



**MINUTES OF BIRDLIFE SHOALHAVEN COMMITTEE MEETING
3 LOUISA GROVE, VICENTIA
FRIDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2018, 2-4 PM**

1.0 Attendance and apologies

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

2.0 Acceptance of the agenda

Additions to the agenda:

- BIGnet April 21 & 22 2018
- Jervis Bay Maritime Museum exhibition "The Flyway Print Exchange" March 10 – June 11 2018

3.0 Approval of minutes of previous meeting

Moved Rob, seconded Kim - carried.

4.0 Business arising from the previous minutes

17 November 2017 meeting

Action 1: Brett and Rob to look at revamping BLS Website to comply with BLA branding guidelines, review content, add new Shoalhaven Bird Walks brochure and add links to BirdLife donations/membership sections. **Outstanding – also refer agenda item 5.5.**

Action 2: Karen to change "Talk donations" under income to "Talk entry fees" in future financial reports. **Done**

Action 3: Karen to follow up with NPWS and BLA on outstanding funds from NPWS photo expo. **Done**

Action 4: Karen to email Yolande a new contact for the South Coast Register and cc Kim. **Outstanding**

Action 5: Kim will organize badges when ready to move forward with this, in discussion with Rob. **Agreed by email to not proceed**

Action 6: Rob to revise the draft Action Plan incorporating the above points and circulate it to the Committee for final approval before submitting to Fiona Blandford. **Done**

Action 7: Yolande to consider organizing a late afternoon walk and BBQ during daylight saving months with the support of non-Committee BLS members. **Done**

Action 8: Rob to meet with Fiona Blandford, BLA National Office Branch Coordinator and cover:

- her initial input on the draft Action Plan
- how they will manage communications for email addresses we provide
- how we get our members, Wildbird Protectors and supporters back from them
- clarify when we can get back the Aussie Backyard Bird Count results for the Shoalhaven
- tell her our plan for reviewing the BLS web-site

Done

Action 9: AGM arrangements:

- Rob will send email to committee when date for AGM and next Committee meeting is confirmed. **Done**
- Kim to send email invitation to members, Wildbird Protectors, partners and friends 40 days before AGM. **Done**
- Rob to liaise with Brett for newsletter re AGM. **Done**

Action 10: Rob to arrange the speaker and venue for the first talk after the AGM in 2018. **Done**

Action 11: Mike to contact Barry Tomkinson, president of Milton NPA, to make sure we do not clash with their annual take date and speaker. **Done**

Action 12: Kim to create new MailChimp contact list to include the CCBs listed on Shoalhaven Councils website. **Done**

Action 13: Rob to contact Jodie to advise her of the Committee's approval of \$900, (in addition to the \$600 from Rob & Barb), to support the NPWS Shorebirds Recovery Program and for her to suggest the best use of those funds for her current priorities. **Done**

5.0 Updates and related issues

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

A few points of what I have been up to:

- Completion of BLS 2018 Action Plan and submission to BirdLife
- Arrangements for AGM
- Arrangement of BLS talk on 23 April with Beth Mott speaking on Powerful Owl project
- Liaison with Shoalhaven Landcare to promote Nic Carlile's talk on Lord Howe Island
- Discussion with Jodie Dunn on BLS offer of \$900 for Shorebirds Recovery Program – still waiting on her reply
- Non-presidential articles for Summer Newsletter

One significant update is that Council has run out of the Bird Walk brochure and asked if we had any left! I said we did not and suggested they do a reprint! They have since advised that they do not have the budget currently for the cost of \$1500 and regardless their graphic designer is committed to other projects till April. Given the success of the brochure, we need to discuss our stock on hand and perhaps be a bit less 'generous'. One option is that closer to April, I see what Council can afford, and perhaps look for our own funding at which time we might be clearer on costs/potential for a bird hide.

Committee discussion re bird hide: This is a project Mike is keen to progress. Location, funding, design, maintenance, land tenure and vandalism were all discussed with decision of:

Action 1:

- Rob to discuss potential for a bird hide at Lake Wollumboola with Frances Bray
- Rob and Mike to put thoughts together and write a paper before beginning conversations with Council regarding a bird hide.

5.2 Conservation Officer Report

A 2017 CO Report was provided for members in the last newsletter so I will not reiterate all of that. Additionally, there will be a condensed report to the AGM next Monday.

Two matters worthy of a report today though are Shoalhaven Heads and Worrowing Heights Precinct Plan.

I assisted Conservation Volunteers and NPWS in leading a community group, as BLS C.O., through a Shoalhaven Heads guided walk on World Wetlands Day February 2. There were 17 participants and 4 “staff” as it were including Adam Woods of Conservation Volunteers and Valda Corrigan of NPWS, who would be well known to us all. Valda and Adam rated the morning as very successful, which it was. I provided BLS Bird Walk pamphlets and indicated how participants could become involved with BLS. It was another opportunity to build our connections related to Shoalhaven Heads, yet again with NPWS but especially with the Conservation Volunteers group and their regional manager Adam Woods. They have been working on a Shoalhaven Heads Project as it turns out and were very grateful for a specialist habitat-bird input. They will welcome any input from us and be more than prepared to work on any Shoalhaven Heads action with us. So in short, we have a new conservation partner. The 94 Eastern Curlews present was a nice bonus.

The report to SCC on the Worroving Heights Precinct Plan is on the agenda for the next Development Committee meeting. BLS made a submission regarding this Plan. We warned of KBA status, habitat and habitat corridor concerns and inherent threats to birdlife. Other local groups such as the HEST Network, JBRA, BBCR and Vin Matters as well OEH also provided a submission. The latter submission shared warnings of EPBC Act, related threatened species and habitat corridor concerns which would constrain development. Details of the report and all submissions are on council’s website under Minutes and Agenda.

Committee discussion: Worroving Heights should be added to existing Jervis Bay KBA. Is it already part of KBA? Suggest contact Samantha Vine, head of BLA Conservation and copy BirdLife Southern NSW.

Action 2: Chris to assess scope for BirdLife Australia and BSNSW to provide support for submission for Worroving Heights.

I am sure those of us involved with shorebirds in particular and living in the Tourist Impact Zone (TIZ) maybe reflecting on the threshold of tolerance probably being reached this season. Just this morning the ABC announced an increase in visitor numbers to Conjola NP from 213,000 in 2016 to 630,000 in 2017. (The coastal area from Swan Lake-Swanhaven to Lake Conjola itself).

Committee discussion: The increase in tourism in the Shoalhaven is unsustainable with a negative impact on habitat and wildlife including birds. Resources are required to maintain compliance. Park Rangers are overstretched.

Action: 3 Impacts of tourism to be covered in the newsletter with imperative for additional funding for rangers to be included. – Chris

New Callala Bay Wetlands Walk was recently opened by Amanda Findley on World Wetlands Day.

Action 4: The new Callala Bay Wetlands Walk to be written up as a new bird walk for the BLS newsletter and web-site by Brett.

5.3 Secretary report

Membership - Kim reported that we now have 220 BLS members, number unchanged since previous meeting in November with 5 new members signed up since the previous meeting in November 2017.

A new MailChimp email list was created for Shoalhaven Community Consultative Bodies with 23 contacts.

MailChimp Contact Lists - we now have 4 lists plus committee member list:

- BLS members and Wildbird protectors: 183 – do not have email addresses for everyone
- Other conservation groups: 24
- Other Supporters: 169
- Shoalhaven Community Consultative Bodies: 23

339 total email contacts

Correspondence in / out:

- Several inquiries re birding in the region and bird identification received replies sent or passed on to Brett if more expertise required
- January
 - Inquiry from Jack Winterbottom of BirdLife East Gippsland re getting hardcopy of Bird Walk brochure – Rob sent reply
 - Adam of Wollongong Conservation Volunteers invited BLS to participate in World Wetlands Day events at SHH. Chris gave talks at the event.
- AGM invitation and reminder were sent out. Thirty replies received. 20 dinner and AGM, 4 AGM only and 6 apologies received.
- Invitation and Registration form for BIGNET 2018 April 21 & 22 received from Pixie yesterday. Wendy Fox BLA is contact. Meeting being held at Education centre Olympic Park, Sydney. Suggest add to agenda.

5.4 Webmaster and social media report

Brett reported:

- Facebook activity has increased.
- More walks have been added to BLS website, 12 from the Bird Walk brochure plus Hyams Beach and the Vincentia Water Treatment Plant walk.

Action 5: Brett to add more walks from the MUD Birders brochure to the BLS web-site to be supplied by Mike.

5.5 Newsletter editor report

Brett reported:

- The BLS newsletter is becoming more of a magazine than a newsletter and asked if the magazine should be given a name.
- Decision: The publication will not be given a specific name with the title only to be changed from BirdLife Shoalhaven Newsletter to BirdLife Shoalhaven Magazine.
- Future changes to the format will be made using the BirdLife Australia template.
- Information should target the general public as well as members including a younger audience.
- Instead of only bird photographers' interviews being presented in each quarterly BLS magazine others will be done such as with artists with an interest in birds which will also provide support for upcoming See Change. Other suggestions were Graham Chapman who records bird calls, Marg Hamon, Jodie Dunn NPWS and Robert Hollingworth. Those interviewed will not necessarily be BLS members.

5.6 Treasurer report

Karen presented the following BLS Income and Expenditure report for the period from 1 January to 7 February 2018:

Cashbook Balance at 1/1/2018	\$	1476.35
<u>Income</u>		
Sale of photos at NPWS Exhibition	250.00	250.00
<u>Expenses</u>		
Bank Fees	<u>70.00</u>	70.00
Cashbook Balance at 7/2/18	\$	<u>1656.35</u>
<u>Add</u>		
Unpresented Cheques		0.00
Bank Balance at 7/2/18	\$	<u><u>1656.35</u></u>

Committee discussion:

Karen reported funds had not been received from Simon Tedder, for the NPWS Christmas Cards. Chris Grounds supplied a photograph of a Ground Parrot for the cards and funds were to be donated to BLS. Rob suggested giving the BLS Bank account number next time.

Action 6: Karen & Chris to chase up funds for cards with Simon Tedder, NPWS Community Engagement Officer.

5.7 Media Officers report

In Yolande's absence Rob advised that Yolande continues to arrange her Birds in Backyards talks with 12 presentations in the past year.

5.8 Shoalhaven Birders

Shoalhaven Birders are planning to hold monthly bird observing walks. Stan Brown will be providing a list of walks to Brett for web-site and newsletter.

5.9 MUD Birders

Mike reported:

- The MUD Birders which was originally made up of U3A members is now having more BirdLife Shoalhaven members sign up than U3A members.
- MUD Birders will be supporting the Office of Environment and Heritage on a major project (\$3.5 million) by conducting bird surveys.
- Karen - Survey sites may be able to be set up by Andrew Silcock (BLA Birddata Program Manager) as shared sites.

Action 7: Mike to contact Karen regarding the use of Birddata by MUD as the survey tool for the upcoming major OEH project and clarify if Birddata will be used.

- Mike attended a NatureMapr workshop. NatureMapr is a Citizen Science cloud software platform that helps organisations collect, manage and analyze information from the natural world. NatureMapr 's mission is to help important plant and animal species by ensuring their existence is known by the people charged in positions of power with their protection.
- Mike to provide NatureMapr information to Brett.
- Brett to promote NatureMapr through the BLS Magazine and Facebook.

Action 8: Mike and Brett to liaise on the promotion of NatureMapr

6.0 Arrangements for the AGM

Discussion: The agenda will be similar to last year.

- Rob will present the President's Report as well as covering the Webmaster's and Newsletter reports.
- Karen will present the Treasurer's Report
- Chris will present a condensed Conservation Officer's report as this will also be in the newsletter.
- There will be no secretary report.
- There will be no need for the election of Committee Members

The AGM email sent to members showed the new Committee:

- President – Rob Dunn
- Secretary – Kim Touzel
- Treasurer – Karen Davis
- Conservation Officer – Chris Grounds
- Media Officer – Yolande Cozijn
- Webmaster and Social Media – Brett Davis
- General Committee – Mike Jefferis

Action 9: Rob to invite Charles Dove and his wife Janina to attend the AGM meeting so he can thank him publicly for this contribution to the Bird Walk brochure and his Facebook contributions.

7.0 Progress and Discussion on 2018 Action Plan Items

The items agreed to on BLS 2018 Action Plan submitted to BirdLife were discussed.

- It was agreed that BLS stalls at community events would be limited to one this year. The JBMM World Environment Day Fair on Saturday June 2nd 2018
- Rob has begun planning three BLS talks for 2018:
 - April 23 2018 - Beth Mott a talk on the Powerful Owl
 - Nicholas Carlile, OEH
 - David Lindemeyer later in the year in Mollymook

8.0 Next meeting – Friday 11 May – 2-4pm 3 Louisa Grove, Vincentia

9.0 Other business:

- **BIGnet April 21 & 22 2018**
Action 10: Rob to check on Yolande and Marg Hamon's availability and interest in representing BLS at the BIGnet meeting on 21-22 April in Sydney.
- **Jervis Bay Maritime Museum exhibition of "The Flyway Print Exchange"**

The Jervis Bay Maritime Museum has secured the exhibition for three months March 10 – June 11 2018. Discussion was held on how BirdLife Shoalhaven can support the event. Suggestions were for a day of lectures, workshops on birds, a photographic display of works of BLS members. Karen suggested a bird walk.

Action 11: Rob to meet with Diana Lorentz at JBMM and invite Phil Straw or Paul Sullivan to open the exhibition.

Actions to be carried forward to next meeting:

17 November 2017 meeting

Action 1: Brett and Rob to look at revamping BLS Website to comply with BLA branding guidelines and review content

Action 4: Karen to email Yolande a new contact for the South Coast Register and cc Kim.

9 February 2018 meeting

Action 1:

- Rob to discuss potential for a bird hide at Lake Wollumboola with Frances Bray
- Rob and Michael to put thoughts together and write a paper before beginning conversations with Council regarding a birdhide.

Action 2: Chris to assess scope for BirdLife Australia and BSNSW to provide support for submission for Worroving Heights.

Action 3: Impacts of tourism to be covered in the newsletter with imperative for additional funding for rangers to be included. – Chris

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Action 5: Brett to add more walks from the MUD Birders brochure to the BLS web-site these will be supplied by Michael.

Action 6: Karen & Chris to chase up funds for cards with Simon Tedder, NPWS Community Engagement Officer.

Action 7: Michael to contact Karen regarding the use of Birddata by MUD as the survey tool for the upcoming major OEH project and clarify if Birddata will be used.

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