



MINUTES OF BIRDLIFE SHOALHAVEN COMMITTEE MEETING
3 LOUISA GROVE, VICENTIA
7 April 2017

1. Attendance and apologies

Present: Rob Dunn, Matt Jones, Mike Jefferis, Chris Grounds, Yolande Cozijn, Kim Touzel
Apologies: Karen Davis, Brett Davis

2. Acceptance of the agenda – No additional items

3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting

Moved Rob, seconded Chris - carried.

4. Business arising from the previous minutes

29 August 2016 meeting

2. Brett and Chris to liaise to set up Conservation Officer e-signature – pending. Kim has set up e-signature for Secretary.
3. Brett and Rob to review website content - pending

21 November 2016 meeting

- 5b. Rob to purchase agreed items for future events and arrange for copies of the newsletter to be printed – done.

30 January 2017 meeting

1. Rob to report back to the Committee on what comes out of the BIGNET meeting - done in President's Report
2. The potential to apply for funding from ABEF by 31 May 2017 was discussed. **Decision** - No large projects planned to use funding – we are not there yet and this should be deferred.
3. Barry and Mike agreed to research walks and provide information to Council and Brett agreed to act as liaison between Council and BirdLife Shoalhaven photographers re. images for the new brochure - Done
Mike & Rob will be the primary points of contact to move this forward with Council.
4. Rob to arrange a meeting of key Birddata users to come up with a recommendation on how we support and make use of Birddata. Done – will be covered as part of KBA Workshop
5. Brett to remove John Fimmano's name from the page on our website devoted to Indian Mynas. Done
Rob to talk to Bill Handke, President of Canberra Indian Myna Action Group (CIMAG), and keep contact with Council on developments after Bill's presentation. Email was sent to Bill by Rob, no reply received will send again. Rob to attend a workshop arranged by Council on 18 April, others may attend if available. Rob will report back after workshop. Pending
6. Rob to liaise with Shoalhaven Landcare on arrangements for a BLS stall at the Bundanon field day on 9 April. Done
7. Rob to propose dates for future BLS Committee meetings to accommodate Kim's attendance. Done

5. Updates and related issues

a) **President's report** – Rob made the following points: Reported that the BIGNET meeting attended by him and Matt was a success. There was a diverse group present with varying degrees of expertise working together. **Decision** - BLS will continue engagement with BIGNET going forward. The next BIGNET will be at Urunga on September 9-10, he will be overseas however it was agreed that BLS should be represented. Reported that preparations for KBA Workshop to be held August 5-6 with the assistance of Elisabeth Hodson have begun. Rob and Karen will liaise with the KBA team who are organizing the agenda and the speakers. Meriton Street Hall has been booked. Day 1 lectures will be held on the transition from IBA to KBA, use of the Birddata app, experiences in different KBAs and what the KBA Guardians do. Day 2 will be a field day in the Botanic Gardens, Jervis Bay where surveying techniques will be taught using the Birddata App. An email has been sent to the Mayor to open the event. Barb will be organizing the food with dinner to be held at the Jervis Bay Club in Huskisson. Brett will be in charge of audiovisual. Volunteers will be needed to lead people around and assist with use of the Birddata App. Approximately 50 – 70 people would be expected to attend with KBA Guardians getting priority. This will also be an appropriate time to launch the bird walk brochure. BLS will receive \$500 for hosting the event. Environmental staff from council should be invited to attend. Reported that he would try to line up Judy Harrington, EagleCam project manager, for the next BLS talk in late July. **Action 1**

b) **Conservation Officer report** - Chris stated that his report on the latest conservation happenings would be in the upcoming newsletter. Reported a win with Heritage Estate as all major blocks were now in NPWS hands with the future gazetting as a National Park. Reported a win with the Shorebirds article and front cover display on Australian Geographic Magazine as the result of a letter he had sent to the magazine. Reported the film "Cultivating Murder" would be held at the Huskisson Cinema on Friday May 12 from 6-8pm.

c) **Secretary report** - Kim reported several emails related to KBA workshops were received which were forwarded to relevant committee members. Several "what bird is this" emails and phone calls were received. Reported that a Facebook message was picked up from Lisa O'Neill and Nicholas Carlile (14/02/17) stating they were local BirdLife Australia members (they haven't been on our list since April 2016). Inquiry was whether BLS would be interested in receiving newsletters from the Ranger in charge of Five Islands regeneration or possibly an article and photos to share. The secretary has made two replies after discussion with our Webmaster /newsletter editor Brett Davis. It was suggested that we would be interested in including a one-off article on the work being done at Five Islands with images in our BLS newsletter. This could include a link to their newsletter. Since Port Kembla is not in our BLS region it wasn't considered appropriate to post ongoing reports of the work being done there. No response has been received.

Reported that email correspondence had been received from Lynda Powell of Shell Cove regarding feeding birds bread. She has posted a sign and information on her local community Facebook page encouraging people not to feed the birds bread. She was asking how to go about getting signs posted near ponds in her local suburb. Email reply was sent suggesting she contact her local council and birding groups in her region. Web address links for IBOC and Illawarra Birders were included. The secretary of Illawarra Birders, Penny Potter, was also contacted as Lynda lives in their region.

Reported that MailChimp set up by our Webmaster Brett, has made emailing notifications to our members and supporters quite efficient. MailChimp also makes it easy to track how many of the emails sent have been opened.

MailChimp reports on recent correspondence sent to Members and other Supporters for our upcoming talk on "Building Corridors for Bushland Birds" show that only 50% of the email reminders have actually been opened. Initial email - Committee 66%, Members 64%, Supporters 60% were opened. Therefore are we reaching everyone with our email notifications – if this information from MailChimp is accurate.

Reported that we have had 62 attendance confirmations for the "Bushland Corridors" talk so far.

Reported that we now have 217 BLS members and only 164 of those members are on our members email mailing list. BLS also have 68 other supporters that we send mail to which include non-members who have requested to be subscribed to our list.

Reported that photographs and updates on birds present at Shoalhaven Heads have been posted on our Facebook page and shared with other pages, ie.. Illawarra Birders, Shoalhaven Birders and personal page to increase exposure to BirdLife Shoalhaven. Latest post has reached 305 people and received 14 likes.

Reported frequent Email spam being sent to BLS email account.

d) Webmaster and social media report – no report.

e) Newsletter editor report – no report.

f) Treasurer report – no report.

g) Media Officers report - Yolande reported she has 8 “Birds in Backyards” talks booked for 2017 and is booked out until June 28. Two talks have been given with good response. Yolande’s husband Warren Wilson has been helping out as audio-visual has to be set up and some time spent talking with attendees after the talks. If other committee members are free any assistance will be appreciated. Yolande will email committee members a list of future talk dates. Kim agreed to assist with one of the talks if free on dates booked.

Reported she has been getting names to be added to our mailing list from the meetings. Requested we have a template with BLS logo to use at talks for people to leave details on. Rob said he had one he would email to committee members. Kim said she would add any names received to the BLS MailChimp supporters list. Yolande to email lists to Kim after talks.

Reported she had contacted BLA in Melbourne re name badges to use when giving talks to community groups and response from Fiona Blandford had not been received. Rob said he would email Fiona to get logo and we would design them. Yolande said she will organize to have the name tags made. Rob said committee members that wanted tags should email Yolande.

h) Shoalhaven Birders – no report.

i) MUD Birders – Mike J reported that the Joseph Forshaw talk was not going to happen. John Church will be giving a talk on June 17th on “Climate Change”. Mike will send details to Rob. Mike would like to have Yolande present a talk for MUD birders and will correspond with Yolande re date. Mike requested Matt present a talk on bird photography to the MUD birders and he agreed.

6. Resignation of Barry from the BLS committee

Barry resigned from the Committee on 5/3/17, given he will be moving out of the area soon. The BirdLife Shoalhaven Working Arrangements state - "15. If a Committee member position becomes vacant between AGMs, the Committee may co-opt a Member to fill the vacancy." **Decision** - A decision was made not to fill the vacancy and review membership of the Committee at the next AGM.

7. Plans for the 10 April evening talk ‘Building corridors for woodland birds’

Rob and Brett to set up. Karen to look after front desk. Chris will take photos of the event. Catherine and Ros organising food. Gary Howling is staying overnight at Rob’s. Rob to organise wine as a thank-you gift for speakers Garry Howling and Garry Daly. Article in newsletter after talk.

8. Update on bird walks brochure

See papers for progress update. **Decision** - Walks were agreed as listed in the papers. Photographs have been provided by Charles Dove. A copy of draft has been sent to Frances Bray. Draft was sent to council April 6th. The expected deadline should be for the August KBA event.

Matt raised concerns regarding the flushing of birds if large groups of birdwatchers are on the beaches in critical times such as breeding season. What are the expectations? Are these walks or bird observing locations and therefore should the brochure be titled “Bird Walks Brochure”? Rob to send a copy of draft to Matt and stated it is still a draft and changes can be made.

9. Implications of tourism growth for bird conservation

Chris - Council advertises the Shoalhaven as pet friendly – this is not sustainable.

10. Communications on negative impacts on native birds, e.g. dogs, cats, feeding native birds, mynahs, etc.

Chris - Dogs on beaches, focus on that issue. Chris suggested an article could be run in BLS newsletter re cats, mynas and dogs. Rob building relationship with Coralie Bell at council while working on Bird Walk Brochure – will talk to Coralie re a future brochure concerning issues. Discussion re how owners of dogs on beaches could be approached. Mike suggested a card to hand to people to assist in increasing awareness of dangers to birds. Possibly Jodie of NPWS could be asked to be involved. Mike also suggested an article could be written on what the ACT is doing with the issue of cats. **Action 2** - Matt offered to write a draft submission before the July meeting to address the issue of dogs on beaches.

11. Recognition of 50th anniversary of NPWS

Chris will liaise with NPWS and write a letter. Chris will also write an article for the newsletter. Three bird walks will be held in September by BLS for the celebrations. One in Milton – Mike will organize a special walk for the event; one in Jervis Bay region and one in northern region. Walks should be taken from Bird Walk Brochure being developed with council. Rob, Mike and Rob will decide on the walks. Participation will increase BLS awareness as well as support NPWS. **Action 3**

12. Next meeting

Yolande proposed Committee meetings could be held at alternating venues and offered to hold the next meeting at her residence. Rob said he had no problem with a change of venue. Next meeting will be held on Friday 14 July 2017 – 2pm to 4pm at Yolande’s home: 27 Seasongood Road, Woollamia.

13. Other business

Rob suggested we set up a mailing list on MailChimp for “Other Conservation Groups” which he preferred to be separate from existing “Other Supporters” list. This will save him sending separate emails to each group for future talks. Kim said this could be done. **Action 4**

Actions to be carried forward to next meeting

29 August 2016 meeting

2. Brett and Chris to liaise to set up Conservation Officer e-signature
3. Brett and Rob to review website content

30 January 2017 meeting

8. Rob to report on Indian Myna workshop attended at council April 18

7 April 2017 meeting

1. Rob to arrange next talk night with Judy Harrington, EagleCam project manager, as speaker.
2. Matt to prepare a paper for July meeting to raise awareness re dogs running off lease on beaches. Strategy would aim at building a platform to raise awareness before next migration season in September.
3. Recognition of 50th anniversary of NPWS
Chris will liaise with NPWS and write a letter of acknowledgement and an article for the newsletter. Three bird walks will be held in September by BLS for the celebrations. Walks should be taken from Bird Walk Brochure being developed with council.
4. Kim to set up additional mailing list on MailChimp for “Other Conservation Groups - to be separate from existing “Other Supporters” list. Will get list of groups to be included from Rob.