



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BIRDLIFE SHOALHAVEN COMMITTEE AT 3 LOUISA GROVE, VINCENTIA ON FRIDAY 29 JANUARY 2021, 2 – 4.15 PM

1. Attendance and apologies

Present: Yolande Cozijn, Rob Dunn, Chris Grounds, Phil Hendry, Mike Jefferis, Oisin Sweeney

Apologies: Brett Davis, Karen Davis

- Rob welcomed Phil following his appointment as Vice-President since the last meeting.

2. Acceptance of the agenda – Agreed with the addition of discussion on the approach by Owen Kinnaird of Perennial Living

3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting - Approved

4. Business arising from the previous minutes

The action items from the previous meeting were agreed as completed. Action 1 from the 1 May 2020 meeting remained partially complete.

5. Updates and related issues

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

Some further points were made:

- Kerry Thompson would meet with Kim Touzel to select the locations for the Bangalee Reserve signs in the next few weeks.
- The Australian Geographic magazine article should include a focus on bird conservation at Lake Wollumboola, though the draft was still to be received. However, following some original uncertainty, the focus on adventure sports in the Shoalhaven would be quite separate.
- The deadline for submissions for the West Culburra DA was only a few weeks away and Frances will develop an outline of key points for submissions. The revised DA does not now impact the Lake, but will still impact the Crookhaven River. The main threats for birds from the revised DA were the impacts on the Powerful Owl and Glossy Black-Cockatoo.
- Rob is following up with BirdLife Australia about obtaining the superb lyrebird video footage to see if Brett can make use of this.

b. Conservation Officer report

Refer paper distributed by Chris before the meeting.

Chris expanded on his main focus since the last meeting:

- Information had been provided to support Manyana Matters. This has been referred to the Supreme Court and a stay of execution imposed on the development.
- Jodie Dunn was about to finish up in her Shorebirds Recovery co-ordinator role and the way forward for the program was currently unclear.
- Nominations for Council's Dog Access Review had recently closed. The membership of the community committees was aimed at individuals, rather than interest groups. As such, Rob & Chris had decided that BLS should await the outcome of the review before BLS made a submission. The meeting agreed with this approach.

- Other than attending the initial meeting, there had been no further engagement with the Shoalhaven Environment Alliance.
- The South Shoalhaven Environment Statement had been finalised, though BLS did not see a role as/if this group moves forward, given our own objectives are already well-established.
- Chris had provided some bird survey data related to a DA at Parma Road.
- Chris had also contributed to the BLS Magazine, presented at the NLNL exhibition, written in the Bush Telegraph, contributed to the South Coast Style magazine and a community radio interview.

The key issue that Chris wanted to raise was the need to give greater prominence to the importance of the Jervis Bay KBA, given its current risks and lack of broader recognition. Rob noted that while this could be said for all KBAs, Jervis Bay KBA could only benefit from greater exposure. As for the other KBAs:

- The LWPA covered Lake Wollumboola and called on support from BLS when required.
- Our involvement in Ulladulla to Merimbula was yet to commence and given the Swift Parrot was the trigger species, this had been the focus of a BirdLife national campaign.
- Jerrawangala was new and the trigger species was not a bird, also it lay within one National Park.
- It was noted that, given only a small area of Barren Grounds was within the Shoalhaven and this was covered by BirdLife Southern Highlands and Illawarra Birders, BLS did not need to play any part.

Action 1 - It was agreed that Chris would look at ways to raise the profile of the Jervis Bay KBA and draw up a simple action plan for endorsement by the Committee.

Action 2 – Rob, Phil & Mike to assess our potential role in Ulladulla to Merimbula KBA, given the currently vacant role of KBA Guardian.

c. **Secretary report** – Nothing of note to report.

d. **Communications report**

In Brett's absence, Rob noted that the BLS distribution list was now over 1,000, following the success of the 'Dinner with the Birds' talks.

e. **Treasurer report** –

The income and expenditure for the year to 31 December 2020 distributed with the papers was approved.

f. **Recent media, presentations & events** – covered in the President's Report

g. **Birding activities updates** – Nothing to report re. OH&S issues.

6. **AGM, bird walks, talks and events** - refer papers sent with the agenda

AGM – The arrangements still seemed in hand and Mike and Rob will liaise on a lucky door prize and prizes for the trivia quiz - **Action 3**. Rob will take the bird posters to the AGM and invite members to take with the purpose of getting them into schools and venues visited by the public.

New bird walk calendar – This was working well with Anne Reuter taking on the co-ordinating role. Mike commented that, while the walk calendar was shown on the web-site calendar and in the body of an email to members, there should still be a separate sheet of the walks as an attachment for members to save/print on the web-site. Mike also said it would be good to have a simple bird list of the birds seen on each of the walks on the web-site. The meeting agreed with both suggestions.

Action 4 – Mike to discuss both of these with Brett.

Perennial Living – Rob outlined the approach by Owen Kinnaird through BirdLife, seeking interest of our members to become paid bird guides, as part of his new special interest tours, and our suggestions of the best birdwatching sites. Rob outlined noted Brett's strong view that we should not engage in any way and his reasons. However, the meeting saw no reason why BLS should not respond as follows: follows:

- We should not seek interest from our members to become paid bird guides, as it would inevitably give the perception that BLS had an on-going role in the business.
- Instead, introduce Owen to Carla Jackett as possible paid guide, given she already runs her own tours.
- Encourage Owen to access our web-site to find suitable bird walks, which is in the public domain in any case.
- For a small fee allow him to advertise his tours in the BLS Magazine, where we would highlight that BLS took no responsibility.

Action 5 – Rob to communicate the outcome from the meeting after talking with Carla Jackett.

New Leaves New Lives – Phil provided an overview of the exhibition, which was considered a success on several fronts – an impressive number of art pieces, including our own art exhibition, high visitation each day, well attended BLS talks, a positive meeting place for those effected by the fires. Viv Davidson had confirmed that this would be a one-off event. However, Viv, Phil and Rob had discussed whether the concept of eco-grief would be a good subject for a future bird Zoom talk. Viv had also been approached by Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens who were interested in showing parts of the exhibition. Phil will explore if this was suitable for the BLS photo exhibition. **Action 6**

Dinner with the Birds – Rob is still to talk to Simon Tedder on plans for 2021. **Action 7**

Birds for Beginners – Rob to follow-up Shoalhaven Landcare's interest in further talks. **Action 8**

Next BIGNet meeting – Rob will not be attended but the meeting is open to anyone on the Committee.

BirdLife Network meetings – These Zoom meetings run by BirdLife on the third Wednesday of the month at 6pm, bring the branches together to discuss various issues. The meeting is open to anyone on the Committee and Rob will now circulate the agenda each month.

7. Allocation of funds on hand - refer papers sent with the agenda

The available funds as per the accounts in the Treasurer's Report showed \$5,000 was currently available to be allocated with the potential for a further \$1,000 from both SLA and the Jervis Bay Brewery.

The meeting agreed that:

- BLS should accept Jervis Bay Brewery offer to become their cause for fundraising in April. **Action 9** – Rob to send a confirmation email of thanks to the Brewery.
- Of the \$5,000, \$2,000 was to be allocated to the Bushfire Research Project and Birds for Beginners. This comprised of the initial payment of \$2,000 from SLA, less \$500 spent on a project screen in 2020, plus the net proceeds from the NLNL of approx. \$500.
- A possible further \$1,000 from SLA for bird surveys should also be allocated to the BRP, if received.
- The remaining \$3,000 was untied, as would be the additional \$1,000 (approx.) from the Brewery.
- It was agreed that Karen's suggestion of converting a ship container for a bird hide was too complex.
- Three options were discussed for the allocation of the untied funds of \$4,000:
 1. Commission an 'audit' of the health of urban trees in a selected suburb to support a broader campaign on their importance for birds. **Action 10** – Oisín
 2. Assess options for bird merchandise, including pricing, design, distribution, profitability, accounting. **Action 11** – Oisín & Yolande

3. Explore feasibility of installation of bird interpretative signage at the Booderee National Park Botanic Gardens. **Action 12** – Chris
 - After papers had been distributed on actions 10, 11 & 12, the Committee should make a final decision on the allocation of the \$4,000.
8. **Bushfire Research and Shoalhaven Landcare Project updates** - refer papers sent with the agenda
Nothing further of note to report.
9. **Progress against the 2020 Action Plan** - refer papers sent with the agenda
It was noted that good progress had already been made, especially with the New Leaves New Lives exhibition.
10. **Other business** - none
11. **Next meeting** –
Confirmed as Fri 23 July, 2-4pm at Mike's. (Mike was not available on July 30.)
Agreed that meetings in the future should be on the last Friday of the January, April, July and October, subject to everyone's availability. The meeting of next on this basis will be 29 October.

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

1 May 2020 meeting:

Action 1 – (amended since original action) Brett to email former BLS members who had not renewed in 2019 to ask if there were any particular reasons for their decision and also send an email to supporters, inviting them to become full members..

29 January 2021 meeting

Action 1 – Chris to look at ways to raise the profile of the Jervis Bay KBA and draw up a simple action plan for endorsement by the Committee.

Action 2 – Rob, Phil & Mike to assess our potential role in Ulladulla to Merimbula KBA, given the currently vacant position of KBA Guardian.

Action 3. Rob to take the bird posters to the AGM and invite members to take with the purpose of getting them into schools and venues visited by the public. Mike & Rob to co-ordinate on raffle and trivia prizes.

Action 4 - Mike to discuss with Brett – a.) producing a one-page sheet of the bird walks for easier distribution to interested members, in addition to the walk calendar & b.) including a bird list of the birds seen on each of the walks on the web-site.

Action 5 - Rob to contact Owen Kinnaird from Perennial Living on the outcome from the meeting on BLS support for his new birding trip venture, after talking to Carla Jackett.

Action 6 - Phil to talk to Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens to assess if it could provide an opportunity for a BLS photo exhibition, following their interest in the New Leaves New Lives exhibition.

Action 7 - Rob is still to talk to Simon Tedder on plans for 'Dinner with the Birds 'in 2021.

Action 8 - Rob to follow-up Shoalhaven Landcare's interest in further Birds for Beginners talks.

Action 9 – Rob to send a confirmation email of thanks to the Jervis Bay Brewery to accept their offer to become their cause for community fundraising in April.

Action 10 - Oisin to prepare a paper on carrying out an 'audit' of the health of urban trees in a selected suburb to support a broader campaign on their importance for birds.

Action 11 – Oisin & Yolande to assess options for bird merchandise, including pricing, design, distribution, profitability, accounting.

Action 12 – Chris to explore feasibility of the installation of bird interpretative signage at the Booderee National Park Botanic Gardens.