



**MINUTES OF BIRDLIFE SHOALHAVEN COMMITTEE MEETING
27 SEASONGOOD ROAD, WOOLLAMIA
14 JULY 2017, 2-4 PM**

1.0 Attendance and apologies

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

2.0 Acceptance of the agenda – No additional items

3.0 Approval of minutes of previous meeting

Moved Rob, seconded Kim - carried.

4.0 Business arising from the previous minutes

4.1 29 August 2016 meeting

- 4.1.1 Brett and Chris to liaise to set up Conservation Officer e-signature
- 4.1.2 Brett and Rob to review website content and add new Shoalhaven Bird Walks brochure

4.2 30 January 2017 meeting

- 4.2.1 Rob reported on Common Myna workshop attended at council April 18: Councillor John Levett is looking at setting up a reduction program. **Done**

4.3 7 April 2017 meeting

- 4.3.1 Rob to arrange next talk night with Judy Harrington, EagleCam project manager, as speaker. **Done** – date set for 13 November 2017

Action 1.1: Brett to publish information in August BLS newsletter.

Action 1.2: Kim to create MailChimp email and send out to members and others 5 weeks before event.

- 4.3.2. 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. **Done**. Refer papers distributed before the meeting for reference - Agenda Item 8 Dogs on Beaches Discussion Paper and BLA "Disturbance to Birds" policy link in paper

4.3.3 Recognition of 50th anniversary of NPWS

4.3.3.1 New development – new NPWS director has ordered October 8, 2017 as the date for NPWS 50th Anniversary celebrations **Decision:** BLS will proceed with holding walks for the anniversary in September.

4.3.3.2 **Action 3:** Chris will liaise with NPWS (Greg Tedder – area manager for Nowra) and write a letter of acknowledgement for recognition of NPWS 50th anniversary.

Chris will also send an article to Brett for the August newsletter outlining walks to be done.

4.3.3.3 The walks will be promoted as BirdLife Shoalhaven National Park walks

- Mike, Chris and Karen to liaise re walks. Three bird walks will be held by BLS for the celebrations. Walks will be taken from the new Bird Walk Brochure.

- Walk held in Milton region will be in addition to usual MUD birders walks

- 4.3.4. Kim to set up additional mailing list on MailChimp for "Other Conservation Groups - to be separate from existing "Other Supporters" list. **Done**. Two data fields available - first name (Cons group) second name (Contact person)

Text on email will read: "You are receiving this email because you are a conservation group in the Shoalhaven Region"

Action 4: Rob to send Kim list of conservation groups and contact details to add to new list

5.0 Updates and related issues

5.1 President's report – Rob made the following points:

5.1.1 Rob recently represented BirdLife Shoalhaven at the BirdLife Australia branch meeting.

Key issues: 1) KBA's – the release of the new Birddata app

2) BLA membership structure will be changing to members and supporters

- Members only will have voting and governance rights therefore branch president, secretary and treasurers will all have to remain members.

- All will receive magazine.

- Weekly membership lists from BLA will in future include Members and Supporters.

3) BLA working arrangements with branches are being renewed – including an update on what is required of branches.

5.1.2 Aussie Backyard Bird Count – Rob hoping Council might support promotion to provide publicity.

5.1.3 BIGNET – September 9-10, 2017 in Urunga, hosted by BirdLife Northern NSW - BirdLife Shoalhaven will be represented by Yolande.

5.1.4 Collingwood Beach – OEH raised comments with the draft plan, it is back with the consultants and will be on public display until August.

5.2 Conservation Officer report

Chris stated a full report would be in the August newsletter

5.2.1 Cultivating Murder documentary film was very successful – Greg Miller was impressed with outcome. Antidotal – another landowner in the region has been heavily fined for land clearing. Also, after work by Glen Turner's wife and sister there is going to be a state government inquest into Glen Turner's death.

5.2.2 Jodie Dunn's Shorebird report has been completed and will be summarized for the newsletter

5.2.3 BIOME Art Exhibition September 16- October 8 2017 will be promoted in BLS newsletter

5.2.4 The addition of the 11 hectares of land in Vincentia to Jervis Bay National Park was a good win in May.

5.2.5 Chris expressed his disappointment that BLS partners JBRA (Jervis Bay Regional Alliance) and HEST (Heritage Estate Community Network) had not been mentioned in the BLA national magazine and eNews newsletter. **Decision:** A letter to be sent to Sean Dooley. **Action 1:** Chris to write to Sean Dooley, editor to express disappointment and request a correction in the eNews as well as request recognition of partners in future. Copy letter to Rob.

5.3 Secretary report

5.3.1 Kim reported that we now have 221 BLS members with 19 new members added since January 31 2017; 177 of those members are on our members email mailing list. BLS "Other Supporters" have increased from 68 to 94 due to non-members attending Yolande's BIBY talks, BLS quarterly talks and event stalls (Bundanon and World Environment Day Huskisson) having requested to be subscribed to our emailing list.

5.3.2 BLS Facebook page is reaching more people with regular postings by Charles Dove of birds in the region as well as occasional photographs posted by secretary Kim and Brett posting birding and conservation related events in the region.

Reported Email spam being sent to BLS email account has decreased.

5.3.3 May: Kim interviewed on ABC Illawarra by Melinda James re new CSIRO "The Australian Bird Guide"

5.3.4 Correspondence in / out:

Fridays: Emails were received from Fiona at BLA with new members list and all members - Welcome emails were sent to all new members and they were added to MailChimp members email contact list

April: Email Campaign created and sent via MailChimp for May 12 Cultivating Murder Documentary

May: - Correspondence from Frances Bray, President of the Lake Wollumboola Protection Association Inc – email Campaign sent via MailChimp for Lake Wollumboola/Burradise Festival Walks (May 13-14)
 - Email Campaign created and sent to Membership list for Key Biodiversity Workshop (Aug 5-6)
 - Correspondence with Nina Douglas JBMM re World Environment Day stall in June organised by Rob
 - Correspondence was sent May 17 and replies received from Local Member for the South Coast Shelley Hancock and The Minister of the Environment Gabrielle Upton by the secretary as well as committee members, re “Objection to the planned private sale of Lot 1 DP866983 The Wool Road and Naval College Road Vincentia (11.16ha)
 -Several general inquiries were received by phone / email as well as bird call recording. What bird was that? What nest is that?

5.4 Webmaster and social media report – no report.

5.5 Newsletter editor report – no report. Brett away – back August 3 – send him articles for newsletter.

5.6 Treasurer report –

<u>INCOME AND EXPENSES</u>	1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017	
Bank Balance at 1/7/2016	\$	518.48
<u>Income</u>		
Hall Hire refund	90.00	
Twitchathon Fundraising	720.95	
Sales of misc bird items	191.00	
Talk donations	214.60	
		1216.55
<u>Expenses</u>		
Hall Hire	285.00	
Domain Name to 1/8/20	35.88	
Twitchathon funds to head office	720.95	
Meeting exps	141.00	
Postage	0.00	
Bank Fees	<u>82.30</u>	
		<u>1265.13</u>
Bank Balance at 30/6/2017	\$	<u><u>469.90</u></u>

- Rob reported that BLS would receive \$500 for the KBA workshop.

5.7 Recent Media and presentations and events

5.7.1 Media Officers report – Yolande reported recent media, presentations and events

Date	Group	No.	Emails
11/4/17	Jervis Bay CWA	12	2
12/4/17	Werri Beach Garden Club	45	
21/4/17	View Club St Georges Basin	54	
26/6/17	Permaculture Shoalhaven	14	3
28/6/17	Bloomers and Buds Garden Group	44	8

- About magazine – Holding stories on:- Magpies, Red Browed Finches, and King Parrots
- Have requested a space in the summer Edition (Dec/Jan) for a beaching nesting bird story on Pied Oyster catchers and Hooded Plovers.
- South Coast Register published news of our woodland bird talk.
- Name Badges: Artwork set up at Shoalhaven Trophy and Engraving – 1 Stewart Place, Nowra - Birdlife Shoalhaven magnetic badges cost \$15.50

5.7.2 Committee Discussion:

5.7.2.1 -Rob reported he had been informed by BLA that any email addresses collected from events and added to our supporters email list would also have to be sent to National Office to add to their mail lists. Yolande and Kim agreed this would deter people giving their email addresses to BLS.

5.7.2.2 Discussion re Yolande looking for new sources to publish articles, Bush Telegraph, ex-service clubs suggested. Mike to get details of the Ulladulla Club Newsletter for Yolande as a possibility for publication of bird articles.

5.7.2.3 Discussion re articles to be published on the upcoming KBA workshop

Decision - Articles will be done after the event. Also include publicity for new Bird Walk brochure. Photos will be taken during KBA workshop to use for media. Publish in BLS newsletter, Bush Telegraph, South Coast Register – Chris suggested he could call Damien McGill. Rob suggested same articles could be used for SCR as in newsletter. **Action 2**

5.8 Shoalhaven Birders

5.8.1 Rob reported that with Barry Virtue no longer living in the area, we might be approached to take over walks in the Shoalhaven region from the Shoalhaven Birders. This will be addressed if we are approached by Shoalhaven Birders.

5.8.2 Kim expressed interest in leading walks in the new year after a bit more birding experience.

5.9 MUD Birders

5.9.1 Mike reported the MUD Birders had received 2nd prize for most money raised nationally in the October 2016 Twitchathon.

5.9.2 Margaret Hamon will be giving a talk on the KBA workshop to MUD Birders in upcoming meeting therefore Yolande's talk on BIBY will be moved to 2018.

6.0 Update on bird walks brochure:

6.1 The brochure is completed and all agreed it was a great job by Rob, Mike and Brett in developing the brochure with Shoalhaven City Council tourism team and Charles Dove for providing photos. Rob presented a sample to show committee members.

- BLS will receive 5000 copies from council to distribute. This will be ready to be presented at the August 5-6 KBA workshop.

- BLS will have to distribute brochures as soon as possible to caravan parks etc..

Action 2: Rob, Mike and Brett to meet to organise distribution of Bird Walk brochures.

Action 3: Rob to send a letter of thanks to the mayor, all councilors and the council tourism marketing team for council's support of Shoalhaven's birdlife in production of the new Bird Walks brochure. A soft copy will be sent to BLS committee and Charles Dove who provided photos.

7.0 7.1 KBA workshop update

- Rob will be meeting with Elisabeth Hodson, NSW KBA coordinator on July 21.
- Thirty-nine attendees are confirmed including 12 BLS members for Saturday 36 for Sunday survey field practice with 15 KBAs represented
- Rob and Karen to meet with Allan Stewart on 4th August re. the field day
- Chris suggested we should use the KBA workshop in the media to get the Shoalhaven "out there"

Decision: Rob to raise the issue with Elisabeth **Action 2**

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the administrator of Booderee Botanic Gardens and elders at the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community to inform them about the field day and thank them for the use of the gardens. **Action 4**

7.2 Recognition of Shoalhaven Heads

Refer papers distributed before the meeting for reference

- Rob has sent "Shoalhaven Heads KBA Proposal" written by Chris to Golo Maurer, KBA program manager, who said it would not be ruled out for urgent cases.
- Chris stated that if we look at other KBAs in our region, with the large amount of biodiversity at Shoalhaven Heads it should also be a KBA
- Community want to keep the inlet open to protect properties from flood, for tourism and recreation
- Matt stated that there is as much danger to properties during very high tides if the inlet is open.
- Council consultants would like BLS representation on a committee looking at the issue.
- **Decision:** Chris suggested we take it on, Matt seconded and all members were in support of moving this forward. **Action 5**
- It was agreed to discuss the recognition of Shoalhaven Heads as a KBA with Golo Maurer at upcoming KBA workshop on August 5 -6.

Action 6: Chris to write a formal paper covering why we consider making Shoalhaven Heads a KBA urgent including the opening of Shoalhaven Heads to the sea.

8.0 Raising awareness about dogs and beach nesting birds.

Refer papers distributed before the meeting for reference - Agenda Item 8: Dogs on Beaches Discussion Paper and BLA "Disturbance to Birds" policy link in paper.

- As BLS is a branch of BLA we have to follow BLA policy
- Timely to write to Environment Services of Council now before return of birds in September
- Active on ground management is lacking where signs are posted on beaches re prohibited areas and dogs on lead there isn't adequate monitoring and enforcement
- Rob suggested Matt draft letters for Council and NPWS re monitoring compliance on dog prohibited beaches and dogs on lead then discuss with Jodie Dunn before proceeding.

Action 7: Matt to draft a letter to send to council and NPWS - to contact Jodie Dunn first to discuss with her and get her support and input.

Action 8: Summary of NPWS Report on Shorebirds Recovery Program to be published in August newsletter for awareness.

9.0 Next meeting 13 October 2017 – 2pm to 4pm

10.0 Other business

10.1 Yolande suggested start time of 19:30 for future talks instead of usual 19:00 and having one instead of two speakers at events. Discussion held by committee members present.

Decision: start time to remain at 19:00 and future talks to have only one speaker so presentations are less rushed.

Actions to be carried forward to next meeting

29 August 2016 meeting

1. Brett and Chris to liaise to set up Conservation Officer e-signature
2. Brett and Rob to review website content and add new Shoalhaven Bird Walks brochure

7 April 2017 meeting

1.1 Brett to publish information in August BLS newsletter for November 13, 2017 talk which will be presented by Judy Harrington, EagleCam project manager.

1.2 Kim to create MailChimp email campaign for Judy Harrington's talk and send out to members and others October 6 (5 weeks before event).

3: Recognition of NPWS 50th anniversary. Chris will liaise with NPWS (Greg Tedder – area manager for Nowra) and write a letter of acknowledgement. Chris will also to send an article to Brett for the August newsletter outlining walks to be done.

4: Rob to send Kim list of conservation groups and contact details to add to new MailChimp "Conservation Groups" list.

14 July 2017 meeting

1: Chris to write to Sean Dooley, editor to express disappointment and request a correction in the eNews as well as request recognition of partners in future. Copy letter to Rob.

2: Rob, Mike and Brett to meet to organise distribution of Bird Walk brochures and prepare media coverage of the brochure and KBA workshop.

3: Rob to send a letter of thanks to the mayor, all councilors and the council tourism marketing team for council's support of Shoalhaven's birdlife in production of the new Bird Walks brochure. A soft copy will be sent to BLS committee and Charles Dove who provided photos.

4: Chris & Rob to send letter to administrator of Booderee Botanic Gardens and elders at the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community to inform them about the field day and thank them for the use of the gardens

5: BLS to be represented on Committee looking at opening of Shoalhaven Heads

6: Chris to write a formal paper covering why we consider making Shoalhaven Heads a KBA urgent, including the opening of Shoalhaven Heads to the sea.

7: Matt to draft a letter to send to council and NPWS re monitoring compliance on dog prohibited beaches and dogs on lead. Matt to contact Jodie Dunn first to discuss with her and get her support and input.

8: Chris to prepare a summary of Jodie Dunn's Shorebird Report to be published in August newsletter for awareness.