



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BIRDLIFE SHOALHAVEN COMMITTEE
AT 117 LORALYN AVE, ST GEORGES BASIN
ON FRIDAY 30 JULY 2021, 2–4PM**

1. Attendance and apologies

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

Apologies: None

2. Acceptance of the agenda – Agreed

3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting - Approved

4. Business arising from the previous minutes

The action items from the previous meetings were agreed as completed, except for action 4 from the 29 January meeting. **Action 1** – Phil to continue to liaise with Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens exhibition in March-April and organize best approach for photo printing and hanging.

5. Updates and related issues

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

Some further points were made:

- Rob had met with Gary Brady on the Bushfire Research Project and the number of BRP surveys remained similar to last year. Next steps included capturing the level of habitat recovery at each site and contacting Sydney University on their interest in the project going forward.
- At the Maritime Museum event two people had requested copies of the AO posters. **Action 2** - Rob to make contact with the printer to establish how people can order posters direct.

b. Conservation Co-ordinator report

Rob updated the meeting on:

- a development issue in the Bay & Basin referred by Our Future Shoalhaven - Oisin looked into the matter and had confirmed there was no grounds to object. He had advised OFS of this outcome.
- a proposed development near Racecourse Beach – This had been followed up by Chris Brandis, though a connection to Hooded Plovers on the beach was tenuous. The development proposal was rejected by Council, following support by Clr. White.
- a potential major housing development at Vincentia Golf Club – Rob advised that this could involve clearing of Eastern Bristlebird and Ground Parrot habitat for additional holes, though this could not be directly objected to as it had already been approved in a 2002 approval. At this stage, no action was required, though Rob would keep abreast of the issue.
- cruise ships in Jervis Bay – It was agreed that the impact of this on birds was unclear and no action was required at this stage.

The key issue of discussion was a draft proposal prepared by NPA NSW to include the intertidal zone in the Jervis Bay National Park. Rob had been contacted for comment on the draft and BLS support for the final proposal to be submitted to Minister Keane. It was agreed that this was important for greater protection at Lake Wollumboola in relation to dogs and should be supported. However, the paper also sought the inclusion of Hyams Beach and Callala. This was considered as potentially counter-productive due to the inevitable public back-lash and difficulties to ensure compliance. **Action 3** – Rob to contact Frances Bray and Warwick Pearse to say that BLS is supportive of the submission to Minister Keane to include the intertidal zone into the Jervis Bay National Park, but for Lake Wollumboola only.

- c. **Secretary report** – Mike had run a successful bird walk for a school as part of Council’s estuary education program.
- d. **Communications report** – It was agreed that future BLS magazines did not need to be so long as they have to date, given the potential loss of the significant contributions from Chris Grounds.
- e. **Treasurer report** – The income and expenditure for the year to 22 July 2021 was noted. Oisin advised that funds raised by the Jervis Bay Brewing Company was approx. \$500. **Action 4** - Rob to follow up with Shoalhaven Landcare about our outstanding invoice.
- f. **Recent media, presentations & events** – Yolande said that there had been no media and events in the last quarter. Forthcoming events included:
 - 26/8 - Jervis Bay Garden Club - How to attract Birds to your backyard talk
 - from 27/9 to 5/10 – “Art Springs for Wildlife” at the Berry School of Arts -Birds for Beginners talk
 - from 18 to 21 Oct - Aussie Backyard Bird Count - Zoom talk, plus various radio talks prior to and during the Bird Count.Yolande is still waiting on possible dates for talks from Shoalhaven Landcare.
- g. **Birding activities updates** – Nothing to report re. OH&S issues.

6. Our future approach to conservation

The meeting approved the following proposals outlined in the papers:

- The process to approve new conservation projects and support to conservation projects led by other groups
- establishment of a new Conservation Co-ordinator role on the Committee
- promotion of conservation projects led by other groups through the BLS magazine and social media - Lake Wollumboola Protection Association Inc, Manyana Matters, Heritage Estate, Bherwerre Wetlands, South Coast Shorebirds Recovery Program, Save Collingwood Beach
- projects where BLS will take the lead role - Bushfire Research Project, Jervis Bay KBA, Dogs on beaches, changes in resourcing of South Coast Shorebirds Recovery Program, Jerrawangala and Ulladulla to Merimbula KBAs
- make certain BLS projects ‘dormant’, but leave on the web-site – Worrowing Heights, Shoalhaven Heads, Save our Glossies
- be selective on conservation campaign support to National Office

It was agreed that Rob would be the acting Conservation Coordinator. **Action 5** – Rob to look for someone to take on the Conservation Coordinator position. **Action 6** – Brett to make relevant changes to web-site

7. **Action plan to raise the profile of the Jervis Bay KBA** – The action plan table in the papers was considered with the following comments made and actions agreed:
 - Item 1** – A self-guided Hyams Heathland walk already existed on the web-site and one for the White Sands Walk was not considered a priority. Deferred at this stage.
 - Item 2** – Brett to review the web-site's profile for the JBKBA – **Action 7A**
 - Item 3** – Karen had completed a first draft of available information and research on the JBKBA. This was seen as a priority issue, as it linked into a JBKBA PowerPoint presentation. **Action 7B** – Everyone was asked to identify gaps in the draft document.
 - Item 4** – Communications with various partners was agreed as a much later step, which could be part of a JBKBA Conservation Action Plan.
 - Item 5** – **Action 7C** - Karen and Rob agreed to prepare a PowerPoint presentation to promote the JBKBA with input from Golo Mauer.
 - Item 6** – Chris Grounds had confirmed that he would continue to work with Booderee NP staff on signage on birds and the JBKBA at the Botanic Gardens. It was agreed would take some time to complete and we will await on updates from Chris.
 - Item 7** – Seeking media about the KBA would need to wait on items 3 & 5.
 - Item 8** – Developing a JBKBA Conservation Action Plan was a long-term goal only at this stage. In discussions with Chris MacGregor in preparing the information paper, he had given a much higher population estimate for the Eastern Bristlebird than current records showed. **Action 7D** – Karen and Rob to follow up with Golo on the implications of this for the JBKBA and inclusion of other bird and non-bird species as trigger species, given the data available through the National Park and ANU.
8. **Bird merchandise** - The meeting agreed that we proceed to use current untied funds to offer our members & supporters the opportunity to purchase BLS bird merchandise. Red Bubble was agreed as the best approach, as it would mean no investment in stock and did not involve any financial processing for BLS. The first step would be to pay a designer to present options. \$500 was understood as what this might cost. The brief would be to create an appealing piece of artwork, incorporating the BLS logo. Rock Warbler was discussed as a potential bird to feature. Yolande agreed to work with a designer, create a Redbubble shop and promote the products in the BLS Magazine and social media. It was agreed that it be left to Yolande run the project, including deciding on the design and range of products. **Action 8** – Yolande to follow through on the development of a BLS bird merchandise shop.
It was agreed that stocks of the A3 bird posters should be maintained to be available for future events.
9. **'Audit' of the health of urban trees in a selected suburb** – Oisín said that he would not be able to give the required amount of time to follow this project through. It was agreed that this be deferred until further notice.
10. **Options for potential events for the rest of the year**
It was agreed that with COVID it did not make sense to go to the effort of organising any BLS face-to-face talks for the rest of the year. The only option was through Zoom, following the successful Dinner with the Birds format last year. It was agreed that this would be left to Rob to decide upon.
Action 9 – Rob to consider whether he would organise a second series of Dinner with the Birds Zoom talks.
11. **Progress against the 2020 Action Plan** - refer papers sent with the agenda, which showed significant progress had been made despite the on-going impacts of Covid.
12. **Other business** – There was no other business.

13. Next meeting – The next meeting was set for Friday 29 October, 2-4pm.

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

29 January 2021 meeting

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.

30 July 2021 meeting

Action 1 – Phil to continue to liaise with Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens exhibition in March-April and organize best approach for photo printing and hanging.

Action 2 - Rob to make contact with the printer to establish how people can order posters direct.

Action 3 – Rob to contact Frances Bray and Warwick Pearse of NPA NSW to say that BLS is supportive of their submission to Minister Keane to include the intertidal zone into the Jervis Bay National Park, but for Lake Wollumboola only.

Action 4 - Rob to follow up with Shoalhaven Landcare about payment of our outstanding invoice.

Action 5 – Rob to look for someone to take on the Conservation Coordinator position.

Action 6 – Brett to make relevant changes to the Conservation web-site, following changes to our approach to conservation projects, as outlined in the minutes.

Action 7A - Brett to review the web-site's profile for the JBKBA.

Action 7B – Everyone was asked to identify gaps in the draft information and research paper on the JBKBA document.

Action 7C - Karen and Rob to prepare a PowerPoint presentation to promote the JBKBA with input from Golo Mauer.

Action 7D – Karen and Rob to follow up with Golo on the implications of this for the JBKBA and inclusion of other bird and non-bird species as trigger species, given the data available through the National Park and ANU.

Action 8 – Yolande to follow through on the establishment of a BLS bird merchandise shop.

Action 9 – Rob to consider whether he would organise a second series of Dinner with the Birds Zoom talks.