

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (South Australia) Incorporated was held on Wednesday, 21 October 2020 at 5.30pm at 16 Nelson St Stepney, South Australia.

**1. Welcome**

As there were 17 members present who were eligible to vote, the President, Mr R DiMonte advised that a quorum was present and the meeting was declared open.

President welcomed those present to the 145th Annual General Meeting of the RSPCA (SA) Inc. and introduced the Board Directors present, Paul Hutchinson (Vice President), Marcus Gehrig, Leanna Read, Mary Barton, Andrew Carter, Jill Bottrall, Stephen Voss, and Susan Hazel.

President extended the welcome and introduced Auditor Linh Doa, BDO; Chief Executive Officer, Paul Stevenson; and Chief Operations Officer, Kevin Tinkler.

Society members in attendance; Jill Amery, Keith Baldwin, Renee Buchiw, Peter Clark (non-voting), Andrew Lewis, Giuliano Rech, Sheree Sellick and Lisa Weber.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Board Director Sheenagh Edwards and John Samartzis. Apologies also received from Society members Pauline McHugh, Bernadette McHugh, Mark Parnell MLC, Judith Duval, Doreen Cocklin, Madeline Greeneklee and Bronwyn Ludlum.

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 2019 Annual General Meeting**

President advised that the minutes of the 2019 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 A Lewis and seconded by J Bottrall that the Minutes of the 2019 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 2019-2020 Annual Report**

President advised that a copy of the 2019-2020 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 P Hutchinson and seconded by M Barton that the 2019-2020 Annual Report of the RSPCA (SA) Inc. be received.**

***Majority voted in favour, the motion was CARRIED***

**5. Receiving of 2019-2020 Audited Annual Accounts**

President advised that a copy of the 2019-2020 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.

P Clark questioned if we have funding from the federal government; P Stevenson responded, there is no funding from the federal government, we receive just over \$1 million from the state

government for to run our Inspectorate, this funding only covers half of the expenses incurred. Additionally this year we were eligible and received job keeper payment.

**It was moved by L Read and seconded by R Buchiw that the 2019-2020 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. **Receiving of the Report of the Board/ CEO Presentation**

President spoke on behalf of the board. The last year and into the future our focus is on our vision and mission, in particular the 'prevention' of cruelty to animals. RSPCA reflects broad community attitudes and expectations regarding animal welfare issues.

President provided a summary of the last year which brought us disastrous bushfires and global pandemic, COVID-19. The bushfire recovery on Kangaroo Island saw our largest rescue and rehabilitation mission to date, with over ten thousand people volunteering to help. COVID-19 meant that we had to close op shops, dog training and reduce adoption prices to clear the shelter, in addition Million Paws Walk was cancelled, and this resulted in a \$1.1million loss on reserves.

P Stevenson provided and update on our Strategic Plan, 'Amplifying Our Impact'. Highlights from the last year inclue:

- AWARE (Animal Wellbeing: Awareness Responsibilities and Education) Programme launched early this year. We now have 176 South Australian Schools using the programme.
- Created a joint Cat Management plan with AWL to combat the issue of cat management in South Australia. Pushing for legislation to change so councils have an enforced responsibility on cat management.
- First council to enter into a service agreement on impounding and rehoming of stray dogs and cats is Onkaparinga Council which encompasses a free cat desexing and microchipping for residents in the Onkaparinga Council.
- Foster care has ramped up in the last year with 50% of animals in foster care. Migrating to a primary model of caring for animals is foster care based.
- Live release rate is the highest it has ever been at 86%, due to saving more animals than ever before. Despite this, there is still an entrenched perception in the community that we euthanise animals in our care. Improved results have been achieved by an expanded veterinary team, increased behaviour modification work, and more effective adoption marketing.
- The Lonsdale Shelter is 40 years old and the worst shelter facility in Australia, we are desperately needing an upgrade and still have plans to still build a new animal care campus including wildlife hospital at Glenthorne National Park.

Paul opened to the floor for comments or questions.

K Baldwin commended the Society on their Fospice programme, which allows foster carers to care for an animal who will not have long to live, and allows the animals to live their last few months in the care of a foster cares in their home.

P Clark questioned when we see our new Animal Campus up and running; P Stevenson advised that if we get approval before the end of this year it will be 2 years before completion.

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

*Majority voted in favour, the motion was CARRIED*

**7. Director Elections**

RSPCA (SA) Inc. Constitution requires four of the eight member-elected Directors to retire by rotation every second year, and that this year, the Directors required to retire are Andrew Carter, Jill Bottrall, Mary Barton and Rob DiMonte.

All retiring Directors were eligible to stand as candidates for re-election and all have re-nominated.

There were no other nominations from the membership; therefore all four nominations were accepted for re-election.

**A vote was not required and that the nominees are elected unopposed.**

**8. Appointment of Auditors for 2020-2021**

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

**It was moved by A Lewis and seconded by R Buchiw that BDO be appointed as auditors of the RSPCA (SA) Inc. for 2020-2021.**

*Majority voted in favour, the motion was CARRIED*

**9. Other Business**

P Clark raised his concerns on our current philosophy in relation to unwanted cats; current community expectation is that cat numbers should be reduced due to cats becoming feral and severely affecting native species.

Over 100 native species are at threatened by feral cats and have caused extinction of ground dwelling birds and small mammals (not to mention reptiles).

A large number of cats are being given away for free by the RSPCA and not being followed up with to ensure the cat owners are responsibly managing their cat by keeping it indoors.

P Clark believes unwanted cats should be euthanised and by giving away cats for free we are contributing to the feral cat problem and putting our wildlife in danger.

Suggested that RSPCA stop advertising cats for sale or for free, but take the details of those who would like to adopt a cat and contact them when a cat arrives to be adopted.

P Stevenson responded that it is against our values to euthanise animals that are healthy and can be rehomed. We receive over 5,000 cats per year and on average it costs \$700 to rehome each cat. All cat adopters are given counselling before they are rehomed and we actively and strongly promote indoor containment of cats.

In summary, every cat needs a responsible owner and there is legislation requiring all cats are legally required to be microchipped and desexed. RSPCA are a small piece of the puzzle and councils have a responsibility to enforce legislation, as well as take responsibility for overall cat management.

K Baldwin commented that it would relieve the burden on RSPCA if government provided funding to cat management.

President asked if there was any other business. No comments or questions were received.

10. **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 6:25 pm.