



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BIRDLIFE SHOALHAVEN COMMITTEE  
YOLANDE'S PLACE, 27 SEASONGOOD ROAD, WOLLAMIA  
FRIDAY 13 JULY, 2 - 4 PM**

**AGENDA**

**1. Attendance and apologies**

Present: Yolande Cozijn Karen Davis, Brett Davis, Rob Dunn, Chris Grounds, Mike Jefferis, Oisin Sweeney, Kim Touzel  
Apologies: None

**2. Acceptance of the agenda** – Jervis Bay NP extension, the National Party's challenge to Murray Valley NP and the donation of an artwork were added to the agenda.

**3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting** - Approved

**4. Business arising from the previous minutes**

The following action items from the April meeting remained incomplete with some amendments made after discussion:

**Action 1:** Chris to arrange a date for morning tea meeting with Booderee NP staff to talk about our respective work, in conjunction with the date of the Shorebirds Recovery Program meeting.

**Action 2:** Rob & Brett to make a final review of the web-site to look at any final changes they would like made.

**Action 3:** Rob to work with Council to submit a funding application to Veolia and other potential funders for up to \$40000 for signage at bird walks in the Shoalhaven.

**Action 6:** Karen to chase up Andrew Silcocks to sign the bird survey license for Booderee NP, state that this delay is likely to impact progressing our relationship with NP staff and to copy Rob.

**Action 8:** Rob & Brett to prepare an initial spreadsheet lining up the different bird lists to highlight inconsistencies as the starting point to agree birds to be excluded, ratings of abundance and how best to split them into categories. This will be shared with Chris as the next step and brought back to the Committee after further 3-way discussion.

**Action 9:** Rob & Brett will send an email to supporters to invite them to become members, including conservation messages.

**Action 11:** Rob, Yolande, Oisin to look at how to take advantage of Bird Week to build the BLS membership, including possible bird activities for school children at the Booderee Botanic Gardens or with JBMM as part of their planned activities at the end of Bird Week.

**5. Updates and related issues**

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

Following the loss of the horizontal BLS banner at the Environmental Expo stall, it was agreed to replace it with a BLS pull-up banner, using the standard template used by BirdLife Australia.

**Action 1:** Rob to clarify likely cost with National Office and refer back to the Committee for final approval and choice of feature bird. Rob to ask stalls either side of BLS at the Expo if they know anything about the banner.

The suggestion from one of the volunteers to have a poster of Shoalhaven's birds was approved in principle. This had also just been requested by Cambewarra Ratepayers. **Action 2:** Rob to find out how National Office could assist and possible funding. Kim to update Cambewarra Ratepayers and Rob to inform the Expo volunteer.

Rob updated the Committee on progress with the Festival after his discussions that day with Perrie Croshaw. The main issues impacting BLS support were:

- Jodie Dunn would need to organise speakers and guides for the shorebird talks and walks, so BLS should wait on her.
- BLS will run bird walks at the Botanic Gardens and take bookings at the BLS stall to control numbers, schedule guides and attract customers at the stall.
- There will not be an auction, only a raffle, but all funds would come to BLS. They already have a significant prize. **Action 3:** Kim to contact Vivien Davidson to accept her offer of a felted bird for one of the other prizes.
- The full program should be finalized in a couple of weeks.

It was agreed that BLS should provide the BLS letterhead to MUD Birders for them to use when making submissions, if they choose to. They clearly have the skills within the group to prepare strong submissions, but in some cases they may choose to use the BLS logo for additional 'weight'. It was agreed that these letters could be signed by Mike on behalf of BLS or alternatively Rob and Chris, if required. **Action 3:** Rob to email Marg Hamon about this with the letterhead, following the update for the recognition statement.

**b. Conservation Officer report** - refer paper sent by Chris

Chris's report had proposed wording for the BLS acknowledgement of country on the BLS letter head. This was agreed as: "Birdlife Shoalhaven acknowledges the Aboriginal people of the Shoalhaven, their care of country, birds and habitat and pays respects to all Elders." It was agreed that this should be added to the header for visibility and ease of use in Word. It also needed to be added to the President, Secretary and Communications e-signature. **Action 4:** Rob to amend letterhead and distribute for approval. Brett to amend e-signatures for himself, Rob and Kim and ideally Chris.

Chris made the point that BLS should ensure whenever possible that it received adequate acknowledgement when providing talks at other group's events, following the situation with the Expo and upcoming JBMM Science Week.

Everyone congratulated Chris on leading the successful campaign to have the motion to rescind two possible car parks sites in the Jervis Bay KBA approved.

Oisin explained how, through his role with NPA, he was trying to get a meeting with Shelley Hancock to discuss the opportunity to extend the Jervis Bay NP. He was looking to finalise a briefing paper to expedite the meeting. **Action 5:** It was agreed that Oisin should work with Chris to add BLS's support to the briefing, for approval by the Committee, and attend the meeting if required.

It was agreed that while the National Party's recent challenge to Murray Valley NP was clearly outside the Shoalhaven, BLS was well placed to influence a Cabinet Minister by lobbying Shelley Hancock direct, though separately from the Jervis Bay NP matter. **Action 6:** Oisin to inform Sam Vine, BirdLife Australia Head of Conservation, of the BLS Committee's position and based on her input seek a meeting with the Minister.

**c. Secretary report** - refer paper sent by Kim

The success of the Bangalee Reserve bird walk was noted. In relation to the best positions for signage, Rob advised that this needed to be discussed with Council, as they would be updating their map signs, including the location of the walk.

It was agreed that no action was required on correspondence with the Gerroa 'Learn to Surf' business.

- d. Communications report** – Brett reported that BLS now has 213 members, of which 27 are Wildbird Protectors. Only 176 members are in MailChimp, as some do not have email addresses or have opted out. We have 375 supporters, 22 CCBs and 26 other groups in Mailchimp. An additional 55 will be transferred from National Office, following their recent questionnaire to the supporters in the Shoalhaven on their database. Facebook likes are 629 and followers are 695. The reach of most posts is 200 to 600 people, but occasional posts can reach as many as 1400 people depending on the "shares" we receive. With the combination of members, supporters, Facebook and Twitter, we continue to be justified in saying we have over 700 members and followers.

Chris made the comment that he had received feedback that our web-site suggests we are primarily focused on bird walks. **Action 7:** Brett said that he would make changes to address this on the home page.

- e. Treasurer report** - refer paper sent by Karen

Karen reported that the bank balance at 8 July was \$3411 with an additional \$280 due from NPWS. Taking out the \$1000 operational buffer, this would leave \$2700 available for signage and a pull-up banner, if approved.

- f. Recent media, presentations & events**

Yolande informed the meeting that she had one BIBY talk to a large native plant society scheduled and a second talk had been requested for a group in Shellharbour.

Rob noted the strong media on the award to Frances Bray in the South Coast Register and her radio interview on ABC. The meeting noted the success of the event on many fronts.

- g. Birding activities updates** - none

## 6. Grant applications

Three grants were discussed:

**Veolia for bird walk signage** – action item from last meeting for Rob to progress with Council staff.

**Communities Environment Program** - refer <https://www.environment.gov.au/cep>

It was agreed that as soon as the guidelines were released, an assessment would be made of the most suitable project and its chance of success. If this is positive, we could then approach Fiona Phillips to seek her support. **Action 8:** Rob and Oisín to assess initially before seeking comment from everyone.

**Stronger Country Communities Fund** – refer <https://www.nsw.gov.au/improving-nsw/regional-nsw/regional-growth-fund/stronger-country-communities/>

There was strong support for the idea that this would be the ideal fit with progressing the Bherwerre Wetlands and avoiding the vexed issue of relying on funds from bio-banking. Given the 27 September deadline, this needed to be progressed promptly, as follows: **Action 9:** Chris to discuss with Megan Birmingham as the main contact for the Wetlands. Oisín to go back to Michael Smith to expedite meeting on CEP application and to also involve BCCR, as potentially the best placed to act as the applicant.

## 7. Shoalhaven Stories video

It was agreed that Yolande and Rob should proceed with the development of the video with Council and Rob with his presentation to the Shoalhaven Tourism Advisory Board in August. The meeting

noted the potential conflict with the use of the word 'tourism' and 'birds', as we move forward on this initiatives.

#### **8. BirdLife Australia Branch network meeting**

It was agreed that as Birddata administrator Karen was best placed to identify areas where additional surveying would be beneficial over and above our current focus on KBAs and key bird walks.

#### **9. Upcoming events & meetings**

##### **a. BIGnet meeting - 14/15 September in Canberra**

None of the Committee would be available to attend. **Action 10:** Rob to contact Marg Hamon to see if she would be interested in attending and, if not, to send a BLS apology.

##### **b. Bird Haven Festival – 18-20 October, Shoalhaven Heads – covered in the President's Report**

**c. BLS talks in 2019 –** Rob said that given his holiday plans and the approach of the Festival, he was running out of opportunities to arrange another evening talk in line with the 2019 Action Plan. One option was still Nicholas Carlile, if he does not speak at the Festival. The idea of a film was tempting, but again would involve a lot of work. A presentation by Oisin on this research on urban trees was a possible option. It was agreed that it would be good to bring our supporters together before the end of the year, but time was running out. **Action 11:** Rob to keep the Committee updated on options for a further talk event in the year.

#### **10. 2019 Action Plan review – good progress continued to be made**

National Office required an action Plan to be submitted by the end of August, which was before the next Committee meeting. **Action 12:** Rob to circulate a draft 2020 Action Plan for approval by email and its submission to National Office by the August deadline.

#### **11. Next meeting – Friday 1 November 2019 – 2pm to 4pm**

**Action 13:** - Rob to send email to confirm likely to attendance.

### **ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS AND PREVIOUS MEETING**

#### **26 April meeting – with some updates from 13 July 2019 meeting**

**Action 1:** Chris to arrange a date for morning tea meeting with Booderee NP staff to talk about our respective work, in conjunction with Shorebirds Recovery Program meeting.

**Action 2:** Rob & Brett to make a final review of the new web-site to look at any final changes they would like made.

**Action 3:** Rob to work with Council to submit a funding application to Veolia and other potential funders for up to \$40000 for signage at bird walks in the Shoalhaven.

**Action 6:** Karen to chase up Andrew Silcocks to sign the bird survey license for Booderee NP, state that this delay is likely to impact progressing our relationship with NP staff and to copy Rob.

**Action 8:** Rob & Brett would prepare an initial spreadsheet lining up the different bird lists to highlight inconsistencies to be the starting point to agree birds to be excluded, ratings of abundance and how best to split them into categories. This will be shared with Chris as the next step and brought back to the Committee after a further 3-way discussion.

**Action 9:** Rob & Brett will send an email to supporters to invite them to become members, including conservation messages.

**Action 11:** Rob, Yolande, Oisin to look at how to take advantage of Bird Week to build the BLS membership, including possible bird activities for school children at the Booderee Botanic Gardens or with JBMM as part of their planned activities at the end of Bird Week.

### **13 July 2019 meeting**

**Action 1:** Rob to clarify likely cost of new BLS pull-up banner with National Office and refer back to the Committee for final approval and choice of feature bird. Rob to ask stalls either side of BLS at the Expo if they know anything about the banner.

**Action 2:** Rob to find out how National Office could assist with the production of a Shoalhaven bird poster and the possible cost. Kim to update Cambewarra Ratepayers and Rob to inform the Expo volunteer of the Committee's in principle support.

**Action 3:** Rob to discuss the use of the BLS letterhead by MUD Birders with Marg Hamon and forward it to her, following the update for the recognition statement.

**Action 4:** Rob to amend the BLS letterhead to add the acknowledgement of country and distribute for approval. Brett to amend e-signatures for himself, Rob and Kim and ideally Chris.

**Action 5:** It was agreed that Oisin should work with Chris to add BLS's support to the briefing to Shelley Hancock on the extension to the Jervis Bay NP, for approval by the Committee, and for both to attend the meeting if required.

**Action 6:** Oisin to inform Sam Vine, BirdLife Australia Head of Conservation, of the BLS Committee's offer to meet with Shelley Hancock to lobby her on the National Party's recent challenge to Murray Valley NP and based on her input seek a meeting with the Minister.

**Action 7:** Brett to review the home page of the web-site so that it does not suggest that we are primarily focused on bird walks.

**Action 8:** Rob and Oisin to assess suitable projects for funding under the Communities Environment Program and likely success before seeking comment from everyone. If this is positive, we could then approach Fiona Phillips to seek her support.

**Action 9:** Re. a potential application for funding for Bherwerre Wetlands under the Stronger Country Communities Fund – a.) Chris to discuss with Megan Birmingham as the main contact for the Wetlands. b.) Oisin to go back to Michael Smith to expedite meeting on CEP application and c.) also involve BBCR, as potentially the best placed to act as the applicant.

**Action 10:** Rob to contact Marg Hamon to see if she is able/interested in attending the BIGnet meeting in Canberra, and, if not, to send a BLS apology.

**Action 11:** Rob to keep the Committee updated on options for a further BLS talk event in the year.

**Action 12:** Rob to circulate a draft 2020 Action Plan for approval by email and submission to National Office by the August deadline.

**Action 13:** - Rob to send email to confirm likely attendance for the next BLS Committee to be on 1 November.