



**MINUTES OF THE BIRDLIFE SHOALHAVEN COMMITTEE MEETING
3 LOUSIA GROVE, VINCENTIA
15 FEBRUARY 2019, 2 - 4 PM**

1. Attendance and apologies

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

Apologies: Oisin Sweeney

2. Acceptance of the agenda – It was agreed that the issues around survey permits, Committee titles and the membership database could be covered in relevant reports.

3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting – Approved

4. Business arising from the previous minutes

All action items from previous meetings have been completed with the following exceptions:

11 May 2018 meeting

Action 5: Rob to obtain Shoalhaven Landcare's six monthly case study for magazine. It was decided to not pursue this further and so the item was closed.

9 November 2018 meeting

*Action 6: Everyone to consider possible candidates for two new Committee members and a new Secretary and pass on their details to Rob to follow up. **Action 1: As Oisin will be the only new Committee member appointed at the AGM, Mike will follow up on one other possible candidate.***

5. Updates and related issues

a. President's report – refer papers sent with the agenda

b. Conservation Officer report – refer paper below from Chris

Karen informed the meeting that, following her KBA Guardian article in the BLS Magazine, a Booderee National Park staff member had told her by email that a permit was required for all research work. This had been referred to National Office, though a resolution by them was not expected in the short term. Chris said that the best way to handle this was to build upon the good relationships that he had built with the park staff over many years through informal interactions. He added that we need to acknowledge that we were operating on Aboriginal lands and there was a lot of benefit in sharing and updating each other on our work. **It was agreed that** a meeting with staff in winter would be a good way to do this. **Action 2: Chris to explore the best way to meet with Booderee National Park staff in July/August to talk about our respective work.**

c. Secretary report – refer report below from Kim

Kim outlined the change in her role following Brett and Rob taking over certain of her duties and asked it was not more appropriate that Brett be formally recognized as the BLS Secretary. **It was agreed that** the issue should be revisited after Mike had followed through on action 1 above, in case this identified a new Secretary. **Action 3: It was agreed the issue of the Secretary position should be revisited at the May meeting.**

d. Webmaster and social media report

Brett advised that there were 614 followers on Facebook and 88 on Twitter. **Action 4: Brett did not have the latest membership and supporter numbers to hand and would send out after the meeting.**

Following Brett's suggestion, **it was agreed that** his title of Webmaster and Social Media Officer should be changed to Communications Officer, as it was more appropriate for what he actually did, with the change effective after the AGM.

Brett highlighted the inconsistencies in the use of postcodes by National Office to determine our membership numbers, as certain of 'our' postcodes are also shared with BirdLife Southern Highlands and potentially BSNSW, resulting in multiple branch communications to certain members. **Action 5: Brett to raise the use of postcodes to determine our membership with National Office.**

Upon Brett's suggestion **it was agreed that** he should make individuals responsible for various pages up-to-date on the web-site to maintain their relevance. **Action 6: Brett to allocate web-site pages to individuals for on-going content management and for initial feedback to be provided to him.**

Action item 7: Brett asked everyone to provide comments on the web-site following the launch of the major overhaul.

e. Magazine editor report – nothing to report

f. Treasurer report – refer report below from Karen

g. Recent media, presentations & events – refer report below from Yolande

h. Birding activities update – nothing to report

6. Priorities for fundraising – refer paper sent with the agenda

It was noted that the figures in the papers were slightly out of date and BLS currently has \$2,966 in the bank, say \$3,000.

It was agreed that:

- At all times \$1,000 should be retained in the bank to meet our minimal operating costs and so BLS can respond promptly to any one-off projects.
- Funds in excess of this amount should be allocated to an agreed fundraising project, that will be reviewed from time to time.
- Our current fundraising project was confirmed as interpretative signage at the walks in the Bird Walk brochure, to be based on a standard design incorporating high quality, colour bird photos by local photographers.
- With signs, hides and viewing platforms at Lake Wollumboola, Shoalhaven Heads and Burrill Lake in progress, the next walk that should be prioritized would be at the Bangalee Reserve.
- \$1,000 of the funds currently on hand should be retained for potential budget shortfalls for the above projects until they have been completed.

Action item 8: Rob to contact Council to clarify the viability and process to install signage for the bird walk at the Bangalee Reserve.

7. Upcoming events & meetings

a. AGM plan – 19 February, Ulladulla

Mike advised that all arrangements for the AGM were in place. It was agreed that Rob should MC/Chair the AGM and cover all agenda items with the exception of Chris's report in order to speed up the meeting. Rob stated that if his cataract surgery prevented him attending that Chris should take on this role.

- b. Milton Show – 1 March, Milton Showground
Rob advised that he will be helping out at the Shoalhaven Landcare stall and will hand out the Bird Walk brochure. MUD Birders will be welcome to help out, but no commitment was required.
- c. Give a Dam film – 1 March, Huskisson
Chris advised that all arrangements are in place and it is possible that someone from the Colong Foundation will be able to attend and speak briefly before the film. Chris will introduce the film on the night. Reminder notices will be sent out by Brett and Chris.
- d. BIGNet meeting – 6-7 April, Moss Vale
Yolande and Kim advised that they intend to go to the meeting on the Saturday and Rob said he would wait to see the agenda for both days before committing. **Action 9: Yolande, Kim and Rob to liaise and register for the meeting by the due date of 9 March.**
- e. Branch Network Forum – 23-24 May, Melbourne
Rob outlined the importance of the Forum, which brings together all BirdLife Australia's branches, observatories and special interest groups each year. Yolande attended last year and was keen to go once again if nobody else was able or keen to attend. This was the case for everyone at the meeting and Rob said he would ask Oisin before finalising our attendance. **Action 10: Rob to discuss Oisin's availability to attend the Branch Network Forum and get back to Yolande.**
- f. Shoalhaven Environmental Expo – 5 June, Nowra
Rob talked through the pros/cons of BLS having a presence at the Shoalhaven Environmental Expo as outlined in the papers. Unfortunately, everyone at the meeting was either unavailable due to holiday, work or unable to commit. Karen said that we should try to get non-Committee BLS members to run a BLS stall, sending out an email and also approaching people directly. Chris said he could be available to give a bird talk, if this option was still available. **Action 11A: Rob to contact the Expo organiser to clarify the option of giving a bird talk. 11B. Brett to send an email to all members to see who could help run a BLS stall at the Expo. 11C. Subject to A & B, decide on people who might be interested in helping and approach directly.**
It was agreed that BLS should not commit to the JBMM Environmental Fair until our involvement in the Expo is clarified.
- g. Bird Haven Festival – 18-20 October, Shoalhaven Heads
Rob talked through the high-level plan for the Festival, following his discussions with the organisers. **The meeting noted and agreed** that BLS was committed to running the Sunday workshop on Birds for Beginners, followed by a bird walk. It was acknowledged that this meant that potentially most of the Committee would not be able to attend the shorebirds workshops at Lake Wollumboola and the Heads. Rob would continue to liaise with the organisers and report back to the Committee at each meeting and as plans develop.
- h. BLS talks in 2019 – TBC
Rob advised that due to other BLS activities, he was still to progress lining up speakers for possible talks in potentially May and August.

- 8. 2019 Action Plan approval** - refer paper sent with the agenda
The 2019 Action Plan was **endorsed and approved** by everyone as tabled.
- 9. Next meeting – Friday 17 May 2019 – 2pm to 4pm**
Mike advised that he was not available on this date. **Action 12: Mike to check on his availability in May and Rob to potentially reschedule the next meeting.**

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE 9 NOVEMBER AND PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Action 1: Mike to follow up on one other possible candidate to join the BLS Committee.

Action 2: Chris to explore the best way to meet with Booderee National Park staff in July/August to talk about our respective work.

Action 3: The role of BLS Secretary to be revisited at the May meeting.

Action 4: Brett to send out the latest membership and supporter numbers to hand.

Action 5: Brett to raise BirdLife Australia's use of postcodes to determine the BLS membership with National Office.

Action 6: Brett to allocate web-site pages to individuals for on-going content review and for initial updates to be provided to him.

Action item 7: Everyone to send Brett comments on the web-site following the launch of the recent major changes.

Action item 8: Rob to contact Council to clarify the viability and process to install signage for the bird walk at the Bangalee Reserve.

Action 9: Yolande, Kim and Rob to liaise and register for the meeting by the due date of 9 March.

Action 10: Rob to discuss Oisin's availability to attend the Branch Network Forum and get back to Yolande.

Action 11A: Rob to contact the Shoalhaven Environmental Expo organiser to clarify the option of giving a bird talk. **11B:** Brett to send an email to all members to see who could help run a BLS stall at the Expo. **11C:** Subject to A & B, Rob to decide on people who might be interested in helping and approach directly.

Action 12: Mike to check on his availability in May and Rob to potentially reschedule the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 5B - CONSERVATION OFFICER REPORT NOV. 2018

1. An annual Conservation Officer report will be made to the AGM at Ulladulla next week.
2. Council have two active documents at the moment:

a. Growth Management Strategy.

Submissions closed on Jan 2 and I would simply note the “Natural Environment” concept portrayed in the initial reference document is very poorly based. Sustainability is neither defined nor described. I think it will be important to examine the subsequent exhibited document for environment-birdlife-habitat interests, which have been neglected so far. (I have made a personal submission on this document)

b. Draft Destination Management Plan 2018-2023 – Shoalhaven Tourism document.

BLS has made a submission to that document. There are considerable problems with the characterisation of natural environment and sustainability. There are deep seated problems and thus concerns with the thinking on natural environment and, in part, this results from the introverted and insular thinking of Shoalhaven Tourism and a failure to consult appropriately with Council’s own environment section.

3. I was also involved in an enquiry to council re a **Shorebird item in their community newsletter of December 20** “In Your Neighbourhood”. I enquired of council whom I might talk to regarding concerns which existed with this item though we were prepared to follow up at a later time. However, the request drew a response from Michael Smith in Environmental Planning. This basically revealed that Environmental Services staff had not been involved in the item and were not aware of it, which would explain the quite poor quality of the item.

4. You will have noted that in our magazine I have made a conscious attempt to **vary the CO reporting format** and have included a new section to our magazine – “Conservation Curiosities” – and I look forward to your contributions of snippets of interest each quarter. I am hoping members and supporters might find this is something they can easily contribute to over time. My summer report also considered “Flagging” with shorebirds in terms of its value to our knowledge of the threatened species birds.

5. I was invited to lead a **Shoalhaven Heads birding walk by Conservation Volunteers Australia in January**. This involved 37 people and was a very successful birding morning with a great group. Valda Corrigan of NPWS was involved as previously and I invited our own Kim Touzel, Carla Jackett and Sally Leonard to join the support team, which worked really well. This is the third such guided birding walk now at Shoalhaven Heads and the second with CVA. Eastern Curlew counts on that day and subsequently by NPWS of 75-78 birds led me to contact Golo Maurer re KBA qualification – after telling me 0.1% (38) and getting me excited he had to correct to 0.5% (190). Therapists make a good income of such happenings – haha!

6. Co-leader to an artist walk on February 4th in Bherwerre Wetland with a view to generating an exhibition on the wetland in the See Change Festival this year, which will be at a Basin-Sanctuary Point venue.

7. I am in the throes of organizing our co-hosting of a **screening of a conservation film “Give A Dam”** dealing with the issues around the proposal to increase the Height of Warragamba Dam. This will be at the Huski Cinema. Promotion will involve NPA. Our members email has gone out courtesy of Brett.

8. Congratulations to Norm Webb on his ‘Save Our Glossies’ Bushcare project - another huge positive to community gardens by Norm in the Bay and Basin.

AGENDA ITEM 5C - SECRETARY REPORT

Correspondence In/Out:

- January 6 - An email was sent to Aniko Harsanyi , Database manager BLA to request Brett also receive the Membership lists from BLA each Friday, this was forwarded to Andrew Dunn, IT manager who organized Brett to receive the lists. He also was set up to receive all BLS emails which are sent to BLS secretary
- Brett said he was fine with this as better having two persons receive mail.
- Inquiries were received to identify birds, someone looking for a Bateman's Bay Branch who was referred to the MUD birders as we are the closest BLA branch.
- Several inquiries concerning our outings- replies sent.
- Someone sourcing nesting boxes – information sent.
- A farm stay operator looking for assistance to run bird tours was referred to Carla Jackett who provides a service in our area.
- An invitation to BIGNet April 6-7 to be held at Moss Vale was received in January and registration forms received this past week have been forwarded to committee members. I plan to attend. Registration required by March 9th.
- January 31 - Email from Leanne Curnow, Corporate Services Manager BLA re signatories on NAB account – forwarded to Karen and Brett.
- Email re Noisy Miners in Kieraville – Brett sent reply.
- February 15 - Email from Fiona Blandford, BLA Network Development Coordinator re committee roles – forwarded to committee.
- An email with photographs was received from “Canberra Ornithologists Group” – (letter was also sent to other groups). It expressed concern regarding tree removal and land development at East Crescent, Culburra Beach and the threat to the environment and Lake Wollumboola birds. Email address was for Rohan Walker; however, sender did say he was borrowing a friends email to send and no signature on email.
- The email was forwarded to committee members and Frances Bray, president of the Lake Wollumboola Protection Society who replied stating she would respond to the email and ask for assistance if required down the track.
- The letter and response from Frances to BLA has been filed.
- Summer survey for Jervis Bay KBA sites completed January 18.
- Assisted with recent Shorebird Day at Shoalhaven Heads with Chris Grounds, BLS member Carla Jackett also came along to help out.

AGENDA ITEM 5F – TREASURER’S REPORT

INCOME AND EXPENSES

1 January to 31 December 2018

Cashbook Balance at 1/1/2018	\$	1476.35
<u>Income</u>		
Sales of misc bird items	1171.05	
Sale of photos at NPWS Exhibition (2017)	430.00	
Donations from photographers (2018 Exhibition)	305.00	
Grant - ROBARB Landcare	600.00	
S/Heads Bird Haven raffle	350.00	
Donations and sponsorship	150.00	
Talk entry fees	131.35	
		3137.40
<u>Expenses</u>		
Hall Hire	58.25	
Meeting expenses	60.00	
S/Heads Bird Haven expenses	79.40	
2 shorebird display boxes provided to NPWS	1500.00	
Bank Fees	70.00	
		1767.65
Cashbook Balance at 31/12/18	\$	<u>2846.10</u>

INCOME AND EXPENSES

1 January to 12 February 2019

Cashbook Balance at 1/1/2019	\$	2846.10
<u>Income</u>		
Sponsorship from member	120.00	
		120.00
<u>Expenses</u>		
		0.00
Cashbook Balance at 12/2/2019	\$	<u>2966.10</u>

AGENDA ITEM 5G - RECENT MEDIA AND PRESENTATIONS

Date	Group	No.	Emails
9/1/19	Rotary Gerringoing	33	13
Forthcoming	Ulladulla and Districts Garden Club	tbc	

Interview on ABC Illawarra on Jan 22nd about the importance of bird baths in hot weather