



**MINUTES OF THE BIRDLIFE SHOALHAVEN COMMITTEE MEETING  
3 LOUISA GROVE, VICENTIA  
FRIDAY 11 MAY 2018, 1.30 - 4 PM**

**1.0 Attendance and apologies**

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

**2.0 Acceptance of the agenda** – No additional items

**3.0 Approval of minutes of previous meeting**

Moved Rob, seconded Chris - 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 and review content. **Outstanding**

9 February 2018 meeting

Action 1:

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

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

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

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. **Done**

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

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

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. **Done**

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

**Action 1:**

- **Rob and Mike will organise to meet with Fiona Stewart to discuss NatureMapr.**
- **Mike to write article in next BLS Magazine on NatureMapr.**

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. **Done**

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. **Done**

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

## 5.0 Updates and related issues

### 5.1 President's report

Rob mentioned the main issues he had worked on since the last meeting:

- Arrangements for Powerful Owl talk by Beth Mott
- Liaison with BirdLife on how to access their Shoalhaven supporters list to invite 2017 ABBC participants to the talk
- Meeting with Frances Bray and Mike at Lake Wollumboola re possible bird hide
- Articles for Autumn
- Discussions with JBMM on migratory shorebirds exhibition, talks, merchandise and more
- Confirming minor change to the Bird Walk brochure with Council with potential for further printing
- SeeChange event discussion with Julie Cunningham on "BIRD" exhibition

#### Action 2:

- **Rob to get back to Julie Cunningham on follow up information**
- **Brett to update link for new BIRD Facebook page on Website.**

Rob will attend BirdLife Australia Network meeting with Yolande in Melbourne at the end of the month. Plan to have meeting with staff on the roll out of the ABBC this year as a key platform to grow membership.

### 5.2 Conservation Officer Report by Chris Grounds

1. **Worworing Heights Precinct Plan:** has been through Council's exhibition process. Our BLS input was summarized and reported to Council, as with all such submissions. The report was accepted and it now waits on further advice from SCC.

2. **Shoalhaven Heads:** An illustrated, extended lecture was provided by Chris at the Maritime Museum on behalf of BLS in support of the migratory shorebirds print exhibition.

3. **Tourism feature article:** the Tourism article determined at the last committee meeting appeared in our last E-magazine.

I would add that the most recent meeting of the SCC-NRFMC included a workshop involving Coralie Bell on Tourism and Natural Environment. It achieved little if nothing, particularly toward promoting any notion of environmentally sustainable tourism.

4. A major feature article was prepared for our Magazine involving the **Bherwerre Wetland-Birds-Art-and See Change Arts Festival**. I will be participating in a Q&A session in the Reading the Bherwerre Wetland Exhibition, which will involve some birdlife reflections of course, given that the site bird catalogue was provided by BLS members.

5. A **BirdLife perspective was included in a submission to SCC** concerning a proposal to develop an overflow, car park on the site of an old tip on the Naval College Road. This part of the submission noted it as an E1 Conservation area with the presence of both the eastern Bristlebird and the Eastern Ground Parrot.

6. A film "**Albatross**" will be shown by Shoalhaven Transition June 28 at the Huskisson Theatre – Chris spoke with Pat Thompson, but they do not want to co-host the event. Admission will be by donation.

#### Action 3:

- **Rob to liaise with Kim re email notification for "Albatross" the Movie to be sent to BLS members/ Wildbird Protectors and supporters email lists. Email will also include a reminder of Museum and See Change events.**
- **Brett to send a second email to members only for the June 9 BLS bird walk.**

7. Request for support for organisation of **possible logging seminar in Shoalhaven** from Oisín Sweeney. NPA is organising other seminars such as in Sydney. I have provided an early response to Oisín to indicate BLS has a busy agenda under our 2018 Action Plan and I couldn't offer any personal time for this. I mentioned BLA's commitment to revision of legislation.

### 5.3 Secretary report

**Membership** - Kim reported that we now have 217 BLS members and Wildbird Protectors, number down from 220 since previous meeting in February 2018 although 9 new members signed up since the previous meeting in November 2017 – one of these from Moruya requested to join BLS although hasn't come through on BLA lists.

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

- BLS members and Wildbird protectors: 191 up from 183 in February 2018 – do not have email addresses for everyone on BLA membership list.
- New field for postcodes has been added and entries of members names and postcode has been started. Decision: hold off on adding postcodes for now.
- Other conservation groups: 24
- Other Supporters: 243 up from 169 in February 2018. Many of these do not have names, only email address. All new entries since February 2017 when MailChimp started have names. Will be difficult to get names and postcodes for these now.
- Shoalhaven Community Consultative Bodies: 22 down from 23 due to change in Conjola Community Association.

TOTAL: 480 email contacts, up from 339 February 2018 = 141 new email contacts

#### **Correspondence in / out:**

Several inquiries by phone and email received to for bird identification, a couple of recorded bird calls received as I requested and replies with bird ID sent. One email with photos for ID of a dead bird used for art which was an Australasian Gannet.

- Calls from one agitated lady with an elderly neighbor who hand feeds birds, concern seemed to be more about the noise and droppings occurring on property, I referred her to Council.
- Emails were sent to Members and other supporters for upcoming talks on March 4, 12 and 19 – Chris Grounds Biodiversity and Birds at Shoalhaven Heads as well as notice for Frances Bray's Talk on Protection of Lake Wollumboola and a notice for upcoming events of the Flyway Print Exchange at JBMM from March 10 – June 11 2018.
- Notice of Shoalhaven Landcare's upcoming talk on March 8 by Nicholas Carlile on "Lord Howe Island" was also included.
- March 8 Attended Nic Carlile talk on Lord Howe Island – very good presentation and speaker.
- Emails sent March 17 and reminder April 13 for BLS Powerful Owl talk on April 23 to all MailChimp lists.
- AGM minutes Feb 02 2018.
- 27 February 2018 John Maling's BLA SE QLD member correspondence re bird surveys on Black Bream Point, cottages - owned by Matt Davey, expect 100-120 species there. Matt would have only given us discounted rates for two nights minimum, so referred him to the Eurobodalla Natural History Society.
- March: Correspondence with Michelle Rower, Conservation Officer, Illawarra Birders re rotting blubbers at Lake Wollumboola. Correspondence shared with Frances Bray and Michelle reassured blubbers no longer present.
- March correspondence with Fiona Blandford, Network Development Coordinator and Aniko Harsanyi, Supports Database Manager re BLS membership list error, not resolved
- Network Governance papers secretary signature sent to Fiona Blandford.
- March 24 Jake Khourey, Callala Bay News, requested including our up-coming POW talk invitation in his publication. He has been added to our supporters email list. He has invited us to submit articles for their monthly publication.

#### **Action 4:**

- **Kim to confirm is Jake Khourey is not Callala Bay CCB contact.**
- **Yolande to prepare additional list of potential media sources we could tap into and circulate for everyone to add to and comment.**
- March 28 JBMM World environment day invitation for stall from Nina Douglas to confirm we will be participating.

- April – Jervis Bay KBA Birddata surveys were completed – shared survey does not show Bristle Bird so correspondence with BLA Andrew Silcocks by Karen and myself. Birds at risk are not shared on Birddata for protection of the birds.
- April 21 attended BIGnet meeting in Sydney
- April 30 Pat Hall, NPWS phoned. Exhibition on Threatened Species and Wildlife Management for which we were invited to have a stall at UOW innovation campus. Too short notice only one week before event.
- May 5 - Invitation from Fiona McCuaig for Ocean Care Day for a stall at May 27 Bodalla Dairy Shed. Apology sent.

#### 5.4 Webmaster and social media report

Brett reported that Facebook interaction has increased and Charles Dove's regular postings of birds in the region are getting a good response.

#### 5.5 Magazine editor report

Brett reported: A featured walk will be included in future issues of the magazine.

##### Action 5:

- **Everyone to make an effort to get articles for the next BLS Magazine from a wider range of people, referring people to Brett.**
- **Brett to obtain Jodie Dunn's Shorebird Recovery Report to publish in BLS magazine.**
- **Brett to include Hugh Capes's offer of Glossy Black nesting boxes to someone who has a use for them in magazine.**
- **Rob to obtain Shoalhaven Landcare's six monthly case study for magazine**

#### 5.6 Treasurer report

Karen presented the following BLS Income and Expenditure report for the period from 1 January to 10 May 2018.

##### INCOME AND EXPENSES

Cashbook Balance at 1/1/2018		\$	1476.35
<u>Income</u>			
Sales of misc bird items	350.00		
Sale of photos at NPWS Exhibition	430.00		
Grant - ROBARB Landcare	600.00		
Talk entry fees	131.35		
			1511.35
<u>Expenses</u>			
Hall Hire	58.25		
Domain Name	0.00		
Meeting exps	60.00		
Postage	0.00		
AGM Dinner for C&J Dove (thankyou)	50.00		
2 shorebird display boxes (50%)	750.00		
Bank Fees	<u>70.00</u>		
			988.25
Cashbook Balance at 10/5/18		\$	<u>1999.45</u>
<u>Add</u>			
Unpresented Cheques	20		<u>50.00</u>
Bank Balance at 10/5/18		\$	<u><u>2049.45</u></u>

Karen also reported all funds for photographs have been received.

## 5.7 Media Officers report

Yolande presented on her recent Media and presentations

Date	Group	No. Attending	Emails
9/3/18	Coastal Waters Retirement Village	34	5
19/3/18	View Club – Sussex Inlet	25	4
10/5/18	Australian Plant Society	17	3
	<b>Forthcoming Talks</b>		
2/6/18	Seechange Festival – Bird Exhibition		
19/6/18	Rotary Club - Ulladulla		
14/9/18	Probus Club - Ulladulla		
Pending	Milton/Ulladulla Garden Club		
Totals		76	12

- Attending forthcoming Birdlife Network Forum – Melbourne 24/25May
- About Magazine – holding stories on: Magpies and King parrots
- South Coast Register - sent information on Powerful Owl talk.

Discussion on Yolande using BLS logo to sell her wildlife scarves at markets with a portion of funds received to be donated to BirdLife Shoalhaven. Decision: Committee agreed for this to be approved.

**Action 6: Rob to clarify with national office, if BLS can receive donations directly into our bank account and draft wording for possible donors, including the use of the BirdLife Shoalhaven logo.**

## 5.8 Shoalhaven Birders

- Quarterly walk program in BLS Magazine

## 5.9 MUD Birders

- Michael not present – no report. Upcoming scheduled walks in BLS webpage calendar.

## 6.0 Growing the BLS membership

See detail of agenda item 6 papers.

### Action 7:

**Rob to meet with national office staff to:**

- clarify what would be sent out by national office to BLS supporters should we pass their details across into the Raisers Edge database.
- understand how/if national office can distribute BLS notices (our events & Magazine) to BirdLife Australia supporters, looking to use release of the June Magazine as the first trial.

Subject to their response, Brett and Kim to

- review what we need to do in Mailchimp
- update BLS supporters to include names and postcodes where possible
- potentially revise BLS supporters sign-on sheet

### Action 8:

- Brett to arrange to have each BLS Magazine featured in the BSNSW e-News. Rob will discuss with Phil Straw in the first instance.

## 7.0 Council decision on foreshore reserve management

- Details in Conservation Officer report
- Meeting to be held May 22 at Shoalhaven Council

## 8.0 Support for Shorebirds 2020 with recent changes in OEH staff

Discussion had on who is doing surveys in the Shoalhaven region.

### Action 9:

- **Rob to clarify with Phil Straw and national office who they are now working with in the Shoalhaven for Shorebird 2020, given recent changes in NPWS staff, and for us to consider how we can assist.**

## 9.0 Arrangements for BLS stall at JBMM World Environment Day fair, June 2 2018

- Stall site for the day has been organised by Rob.
- Karen, Kim, Brett and possibly Yolande will be available to work at stall
- Karen to:
  - liaise with Nina at JBMM re BLS stall
  - contact other BLS members re availability to assist on the day.
  - make up a roster for the day
- Kim to bring tables and gazebo for stall
- Karen and Brett will bring miscellaneous items for stall display, handouts and sale items
- Yolande will be presenting talk on Backyard Birds at 2pm followed by walk from 03:30pm to 4:00 pm. Karen, Brett and Kim will assist with walk.

### Action 10:

- **Rob to inform the Maritime Museum that Karen will now be their contact for our stall at the World Environment Day Fair.**

## 10.0 Update by Kim on April BIGnet meeting

- On April 21, I represented BirdLife Shoalhaven at the BIGnet meeting at Sydney Olympic Park, hosted by BirdLife Southern NSW. Phil Straw, president of BirdLife Southern NSW, was pleased to see a representative from BLS attending the meeting again this year. Members of several Birdlife branches as well as bird watching clubs from many regions of the state were present. The meeting is a good opportunity for participants to learn what is happening in regions outside their own.
- The meeting was opened by Dan Weller, BLA Migratory Shorebird Program Manager with a presentation on the BLA Migratory Shorebird Program (the next generation of Shorebirds 2020) and the Migratory Shorebird Conservation Action Plan to improve conservation of 37 species that regularly visit Australia.
- Dan wants branches to survey regions, which are not currently being surveyed, such as small estuaries and complete biannual surveys. This made me wonder if all possible regions in the Shoalhaven are being covered.
- An overview of the program can be found here [http://birdlife.org.au/documents/SB-MS\\_CAP\\_Overview.pdf](http://birdlife.org.au/documents/SB-MS_CAP_Overview.pdf)
- The Indigenous Ranger Program in far north Queensland provides two weeks of intensive training on bird surveying, while out in remote regions performing their usual duties. Thousands of shorebirds have been discovered in these remote, previously unsurveyed regions.
- Dan stressed the importance of structured data collection and the use of Birddata to record data. Although using eBird and the Atlas of Living Australia were acceptable as the data is eventually sent to Birddata.
- Phil Straw outlined the importance of setting up a Site Managers Network. Work is being undertaken to identify current site managers and the degree of management being undertaken with a plan to bring managers together with an annual meeting. Birdlife Australia is working with OEH to identify priority sites. There are currently 22 migratory shorebird sites where even the managers are sometimes unaware that they are responsible for monitoring the sites.
- Tim Hoskin from OEH Dubbo gave a presentation on the Murray Darling and Maquarie Marshes and the timing of water release to coincide with waterbird breeding season. 33 sites have been identified in the Murray-Darling Basin Plan as important for restoring waterbird populations. Several aims of the plan outlined were to maintain species

diversity at 2009 levels to increase waterbird abundance from 2009 and to provide more opportunity for breeding than in 2009. Aerial video footage was impressive with an incredible increase in wetland regions and birdlife with water regulation, however this brought discussion and questions from the audience as to whether the footage was taken only in good seasons and what was happening downstream.

- William Glamore of the Water Research Laboratory, UNSW gave a presentation on rebuilding of tidal rivers and wetlands and coastal engineering to restore coastal wetlands. He explained this was not a restorative program, it was a rescue program as restoration was not possible.
- NSW KBA Co-Ordinator Elisabeth Karplus gave a report on ongoing KBA workshop events.
- Minutes of the BIGnet meeting have not been received, I will forward these to committee members when available.

#### **11.0 Update on plan for bird hide at Lake Wollumboola**

- Rob and Mike met with Frances Bray re building a bird hide at Lake Wollumboola. Frances showed an existing bird platform which was in disrepair. Mike will organise for drawings to build a bird hide at the existing site. Frances is very supportive and we will refer all developments to her with BLS taking the lead on planning and fundraising.

#### **12.0 Planning for 2018 ABBC**

- Rob will begin organising BLS participation closer to October.

#### **13.0 Progress and discussion on 2018 Action Plan items**

- Yolande continues to present Backyard Bird talks extending further south to Ulladulla.
- Karen has the Easter report for Jervis Bay KBA ready to send.

Action 11:

- Karen to contact Chris McGregor to confirm she has been set up as a Birddata administrator for the Shoalhaven and what he wants her to do going forward.
- Expanding Bird Walk program – Kim would like to lead walks in future.
- Kim suggested a walk could be organized in 2019 with a short talk beforehand instructing participants on how to use the Birddata app to encourage more birdwatchers to use the Birddata app. This could possibly be done at the UOW campus.

#### **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

##### **9 February 2018 meeting**

Action 1: Rob and Michael to put thoughts together and write a paper before beginning conversations with Council regarding a bird hide.

##### **11 May 2018 meeting**

Action 1:

- Rob and Mike will organise to meet with Fiona Stewart to discuss NatureMapr.
- Ask Mike to write article in BLS Magazine on NatureMapr.

Action 2:

- Rob to following up outstanding issues with Julie Cunningham re. "BIRD" exhibition.
- Brett to update link for new BIRD Facebook page on Website.

Action 3:

- Rob to liaise with Kim re email notification for the film "Albatross" to be sent to BLS members / Wildbird Protectors and supporters email lists. Email will also include a reminder of Museum and See Change events.
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- Karen to contact Andrew Silcocks to confirm she has been set up as a Birddata administrator for the Shoalhaven and what he wants her to do going forward.

Action 12:

- Rob to clarify date for next Committee meeting.