



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BIRDLIFE SHOALHAVEN COMMITTEE
BY ZOOM CONFERENCE
FRIDAY 1 MAY 2020, 2 - 4 PM**

1. Attendance and apologies

Present: Yolande Cozijn, Brett Davis, Karen Davis, Rob Dunn, Gary Brady, Mike Jefferis, Oisin Sweeney

Apologies: Chris Grounds

2. Acceptance of the agenda – Accepted with the additions of the review of sub-division provisions in the Shoalhaven LEP Plan 2014 under 5 b. & the Jervis Bay KBA Easter survey under 5 g.

3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting - Approved

4. Business arising from the previous minutes – refer appendix

The action items from previous meetings were agreed as all closed.

- It was agreed that emails not be sent to supporters to ask them to become members, given they may also get similar emails from National Officer (refer agenda item 9 – 26 April meeting). We should still continue this message through the magazine, Facebook and events.
However, Rob talked about the loss of 12 BLS members since December, which he had confirmed with National Office were not being contacted directly by them, rather they relied on mail. It was agreed, that Rob would email these people to ask if there were any particular reasons for their decision not to renew, adding how support for the national organisation also benefits our own work. **Action 1**

5. Updates and related issues

a. President's report – refer appendix

Zoom offered the best if not only alternative to continue much of our work. However, it was agreed that Zoom should not replace face-to-face events, and was probably of most benefit where it linked directly to existing projects.

Rob asked everyone to submit their voting slips for the BirdLife AGM ASAP, especially given the impact of this year's meeting by Covid 19. **Action 2**

b. Conservation Officer report – refer appendix

- Chris's paper had raised the question of sending a letter to Sussan Ley, Minister for the Environment, stating our concerns on reports of her moving ahead with changes to the Act, precluding the Review. It was agreed that the direct relationship with the Minister needs to be left to BirdLife Australia to avoid inadvertently impacting their influence and work with their other partners. No action required.
- Following on from this and our decision not to make a submission to the EPBC Act 1999 review, it was agreed that a process on when and who makes submissions could be useful. This could cover issues like
 - When does BLS write and/or encourage members to write?

- While our primary focus is on LGA issues, when should we respond to NSWG and AG issues impacting on the Shoalhaven?
- How do we work with BirdLife Australia on these issues?

Action 3 – Oisin agreed to talk this through with Chris.

- The proposal to extend ‘off-leash’ areas at Shoalhaven Heads would clearly be a key issue for us.
- Chris’s correspondence with Gary Dunnett, NPA NSW EO, was noted.
- The issue of whether we should make a submission to Council’s review of the sub-division provisions in the Shoalhaven LEP Plan 2014 was discussed. It was agreed that Oisin should talk the issue through with Chris to agree the way forward. **Action 4**

c. Secretary report – refer appendix

d. Communications report – refer appendix

Brett was congratulated on yet another great Magazine. It was pleasing to see our Facebook page has 979 followers, so close to 1,000, and despite slight difference with National Office membership list, we can state that we have 750 members & supporters.

e. Treasurer report – refer appendix

The income and expenditure report from 1 January to 29 April was approved.

BLS currently has approx. \$8,000 in the bank and will receive a further \$2,000 shortly from Shoalhaven Landcare. It has been agreed to retain \$1,000 for an operating buffer and urgent payments and \$4,000 for the Bangalee Reserve sign. This means we have \$5,000 available to spend. The meeting agreed to form a sub-group of Gary, Yolande & Rob to propose how these funds should be spent for approval by the Committee. **Action 5**

Other fundraising opportunities can still be looked at, especially after Covid 19 restrictions are eased, like the idea of an auction to launch Birds & Beers at the Jervis Bay Brewery. Oisin mentioned the Council’s Community Small Grants as another option. Rob said he would review the criteria. **Action 6**

f. Recent media, presentations & events – refer appendix

g. Birding activities updates

MUD Birders had started an exchange of emails between members on birds seen while exercising during Covid 19 restrictions, which could be useful incidental sightings for the Bushfire Research Project. Mike will get Gary added to the MUD Birders list. **Action 7**

Karen said that the Easter survey for the Jervis Bay KBA had been delayed due to Covid 19, but this would happen soon. Other survey sites are available while Booderee NP is closed.

6. Upcoming events & meeting – refer appendix

7. Bushfire Research Project update – refer appendix

A key issue for the project was how to address the need to capture incidental sightings on birds identified by National Office as being most impacted by the bushfires and so unlikely to be picked up on 20min/2ha surveys – refer papers. A number of suggestions were made:

- Facebook – one species at a time – responding on Facebook or by email
- NaturMapr – Mike said this could fit in well with NaturMapr, a partner from the Water & Feeding Station sub-committee. Mike agreed to discuss this at the next NaturMapr committee meeting. **Action 8**
- Posters – have you seen these birds? Possible sites could be NPWS offices.

- BLS Magazine
- NPWS – a recent Council bushfire update, referred to NPWS picking up birds on cameras at stations.

Gary would follow up on these suggestions in promoting the need for incidental sightings of most impacted birds. **Action 9**

Despite an amazing response, Gary would be looking to allocate new sites to new volunteers in due course.

8. Shoalhaven Landcare Project update - – refer appendix

9. Progress against the 2020 Action Plan - – refer appendix

10. Next meeting – Confirmed as Fri 1 May, 2-4pm at Yolande's

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

Action 1 – Rob to email former BLS members to ask if there were any particular reasons for their decision not to renew, adding how support for the national organisation also benefits our own work.

Action 2 – Everyone to submit their voting slips for the BirdLife AGM ASAP, given the impact of this year's meeting by Covid 19.

Action 3 – Oisin to talk to Chris about our discussions on contacting Sussan Ley and submissions to the EPBC Act 1999 review and look at clarifying when and who makes submissions in the future.

Action 4 – Oisin will talk to Chris about whether we should make a submission to Council's review of the sub-division provisions in the Shoalhaven LEP Plan 2014.

Action 5 – Gary, Yolande & Rob to propose how the \$5,000 available funds should be spent for approval by the Committee.

Action 6 – Rob to review the criteria for the Council's Community Small Grants program.

Action 7 – Mike to arrange for Gary to be added to the MUD Birders' distribution list.

Action 8 – Mike to explore opportunity of capturing incidental sightings of birds for the Bushfire Research Project in NaturMapr.

Action 9 – Gary to follow up on suggestions from the Committee on ways to seek incidental sightings of birds most impacted by the bushfires.

APPENDICES - PAPERS TABLED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

AGENDA ITEM 4 – BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

26 April meeting:

- Action 8 – Finalisation of Shoalhaven bird list. Rob to progress for further discussion. Likely to be progressed as part of the research project. **ALSO COMES INTO BOTH PARTS OF THE SLA AGREEMENT. WE ALSO HAVE BIRDLIFE 2020 FUNDING THAT OBLIGES US TO PROGRESS. CLOSED**
- Action 9 – Rob & Brett to send an email to supporters to invite them to become members – we agreed yesterday to do this ASAP, as one way to support bird conservation after the bushfires. **CLOSED FOR REASONS TO BE DISCUSSED UNDER COMMUNICATIONS REPORT**

7 February meeting:

- Action 1 – Rob, Brett & Mike to prepare paperwork for National Office and make BLS email changes to transfer role of Secretary from Kim to Mike. **DONE**
- Action 2 – Oisin to prepare article for the next BLS Magazine in April on best practice for urban developments to support birds. **AGREED TO DEFER TO JULY EDITION GIVEN ENOUGH MATERIAL RECEIVED FOR APRIL. CLOSED**
- Action 3 – Rob, Oisin, Stan Brown and others to ‘kick off’ BirdLife Shoalhaven’s Birds & Beer Club. **DEFERRED DUE TO COVID 19. CLOSED**
- Action 4 – Rob to confirm date and venue for next Committee meeting. **DONE**
- Action 5 – Rob to send out AGM papers to those attending and to ask people to contact him to confirm the bird walk. **DONE**
- Action 6 – Rob to invite all Councillors and media to Martine Maron event. Mike to progress Welcome to Country. **DONE**
- Action 7 – Yolande to contact performers of the “Where Song Began” about giving a performance here. **DONE – POTENTIAL TO DO THIS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BERRY CLASSICAL MUSIC GROUP, BUT DECIDED TO DEFER & THEN COVID 19 ARRIVED ANYWAY!**
- Action 8 – Oisin to clarify his availability to attend the BirdLife network meeting in Melbourne on 21 & 22 May. **CLOSED - NOW LIKELY TO BE ON ZOOM WITH DATE TBC**
- Action 9 – Rob to send apology for the BIGnet meeting in Sydney and to congratulate them/endorse their draft conservation guidelines. **DONE, BUT ATTENDED IN THE END AS WAS HELD VIA ZOOM**
- Action 10 – Oisin to check with NPA on the availability of their remote sensing cameras and advise Gary. **WOULD CAUSE MAJOR RESOURCING ISSUES TO DO THIS PROPERLY.**
- Action 11 – Chris to finalise Coastal Management Plan Scoping Report with Rob. **DONE**
- Action 12 – Chris to draft letter to Council to highlight the need to protect all vegetation post-bushfires and to offer our support/input. **DONE**
- Action 13 – Brett to send email to see more Facebook and Twitter editors. **DONE. PERRY CROSHAW BECAME EDITOR**
- Action 14 – Gary with Rob to look at how best to identify/expand atlases and sites to progress the bushfire research project. **DONE**
- Action 15 – Rob to contact National Office on how/if they are contacted the seven BLS members whose membership expired on 31/12/19. **DONE – AMAZINGLY THEY RELY ON LETTERS AND EMAILS!**
- Action 16 – Everyone to complete the two Monkey Surveys on the BirdLife web-site and magazine. **DONE**
- Action 17 – Rob & Kim to work with Kerry Thompson to finalise bird signage for the Bangalee Reserve. **DONE – AGREED TO DEFER DUE TO COVID 19**

AGENDA ITEM 5A – PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Zoom presentations

We are all aware that since Covid 19, Zoom is a major tool being used to maintain communications socially and for community groups and business. It worked well for the BIGNet meeting earlier this month – refer below. Zoom offers us a number of options for BLS beyond quarterly Committee meetings. Zoom is essential for the BfB courses as part of the Shoalhaven Landcare project and so we will learn how we can run guest presentations from guest speakers, promotion of the BRP, repeats of some of our one-off BLS talks and Yolande’s BIBY talks. James O’Connor has already offered to talk about BirdLife’s national bushfire project. I am keen to review our options and line up talks, just as I have done with recent events. These could be promoted through Facebook, email to members/supporters and the Magazine. I would like to get your ideas at the meeting.

Bangallee Reserve signage

Since the last meeting the Committee agreed to delay the payment of the deposit for the signage at the reserve until the future for Covid 19 is clearer. We also agreed that \$4,000 would be set aside for the project, given the quote for production was \$3,600 and to allow for potential increase. The content of the signs is available to go to the designer when we are happy to proceed. This also means we have a template when/if we have other signage installed.

Lake Wollumboola & Shoalhaven Heads signage

The project seems plagued by issues. Jessica Sharpe, NPWS SoS, was ready to proceed when Covid 19 struck. BLS paid \$1,000 for the signage, given donations and specific fundraising at the 2018 Festival. It will happen!

Meetings since the last meeting

- AGM – Nowra Bowling Club – Mon 10 February – really positive event
- Martine Maron event – Sun 8 March – Mollymook – multiple benefits, not least the impressive turn-out, as already covered.
- BIGnet – Sat 4 & Sun 5 April – The Discovery Centre Sydney – the event was by Zoom with 40 attending, plus talks by Nicholas Carlile and James O’Connor. I have asked Nic to do the same on-line talk for BLS, but he said he would rather wait till after Covid 19. James has offered to repeat his talk on the fires.

BirdLife Australia AGM – 25 May

The voting papers for the AGM should arrive by the end of the week. I would ask that everyone votes. It needs a quick turn-around by mail. I will elaborate at the meeting.

I will finish in my roles as BirdLife Australia Board member and Chair Audit & Finance Committee at the AGM on 25 May.

AGENDA ITEM 5B – CONSERVATION OFFICER’S REPORT

1. Support of **Manyana community action** with multiple contacts email, phone and in-person and including bird lists for that area.
2. Support of **Fishermans Paradise contact** with emails and birdlists for that area. No response from original contact to that support.
3. **BLS Letter to SCC re post-bushfire** management and moratorium [ON WEB SITE]
4. **BLS – CO Response to SCC [Watson] bushfire proposal and petition.** Email trail attached. Arose from a concern directed to BLS, to which I responded and then involved NPA personnel. Excuse the attached detail but it does illustrate a process involving connections for BLS quite well.
5. **BLS Submission of Coastal Zone Management Scoping Report Feb.11** [ON WEB SITE]
6. Prepared base paper for **Submission Writing** for BLS web page and **attended to edits** suggested for further inclusions.
7. Magazine **bushfire habitat feature** prepared and a number of **other conservation pieces** contributed, which related to both local, Shoalhaven and Australia wide issues, i.e. bird banding, ThSp collapse on the Shoalhaven coast and biodiversity crisis.
8. **Community Radio Interview.** Developed from shearwater interest item and BLS Summer Magazine feature to include international migrations and ThSps.
7. Personal **submission to EPBC Act 1999 Review** which included major statement related to birds and habitat in Shoalhaven. As discussed with Rob BLS we are relying on the BLA contribution. My submission had a major section on birds and threatened species. However there is concern with the move of the federal government and minister to move ahead with changes to the Act quite precluding the Review and associated outcomes as expressed by BLA (CEO) and even GetUp. I have sent web links for articles related to this to the committee.

***** Perhaps a special letter from BLS to Susan ley would be in order?***

8. Email **contact with select Councillors**, shared with Committee, re proposal to extend and/or develop staff report on **extension of ‘off-leash’ areas at Shoalhaven Heads** on Council Meeting Agenda Tuesday April 28. Had immediate responses from Amanda Findley and John Levett. Discussed approaches to the debate with Clr Levett. Reflected on the Cudmirrah Beach episode and noted Hooded Plovers had returned with a nest to Cudmirrah Beach this last breeding season.

It seems Council failed to conclude a vote on the matter – 4hr lockdown Covid Rule intervened apparently.

***** Needs to be monitored – as always with ShHds.***

9. Previously provided a **briefing paper for Clr.Levett on issues relating to dog presence and control**, especially as that involves shorebirds.

10. "dealt with the reports of multiple bird deaths evidence at the opening of the Berrara Lagoon with the big February rains and separate but species specific, rainbow lorikeet deaths in the broader Berrara-Cudmirah-Sussex area. There were no clear conclusions for the reasons though a lorikeet disease has been recognized in northern NSW coast. Locals believed the bird deaths could be the result of the chemical fire retardant spraying undertaken during the bushfires." An ecologist address to a local fauna interest group suggested this could be associated with a known second phase of the bushfires - starvation - the first being destruction. The ecologist nominated a third known phase -human intervention!.

AGENDA ITEM 5C – SECRETARY’S REPORT

February

- Report on a sighting of an Eastern Curlew at Warrain Beach
- Request for a copy of our walks brochure – mailed
- Thank-you to Ghris Grounds from some Far South Coast birdwatchers for his help at Boodoree Botanic Gardens
- Interest in volunteering

March

- James Matcott at Birdlife Australia regarding our response to Covid 19 – Rob responded that we did not currently have any events scheduled

April

- An offer to manage our investment fund and invest it in oil
- As you can see, unless my email has crashed along with the economy, nothing much is happening.
-

AGENDA ITEM 5D – COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Facebook

Since the last committee meeting Perrie Croshaw has been added as a Facebook editor, replacing Charles Dove who moved to Queensland. Kim Touzel has taken over from Charles as our "poster girl" of bird images.

In April - up until the 29th - there had been 19 posts on Facebook, with 2 coming from Perrie, 7 from Kim and 10 from me. One or two a day is probably an optimal amount of posts - enough to keep people engaged, but not enough to make people feel bombarded with information.

Our BirdLife Shoalhaven Facebook page now has 979 followers and 884 likes. According to our Facebook insights, our April 19th post - which said that our Autumn Magazine was now available for download - "reached" 3,989 people - and I have no idea how Facebook determines that metric.

Twitter

We have 126 followers on Twitter.

Membership

According to our Mailchimp database we have email addresses for -

20 CCBs

31 Other Groups

508 Supporters

160 Members (a low figure due to only listing members with email addresses)

The BirdLife Australia spreadsheet that we get every week currently lists 208 members (also low as it does not include members such as Barry Virtue and Charles Dove who are BirdLife Australia members who have moved away from the Shoalhaven but still want to be BirdLife Shoalhaven members).

Website

Since the Feb 7 committee meeting I have added two submissions to the website, both to Shoalhaven City Council, one a Letter re preserving habitat after fires, and the other a Coastal Management Program submission.

After March 24 - when we agreed to cancel all BirdLife Shoalhaven physical activities - I added a tile to the Home page about Covid-19 linking to our Upcoming Events page which now contains a paragraph saying that our physical events being temporarily suspended.

I also added the same paragraph to our Group Walks page, and updated the Shoalhaven Birdwatchers and MUDbirders section with similar paragraphs after they indicated that they would also be suspending their events.

Magazine

Our 25th magazine was published on April 21st - thanks to all the contributors! Apart from the first newsletter way back in Autumn 2014 which did not have an image on the front page, all of our covers have had birds on them, but the latest magazine had no birds - to reflect the devastating effect of the Shoalhaven's Xmas / New Year fires on our wildlife.

I have now handed responsibility for the interview to Perrie Croshaw. This should allow me time to submit articles of my own.

The Winter Magazine is due out in mid July - articles are always welcome.

AGENDA ITEM 5E – TREASURER’S REPORT

| INCOME AND EXPENSES | Jan 1 to Apr 30 2020 | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---------|---------|
| Cashbook Balance at 1/1/2020 | | \$ | 6623.44 |
| <u>Income</u> | | | |
| Sales of misc bird items | | 110.00 | |
| Talk entry fees (fundraising) | | | |
| BA Funding | | 1500.00 | |
| BA GST credit re Dec Qtr 2019 | | | |
| Donations - other direct | | 105.00 | |
| Donations - other, via BA | | | |
| | | | 1715.00 |
| <u>Expenses</u> | | | |
| Hall Hire | | | |
| Equipment | | | |
| Domain Name | | | |
| Meeting exps | | | |
| Event expenses | | | |
| Postage | | | |
| | | | 0.00 |
| Cashbook Balance at 30/4/2020 | | \$ | 8338.44 |
| | | | |
| <u>Add - Unpresented Cheques</u> | | | |
| | | | 0.00 |
| <u>Subtract - Deposits not received</u> | | | |
| | | | 0.00 |
| | | \$ | 8338.44 |
| Represented by: | | | |
| NAB Bank Account | | | 8349.44 |
| GST Balance (Payable) | | | -11 |
| | | \$ | 8338.44 |
| Note: | | | |
| Martine Marron talk net income to come | | | 100.75 |
| Zoom licence fee to be paid | | | -209.9 |
| | Leaving | | 8229.29 |

ITEM FOR DECISION

BLS currently has approx. \$8,000 in the bank and will receive a further \$1,400 shortly from Shoalhaven Landcare.

We have agreed to retain \$1,000 for an operating buffer and urgent payments and \$4,000 for the Bangalee Reserve sign. The \$1,400 and further payments of \$600 from SLA needs to be treated as a separate project budget.

This means we have \$3,000 to spend. \$1,500 of this came from BirdLife to be allocated to the following items in our 2020 Action Plan:

- Explore options and develop promotional materials as community engagement in tools, e.g. bird posters, Shoalhaven Bird Guide, Our Threatened Species, bird list, etc., subject to funding and volunteer availability
- Support for Bird Haven Festival October 2020

The second item has been cancelled, though the first item was deliberately broad and gives us a wide range of options.

BirdLife has a policy for branches not to build up funds, but rather to use it in a timely manner for approved BLS project and activities. Effectively a 'use it or loss it' policy. So, we now need to agree how we want to use the \$3,000 we have available. BirdLife will not hold us to spend by December, but we at least need to be clear on how we will spend the funds.

I PROPOSE BUDGETS FOR THE USE OF THE AVAILABLE \$3,000 (BY SUB-GROUP OF THE COMMITTEE) & THE SLA FUNDS OF \$2,000 (BY GARY) ARE PRESENTED AT THE NEXT BLS COMMITTEE MEETING.

In addition to these funds, we had been offered an artwork/doll's house sent from the UK for bushfires project. I had spoken to Oisin about a raffle or auction at the JB Brewery and then Covid 19 appeared. Regardless of this opportunity, we continue to receive more money than we spend, so we are in a good position to look at what we want to 'invest' in for Shoalhaven's birds, but let's focus on the \$3,000 & \$2,000 first as they are in the bank now!

AGENDA ITEM 5F – RECENT MEDIA, PRESENTATIONS & EVENTS

Talks

- March 10th - spoke to the Shoalhaven Aviculture Society. There were 36 people in attendance and added 2 names to our mailing list.
- March 14th - Opened The Overwintering Project: Mapping Sanctuary – an exhibition collated by Kate Gorringer-Smith about shorebirds and their environment – Jervis Bay Maritime Museum

Media

- ABC Illawarra Radio interview with our guest speaker Dr Martine Maron
- South Coast Register Story on Dr Martine Maron Talk
- Milton Ulladulla Times story on Dr Martine Maron Talk

Online

- Attended Birds in Backyards Zoom meeting
- Birdlife Facebook meetings

AGENDA ITEM 6 – UPCOMING EVENTS

- Quarterly BirdLife Network meeting pre-AGM & Board meeting – 2.30-3.30 Fri 8 May
 - BirdLife Australia Network Meeting – now by Zoom - date to be confirmed
 - BIGnet - mid- September 2020 in Port Macquarie, but most likely Zoom
 - Bird Haven Festival – 24-25 October - cancelled
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AGENDA ITEM 7 – BUSHFIRE RESEARCH PROJECT UPDATE

Birding surveys since the 20th March in a time of Covid

| Surveyor | Start Date | Survey Point Name |
|---------------------------------|------------|---|
| Alan K Morris | 21/03/2020 | Wilford Lane Swamp |
| | 21/03/2020 | Conjola, Tyquins Farm |
| | 21/03/2020 | .Conjola, Murrays Rd Bridge |
| | 21/03/2020 | Narrawallee Inlet |
| | 21/03/2020 | Ulladulla, Conjola Creek Pk |
| | 21/03/2020 | Milton rainforest |
| | 21/03/2020 | Milton, Mick Ryan Reserve |
| | 21/03/2020 | BLA Shoalhaven - Narrawallee Inlet |
| | 22/03/2020 | Fishermans Paradise Boat Ramp |
| | 22/03/2020 | Barda Pond, But will Lake |
| Stan Brown | 05/04/2020 | Corramy Park |
| | 19/04/2020 | Corramy Park |
| Kim M White | 22/03/2020 | Chinamas to Greenfields |
| | 23/03/2020 | Home |
| Kim Touzel | 29/03/2020 | Bengslee Landcare sites |
| | 15/04/2020 | Bengalee Landcare Site Restricted Access |
| Margaret R Hamon | 22/03/2020 | KBA-Ulladulla-20min2ha-Beach Cottage |
| | 15/04/2020 | Nuggan Headland |
| Milton Ulladulla D/t B/watchers | 20/03/2020 | Narrawalle Creek Rd, Conjola |
| | 01/04/2020 | Maisie Williams Drive |
| | 04/04/2020 | Narrawalle Creek Rd, Conjola |
| | 07/04/2020 | Millard's Creek south |
| | 12/04/2020 | Maisie Williams Drive |
| Natalie Maguire | 04/04/2020 | Home |
| | 11/04/2020 | Home |
| | 20/04/2020 | Bawley Point |
| Nicki Taws | 21/04/2020 | Tianjara cliffs |
| Peter R Ineson | 27/03/2020 | Sandwath |
| | 03/04/2020 | Sandwath |
| | 10/04/2020 | Sandwath |
| | 18/04/2020 | Sandwath |
| | 24/04/2020 | Sandwath |
| Phil J Craven | 17/04/2020 | East-West Link Trail (western) |
| | 17/04/2020 | ParmaCreek-ParmaFT intersection BRP |
| | 17/04/2020 | ParmaFT-HellHoleFT intersection BRP |
| | 17/04/2020 | HellHole FT BRP |
| Rob K Dunn | 24/03/2020 | Louisa Grove and adjacent golf course - BRP |
| | 25/03/2020 | Louisa Grove and adjacent golf course - BRP |
| | 27/03/2020 | Louisa Grove and adjacent golf course - BRP |
| | 28/03/2020 | Louisa Grove and adjacent golf course - BRP |
| Susan Tolley | 13/04/2020 | Sussex house |
| | 22/04/2020 | Sussex house |
| Yolande M Cozijn | 21/04/2020 | Moona moona creek rock platform north |

| | |
|--|------|
| | side |
|--|------|

- 44 surveys over 31 survey sites in this period compared to huge number of surveys in 7 survey sites the same period in 2019. See the Lothlorien problem
- Many of these sites in fire affected areas
- Encouraging to see that surveyors have still been able to get to their local sites and collect information
- The Lothlorien Problem.
- 157 surveys across the Shoalhaven since the 1st January at 89 Survey sites

How to encourage the reporting of sightings of the rare birds.

| BirdLife spreadsheet of birds impacted by the fire season 2019-2020 | | |
|---|---------------------------|------------------|
| TaxonName | Tentative new IUCN status | % loss AOO |
| Black-faced Monarch | VU | 33.5 (32.5-34.4) |
| Central East Coast Variegated Fairy-wren | NT | 27.6 (26.6-28.3) |
| Central Eastern White-throated Treecreeper | VU | 30.3 (29.1-30.8) |
| East Coast Large-billed Scrubwren | NT | 28.4 (27.3-29.1) |
| East Coast Southern Emu-wren | NT | 28.9 (28-31.1) |
| Eastern White-cheeked Honeyeater | NT | 26 (24.4-26.5) |
| Eastern Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo | NT | 23.5 (23.3-25.8) |
| Eastern Yellow-tufted Honeyeater | VU | 46.4 (45.2-47.3) |
| Gang-gang Cockatoo | NT | 29.3 (29.3-32.4) |
| Green Catbird | NT | 26.9 (25.7-27.1) |
| Logrunner | VU | 31.1 (30.4-31.4) |
| Lowland Pilotbird | VU | 45.1 (44.5-48.3) |
| Mainland Ground Parrot | VU | 33.8 (31.5-38.4) |
| Powerful Owl | VU | 32.9 (32.7-34.6) |
| Red-browed Treecreeper | VU | 45.7 (44.6-48.3) |
| Rockwarbler | EN | 52.4 (51.1-53.9) |
| Rose Robin | VU | 30.3 (29.2-32.1) |
| South-east Eastern Whipbird | VU | 31.7 (30.7-33.1) |
| South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo | VU | 45.2 (44.1-46.1) |
| South-eastern Leaden Flycatcher | NT | 27.1 (26.3-28.3) |
| Southern Australian King-Parrot | NT | 26.5 (25.8-27.9) |
| Southern Brown Cuckoo-Dove | NT | 27.4 (26.2-28.1) |
| Southern Lewin's Honeyeater | VU | 31 (29.9-31.9) |
| Southern Masked Owl | VU | 49 (48.1-50.1) |
| Southern Rufous Fantail | VU | 41.7 (38.3-41.7) |
| Southern Satin Bowerbird | VU | 34.8 (33.7-36.5) |
| Southern Superb Lyrebird | VU | 34.2 (33.4-38) |
| Southern Yellow-throated Scrubwren | VU | 37.1 (35.8-37.8) |
| Western Bassian Thrush | NT | 27.9 (34.4-34.4) |

| | | |
|--------------|----|------------------|
| Wonga Pigeon | VU | 37.5 (36.5-38.8) |
|--------------|----|------------------|

- AOO Area of Occupancy lost in fire season
- Some of these birds have not been recorded in the Shoalhaven on Birddata for a number of years.
- These birds are hardly ever recorded in 20 minute/2 Ha surveys but are more usually recorded as incidental sightings.
- We encourage birders to log incidental sightings of these endangered species and other rare visitors as an important part of the BRP.

Discussion

1. What resources do we have to encourage or promote this venture?
 2. Would it be feasible to broadcast/publish pictures of the endangered birds to raise public recognition levels with a view to encouraging recording
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AGENDA ITEM 8 – SHOALHAVEN LANDCARE PROJECT UPDATE

OVERVIEW

The Committee gave its support of an application by Shoalhaven Landcare Association (SLA) for a grant from GER Ltd (Great Eastern Ranges Initiative) with funding from WWF for a one-year fox control, cat trapping and weed control project. Our component involves the BRP and a new Birds of the Shoalhaven for Beginners (BfB) program. Gary, Yolande will be taking on the work with support from others for future bird walks in Kangaroo Valley post Covid 19.

SLA are the prime contractor, providing budget and project reports to GER. \$2,000 will be paid to BLS (70% up-front, 20% mid-project and 10% with the final report.) Our direct costs are the Zoom licence and A3 posters, postage, other printing costs. A cost budget needs to be finalized – refer Treasurer's Report. There are a number of advantages for BLS, such as bird surveys on private land, getting new people interested in birds and become members/supporters, and BLS members involved in Landcare/habitat restoration, testing a new community training model, building on Yolande's BIBY presentations, etc.

Greg Thompson, our SLA contact, is a BLS member and lives in Kangaroo Valley. He is keen for us to move first with the BfB pilot project in the valley to build on the community involvement in the bushfire water and feeding stations in the valley. Moving forward on this soon could mean we could also run the courses for other community groups and BLS supporters during Covid 19. The BRP component will take time and requires SLA to recruit a project co-ordinator for the fox control, cat trapping and weed control work.

PROGRESS TO DATE

- BLS agreement with SLA for \$2,000 agreed
- Contract between SLA and GER for \$30,000 agreed – still to be signed and first payment made
- BRP component discussed in principle with Gary – ditto for BfB with Yolande
- Rob has completed a draft BfB introduction presentation and road-tested on Zoom with a friend – successful and some good input.
- Draft BfB registration form also completed and modified after road-test.
- Initial discussions on budget items with Karen and Gary

NEXT STEPS

- Road-test draft BfB introduction presentation & registration form with Yolande and Greg Thompson
- Draft BfB bird list for common birds in backyard and the bush only
- Draft follow-up materials to be sent out after BfB introduction presentation
- Run first BfB introduction presentation on Zoom
- Prepare project budget as per Treasurer's Report
- Project article in the July magazine

BLS AGREEMENT WITH ALA FOR OUR ROLE – as previously provided

Objectives

1. BLS Bushfire Research Project (BRP) - Surveys will be used to monitor changes in bird abundance and density since the bushfires in the Shoalhaven on Shoalhaven Landcare group properties, using the BirdLife Australia's Birddata portal. The project will increase the amount of project data, and, subject to interest, landowners will be trained in bird ID and monitoring techniques.
2. Birds for Backyards for Beginners (BfB) – The aim is to improve participants' basic bird ID skills over the period of the project, to get them to a level where they are confident to record their sightings in the Birds in Backyards (BIBY) Birddata portal.

Activities - engagement

BirdLife Shoalhaven's involvement in the project will comprise of two parts:

1. BRP – In the first quarter of this year, BLS has set up 50 sites with quarterly surveys undertaken by some 25 survey volunteers. These sites are spread throughout the Shoalhaven. For properties involved in the project, SLA will identify close to fire-affected where landowners are interested in having quarterly bird surveys undertaken. BLS will assess the availability of its volunteers to take on surveys on those properties proposed by SLA. A preference will be given to properties that were impacted by the fires, as this is the primary focus of the BRP project. Depending on landowners' bird ID skills, BLS volunteers will either provide training to landowners or conduct the quarterly surveys themselves. Quarterly 20 min./2 ha. surveys will be carried out with data entered into the Birddata portal. The portal has recently been developed to capture the impact of the fires on vegetation, intensity, distance from fire zones, etc. Landowners will be encouraged to be part of the research project with full access to the Birddata portal. Project reports will be provided presenting the research findings in changes in species abundance and diversity over time and provided to the landowner and SLA. Subject to their bird ID skills, landowners will be encouraged to attend the courses run under the BfB program.
2. BfB – Using Kangaroo Valley Landcare as the pilot project, BLS will run Zoom on-line training sessions on how to identify birds, that can be seen on properties in the valley. SLA will promote the training sessions to Landcare group members. A questionnaire will be distributed to assess participants' birding skills at the start of the sessions. Subject to interest in the program, additional people will be invited to join the program. A range of teaching aids will be provided, including Powerpoint presentations, bird ID sheets and cards, bird quizzes, mini-bird posters, etc. Presentations will also include training to allow participants to enter surveys into the BIBY Birddata portal. Subject to Covid 19, bird walks will be arranged to provide practice in identifying birds in the field. The aim is that the sessions also provide basic information on bird behaviour and ecology to enhance interest from what will inevitably include people with a range of bird ID skills. At the end of the project a questionnaire will be distributed to assess improvements in participants' bird ID skills.

Outcomes

1. BRP – This research is designed as a long-term study of changes in bird populations in the Shoalhaven over time beyond the life of this project. A final report will show changes in bird species abundance and diversity over the one year life of the project. The project will raise landowners' bird ID skills and understanding of monitoring techniques. It will also allow BLS's volunteers to gain a better understanding of Shoalhaven Landcare activities. BRP progress reports are included in the quarterly BirdLife Shoalhaven Magazine which is distributed to 700 people and 25 community groups in the Shoalhaven.
 2. BfB – The project will raise landowners' interests in birds and ID skills and understanding of monitoring techniques. The learnings and teaching tools from this pilot project will allow the program to be expanded to other Shoalhaven Landcare groups in the future.
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AGENDA ITEM 9 – PROGRESS AGAINST 2020 ACTION PLAN

This is the 2020 Action Plan approved by National Office and supporting our \$1,500 grant. As previously I have entered in notes of our progress to date. While a number of items depend on Covid 19, we are still making good progress at this stage in the year.

| STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE | ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2019 | OUTPUT/KPI | PROGRESS TO DATE |
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| General administration e.g. meetings, stationery | 1. Hold four Committee meetings, 2. On-going President, Secretary and Treasurer roles | 4 meetings | Happening Transferred Secretary from Kim to Mike |
| Local community and member and stakeholder engagement to build partnerships and recruit/retain supporters | 1. Two BLS conservation evening talks with one in Milton/Ulladulla this year – broad invite to members, Wildbird Protectors and supporters and through our conservation groups list and CCBs, 2. AGM in February + bird walk with invites to members & Wildbird Protectors, their partners and friends, 3. In-kind support and involvement in Bird Haven Festival at Shoalhaven Heads on 24-25 October 2020 and explore options for events/bird walks on following weekend in other locations, 4. Quarterly BLS Magazine, 5. On-going social media and web-site, 6. Sponsor film and other events as opportunities arise, 7. Other bird talks to community groups, subject to availability, 8. BLS stalls at community events, subject to availability of support, 9. Expanding BLS Bird Walk program & Birddata surveys, subject to availability of walk leaders, 10. Engagement of other non-Committee members to show their support for BLS by taking on specific roles as volunteers, e.g. leading bird walks, support for Aussie Backyard Bird Count, community stalls, etc. | Membership and supporter growth, no. of talks and locations, attendees, transitioning supporters to members/WPs | 1. Martine Maron event – Zoom presentations possible – anything else depends on Covid 19 2. Done 3. Cancelled due to Covid 19 4. Happening 5. Happening 6. Depends on Covid 19 7. Depends on Covid 19 8. Depends on Covid 19 9. Depends on Covid 19 10. Perrie and Kim as Facebook editors, Kim on Bangalee signage, BRP surveys |
| | Completion of Lake Wollumboola Bird Platform with interpretative signage with funding from NPWS and other sources | Bird hides and signage installations | Depends on Covid 19 |
| | Completion of two new bird hides with interpretative signage at Burrill Lake with funding from Southern Rivers LLS – focus for 2020 fundraising | | Defer with Covid 19 and Charles now in Queensland – 2021 perhaps |
| | Identification of new sites for interpretative signage and bird hides, prioritization and sourcing of funding - Bangalee, Ben's Walk, Narrawalee, Burrill Lakes - working with Council – focus for 2020 fundraising | | Depends on Covid 19 and grant funding – 2021 perhaps |
| | Explore options and develop promotional materials as community engagement in tools, e.g. bird posters, Shoalhaven Bird Guide, Our Threatened Species, bird list, etc., subject to funding and volunteer availability – TO BE FUNDED BY BIRDLIFE 2020 GRANT | Production of end products | Early ideas through SLA agreement |
| | Support for Bird Haven Festival October 2020 TO BE FUNDED BY BIRDLIFE 2020 GRANT | | Cancelled |
| | Identify Volunteer Co-ordinator and Fundraising Co-ordinator | | No progress |
| Use of Birddata to inform bird conservation, e.g. survey birds; analyse threats and identify actions, run birddata workshop | 1. Jervis Bay KBA Guardian role, 2. Birddata administrator for the Shoalhaven, 3. Promoting Birddata with new shared sites for Jervis Bay KBA and the 12 bird walks in Council brochure | Number of Birddata users, surveys submitted | 1. Happening 2. Happening + Gary as BRP Project Officer 3. Focus has been on new BRP sites |

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| Advocate for bird and habitat conservation locally and alongside BirdLife national campaigns | 1. On-going conservation campaigns & advocacy - several projects on-going - promotion and support for Bhewerre Wetlands project & Heritage Eastate, both part of Jervis Bay KBA | | Happening |
| Bird conservation projects aligned to the organisation's strategy and programs (e.g. KBAs) ¹ | 1. Birds in Backyards – talks to community groups and associated media, 2. Promotion of Aussie Backyard Bird Count in October 2020 through media, community talks, Bird Haven Festival and Council engagement with a special focus on engagement with schools, 3. Support NPWS Shorebirds Recovery Program, Lake Wollumboola Protection Association and other bird conservation projects and groups through promotion and support, 4. Community talks on BNBS | Number of BIBY/BNB talks and attendance, ABBC registration and surveys | 1. Depends on Covid 19 2. To be considered 3. BNB and other articles in Magazine 4. Cancelled – focus will be on BfB presentations |