

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (South Australia) Incorporated was held on Wednesday, 20 October 2021 at 5.30pm at 16 Nelson St Stepney, South Australia.

1. **Welcome**

As there were 16 members present who were eligible to vote, the President, Mr Rob DiMonte advised that a quorum was present, and the meeting was declared open.

President welcomed those present to the 146th Annual General Meeting of the RSPCA (SA) Inc. and introduced the Board Directors present, Paul Hutchinson, Andrew Carter, Marcus Gehring, Leanna Read, Stephen Voss, Jill Bottrall, Susan Hazel, Kate Gray and Chris Daniels.

President extended the welcome and introduced BDO Director, Geoffrey Edwards, Auditor Linh Doa; and Chief Executive Officer, Paul Stevenson.

Society members in attendance; Keith Baldwin, Victoria Holmes, Andrew Lewis, Tim Charles, and Lisa Weber.

Due to current COVID requirements at indoor public meetings, we have implemented a COVID safe plan, social distancing measures, QR sign-in or manual contract tracing register sign-in, provided hand sanitiser and please note that the wearing of masks are mandatory.

2. **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Board Director and Vice President Sheenagh Edwards. Apologies also received from Society members Dorothy Furness, Bernadette McHugh, Pauline McHugh, Bronwyn Ludlam, Madeline Greeneklee and Sandra Bezemer.

President asked for any further apologies from the floor. No further apology was received.

President advised that for a resolution to be passed relating to general business of the meeting, such as confirming the minutes and receiving reports, the vote must be a simple majority of those present and voting. Resolutions submitted by members or amendments to the Constitution require a special (two thirds) majority of those voting to pass.

3. **Confirmation of Minutes of 2020 Annual General Meeting**

President advised that the minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting for RSPCA (SA) Inc. have been provided to all present and asked if there were any comments or questions relating to the minutes. No comments or questions were received.

It was moved by L Read and seconded by A Carter that the Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting of the RSPCA (SA) Inc be received as a true and correct record.

Majority voted in favour, the motion was CARRIED

4. **Receiving of 2020-2021 Annual Report**

President advised that a copy of the 2020-2021 Annual Report had been provided to all present and asked if there were any comments or questions relating to the Annual Report. No comments or questions were received.

It was moved by J Bottrall and seconded by P Hutchinson that the 2020-2021 Annual Report of the RSPCA (SA) Inc. be received.

Majority voted in favour, the motion was CARRIED

5. **Receiving of 2020-2021 Audited Annual Accounts**

President advised that a copy of the 2020-2021 Audited Annual Accounts has been provided to all present and asked if there were any comments or questions relating to the Audited Annual

Accounts. No comments or questions were received.

It was moved by S Hazel and seconded by P Hutchinson that the 2020-2021 audited annual accounts of the RSPCA (SA) Inc, and the auditor's report on those accounts be received.

Majority voted in favour, the motion was CARRIED

6. **Appointment of Auditors for 2021-2021**

President advised that BDO are our current auditors and that the RSPCA (SA) Inc. Constitution requires that auditors be reappointed each year.

It was moved by K Gray and seconded by L Read that BDO be appointed as auditors of the RSPCA (SA) Inc. for 2021-2022.

Majority voted in favour, the motion was CARRIED

7. **Receiving of the Report of the Board/ CEO Presentation**

President provided a summary of the FY2021 financials, RSPCA SA has returned to financial sustainability and reported an operational surplus of \$675k after Bequests. RSPCA SA achieved this position through costing controls, and efficiency improvements that have enabled us to increase the number of animals we cared for during the year.

In FY2021, RSPCA SA provided care for 8,847 animals, achieved a record 5,360 animal adoptions and a live release rate of 88.4% (9/10 animals), by far the highest in RSPCA SA history.

There were 4,398 cruelty reports responded to by our 7 Inspectors, 1851 Ambulance call outs responded to by our Rescue Officers, 15 prosecution cases were finalised, and we currently have 50 open prosecution cases.

Over 277 Australian schools have now signed up to and are using our AWARE schools-based education program, with plans to grow this further in FY22.

RSPCA SA reached another historic record with the number of active volunteers reaching 2,194 in FY21. RSPCA SA would not be able to achieve our mission without the help and support of our volunteers.

In closing, Mr DiMonte noted the volunteer efforts of the RSPCA SA Board over the last year and thanked them for their contribution.

CEO, Paul Stevenson, provided an update and overview of the Amplifying Our Impact strategic plan, year 4 of a 5 year plan:

- Team RSPCA - A fully integrated workforce, growing our volunteer compacity to include new roles in Rescue, Legal, Petville and Op Shops. As Rob mentioned we had a record number of volunteers during the year, 2,194 volunteers.
- RSPCA Ignite - Prevention through education by implementing our curriculum based AWARE program in as many South Australian schools as we can.
- RSPCA Guardians - Proving the best possible animal care. This year has seen us record the lowest euthanasia rate ever, a record number of adoptions (despite no clear the shelter or price reduction events) and a record number of animals are being cared for in foster, currently 60% of animals in foster care and we aim for this number to increase to 80% in the coming months.
- RSPCA For All creatures - Leadership for better animal welfare, by collaborating with specialised wildlife rescue and rehoming groups; advocacy leadership in out collation to develop and run a coordinated campaign o ban duck shooting in SA; and the work carried out by our Inspectors, and Rescue Officers.

- Your RSPCA - Personalised communications to our supporters. In the last year we have grown from reaching 11k supported to now reaching just under 100K supporters by providing updates on the work that we are doing through multiple social channels and personalised donor journeys. Additionally, we are seeing that our Fundraising programs are continually being supported and new donors are increasing.
- RSPCA Everywhere - Brand exposure and commercial growth. Although dog training and Petville are not where we need it just yet, Op Shop growth has continued to rise as we see the opening of our 11th Op Shop in Victor Harbour in the coming months, our goal is to have 20 op shops across South Australia in the next 12 months.

It was moved by A Lewis and seconded by J Bottrall that the RSPCA (SA) Inc. report of the Board be received.

Majority voted in favour, the motion was CARRIED

8. Other Business

President noted that no other business was notified prior to agenda being posted, he asked for any other business that anyone would like to raise.

K Baldwin asked about Glenthorne farm and why we have not seen any progress yet. R DiMonte advised that unfortunately negotiations are still in progress with the government and there has been negotiations with both sides of government who have been very supportive. If we are not accepted for the site at Glenthorne Farm, we will proceed to plan b which would be to renovate Lonsdale, however we are still hopeful of securing a site at Glenthorne.

9. Meeting Close

President thanked, on behalf of the Board, staff and volunteers, all guests and members for attending and supporting RSPCA (SA) Inc.

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 6:00pm.