committee said they did not know how this decision had been made. However, it was generally agreed that we should seek to cooperate with Birdlife Townsville as much as possible. It was noted that friendly relations had been achieved over Easter. Alan Gillanders pointed out that whilst local groups within BNQ would be encouraged in the future we could not afford for them to separate from BNQ or there would be no viable group to concern itself with the less populated areas of North Qld such as Cape York and the Gulf.

(iii) Alan Gillanders suggested that we should lobby National Office to form a Queensland State Office for Birdlife Australia. This was approved by affirmation.

(iv) Angela McCaffrey asked if any BANQ assets would be transferred to Birdlife Townsville. She was assured that all the BANQ assets would stay with BNQ.

The meeting ended at 5.45pm. followed by supper and an excellent illustrated talk about Tasmanian wildlife by Martin Willis.

Minutes taken by Graham Harrington

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