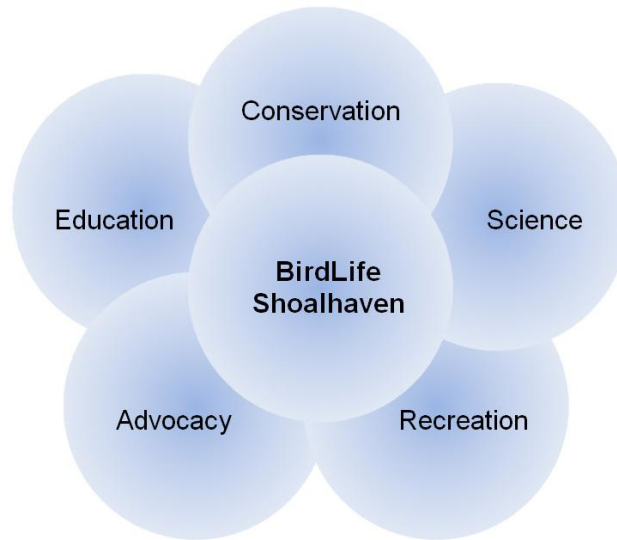


BirdLife Shoalhaven Mission Statement

Our vision: A bright future for Australian birds



Our mission: To give Australian birds a bright future by finding solutions to the threats they face and by inspiring action to ensure birds and their habitats flourish.

Goal 1 Improve conservation outcomes

- provide a local face and voice for BirdLife Australia
- provide a focus on regional and local conservation matters and advocate for the conservation of birds and their habitats
- conduct research and conservation programs and participate in BirdLife Australia projects
- champion local conservation causes

Goal 2 Promote the appreciation and understanding of birds

- encourage and support the activities of members who are actively participating in BirdLife Australia's programs and other bird projects
- promote and foster recreational bird watching
- organise and participate in outings, activities and community events of interest to members, their guests and the community
- pursue the education of members and the community in birds and their conservation to assist development of their interest, understanding and participation

Goal 3 Build a strong BirdLife Australia and BirdLife Shoalhaven

- engage and inform all members
- grow the member and supporter base by promoting membership of BirdLife Australia
- build networks and connections with other BirdLife branches and like-minded local and regional conservation organisations and groups

HOW WILL WE MEASURE OUR SUCCESS

- by the increase in the membership of BirdLife Shoalhaven
- by attendance at outings and talks
- by the number of events and activities undertaken

BirdLife Shoalhaven Working Arrangements

1. These working arrangements are based on the BirdLife Australia (BirdLife) Branch Working Arrangements and only cover key issues relevant to BirdLife Shoalhaven (BLS).
2. These working arrangements will be reviewed by the Committee and any changes approved by the Members at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) or Special General Meeting (SGM).
3. BLS must operate in accordance with the BirdLife Branch Working Arrangements.
4. Under the Constitution of BirdLife, BLS cannot have the status of a separate legal entity.
5. BLS will adopt the following values when conducting its business:
 - Passion - We bring people together around a love of nature.
 - Excellence - Science and knowledge is at the centre of everything we do.
 - Leadership - We empower and inspire people to lead with courage and purpose.
 - Collaboration – We embrace diversity and work in partnership with mutual respect.
 - Integrity – Our success is based on experience, honesty, trust and fairness.
 - Impact – We think globally, lead nationally and act locally.
6. All BirdLife Members who reside in the Shoalhaven Local Government area will be deemed to be members of BLS, unless they choose to opt out. BirdLife Members who reside outside the area may also register as a member of BLS.
7. No membership fees are payable to become a BLS Member.
8. BLS Members are eligible to participate in the activities of BLS, to receive communications and nominate and vote for the Committee.
9. Visiting members of BirdLife from other Branches shall be eligible to attend meetings or other Branch functions but cannot nominate candidates or vote.
10. The Committee will consist of President, Secretary and Treasurer (at a minimum) and shall be elected annually at the BLS AGM.
11. Meetings of the Committee will be held four times a year by whatever means it sees as appropriate.
12. The timing of the BLS AGM will be set by the Committee but not later than the end of February. The AGM will cover reports on activities of the Branch, approval of the financial report for the year ending 31 December, election of the Committee for the coming year, review of the operating plan and working arrangements and any other business.
13. The Secretary shall give notice of the AGM and call for nominations to the Committee at least 40 days before the AGM. Completed nomination forms may be lodged at least 28 days prior to the AGM. The Secretary must distribute the agenda and papers, including names of all Members nominated no less than 21 days prior to the AGM and include procedures for lodging proxy votes.
14. If there are insufficient numbers of nominations, nominations can be taken from any Member present at the meeting. If more than one Member has nominated for the same position, the outcome shall be determined by ballot. All proxies should be in writing and received by the Secretary at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.
15. If a Committee member position becomes vacant between AGMs, the Committee may co-opt a Member to fill the vacancy.
16. The Committee shall have the authority to appoint no more than two additional persons to the Committee for a period up to the next AGM for the purpose of providing advice on a specified matter, or to fill newly created committee positions.
17. All Committee Members will hold office from one AGM to another and may be re-elected.
18. The Committee may call a SGM to discuss any urgent matter and shall be bound to upon receiving a written request signed by at least 5% of the Members or by the BirdLife Board. The meeting agenda and papers shall be given to Members no less than 14 days before the meeting.
19. Quorums for meetings shall be ten Members for AGMs and SGMs and four Members for Committee meetings.
20. The Committee will liaise with BirdLife National Office on all operational issues. The Committee must advise the National Office of the receipt of all donations and submission of proposals to fund research, conservation or education projects. A submission for reasonable Branch expenses may be submitted to the National Office. BLS will need the approval of the National Office to set up a bank account. The Treasurer will be responsible for receiving, paying and handling funds and keeping the records of BLS's finances. The annual financial accounts must be approved at the AGM and signed by the President and another Committee member, other than the Treasurer prior to submission to the National Office.
21. No Member shall receive any pecuniary interest from BLS, unless the Committee approves the reimbursement of a Member's expenses incurred in fulfilling BLS's objectives.
22. The Committee, or Members delegated by the Committee, may arrange fundraising, periodic meetings, talks, functions, birdwatching outings and campouts and other activities, for purposes that help achieve the BLS objective's, with all members allowed to attend, plus other persons approved at the discretion of the Committee
23. All BLS materials must be produced with the BirdLife Shoalhaven logo.
24. All key BirdLife Shoalhaven correspondence on local conservation causes must be approved by a majority of the Committee.