

WILD
ABOUT
BIRDS

OF ARAKWAL
NATIONAL PARK
A REFUGE FOR NATIVE FAUNA



Byron Bird Buddies

BBB is an Avian Locality Group of Brunswick Valley Landcare Inc. (BVL)



Annual Report

October 2016 -
September 2017



Byron Bird Buddies (BBB) is a small, self-funded community education and conservation group focusing on the preservation of habitat for resident and migratory shorebird roosting, breeding and feeding areas. BBB's objective is to actively advocate for the conservation of bird habitat and to educate the community on the needs of all birds on the north coast of NSW.

In summary, in 2016/17 BBB produced four brochures (one for Birds of Byron Shire, one for Tallow Beach & Estuary, two versions of Wild About Birds walks and one bookmark for Tallow Beach). In addition we conducted/participated in 54 monitoring events; gave 12 public presentations to various organisations and forums; participated/facilitated 9 workshops; assisted NPWS with the development of the Cape Byron Walking Track App; participated in three local festivals by having a BBB stall; made submissions on the effects of residential development on bird habitat, in particular West Byron Residential Development, and to Byron Council and NPWS on issues affecting bird habitat and signage; maintained our website and managed our Facebook and Twitter account with bird news from around the world, and continued our participation in numerous local and regional agency meetings on bird and habitat conservation. The *Wild About Birds* education program, which is currently receiving three years funding through Local Land Services, was completed in two schools and bookmarks continue to be distributed throughout the Tweed and Richmond libraries.

BBB also maintains an up-to-date website at www.byronbirdbuddies.com.au and at Twitter: twitter.com/birdbyron and for Facebook: www.facebook.com/byronbirdbuddies

Conservation

The conservation of habitat and the promotion of Bird-friendly areas within our communities continues to be a top priority of BBB. By working with a range of agencies and organisations, BBB aims to achieve a broader and more consistent range of conservation outcomes for shorebirds, waterbirds and bushbirds across our area. During the past 12 months BBB has worked with the following groups:

- **Tallow Residents Group:** following inappropriate behaviour from DOOF party-goers, BBB agreed to work with NPWS and local residents to increase awareness of the flora and fauna of the area. BBB proposed a brochure and bookmark and took on the role of project managing its development.
- **Regional Shorebird Committee:** a platform for a consistent management of shorebirds, their habitat and threats in the Northern Rivers Area from Clarence River north to the Tweed River. (This committee is currently in abeyance) – BBB continues to maintain connections with the local organisations that were represented on the committee.

- **BirdLife Australia (BLA)** : BBB undertakes a number of projects in Byron Shire driven by BLA Head Office in Melbourne
 - Shorebird 2020 bird monitoring, information which is then uploaded into the national shorebird database, providing vital information for decision makers.
 - Beach-nesting Birds Project – monitoring, reporting and conservation
 - Key Biodiversity Area – Nightcap Range- northern section. BBB undertakes regular monitoring for 6 species – Albert’s Lyrebird, Green Catbird, Pale-yellow Robin, Australian Logrunner, Paradise Riflebird and Regent Bowerbird
- **Submissions:** BBB tabled a submission to NSW Department of Environment and Planning of impacts on bird habitat of planning decisions of the proposed West Byron Residential Development.
- **Representation on Committees:** BBB members Jan Olley and Isabel Borrelli continue to sit on a variety of boards and committees consistent with raising the profile of habitat and sustainability needs across the region and in developing consistent strategies:
- **National Parks and Wildlife Service:**
 - Byron Coast Area Management (**Byron Area**): Isabel is a member of Committee providing local input into conservation issues and working with the Arakwal Community to conserve and educate the local community on the importance of Country.
 - Gondwana Rainforest World Heritage Community Advisory Committee (Jan)
 - National Parks of NSW – Northern Rivers Region Community Advisory Committee (Jan)

Bird Monitoring

BBB undertakes voluntary monitoring and reporting activities in partnership with other local avian organisations and on behalf of organisations such as Byron Shire Council and BirdLife Australia targeted projects. During 2016/17, BBB participated in a total of 54 monitoring events.



Monitoring Rainforest birds –Mt Jerusalem NP



All bird species monitoring –Vallances Road



All bird species monitoring – Ewingsdale

- BirdLife Australia Shorebird 2020 volunteer counts for shorebirds in five different locations.
- BirdLife Australia –KBAs - five sites in Byron Shire and five sites outside the Shire
- Latham’s Snipe Project – funded by the Australia Japan Foundation

- Byron Shire Council – all species at Vallances Road and Byron Wetlands
- Both BirdLife Australia and National Parks and Wildlife –
- The Glossy Black Conservancy -
- Monitoring of bird populations on private properties
- BBB provides critical information on bird numbers and habitat use and condition for use both within the region and by avian peak bodies. BBB also undertakes monitoring activities where information is collated and reported to Bird Life Australia as part of an Australia-wide Atlassing program.
- BBB also conducts free guided bird monitoring walks where participants learn how to monitor and classify birds.



Byron Eco Tours: a mutually beneficial partnership between Byron Eco Tours and BBB whereby the local tour operator (an environmental scientist) while identifying bird species for clients also collects bird species numbers which are then handed to BBB for entry into our database, thus amalgamating this data with other data we collect, providing a whole of river/estuary picture of bird populations.

Workshops and Working bees

During 2016/17 BBB has presented 12 talks, conducted 8 workshops



Belongil Estuary: - In preparation for a successful breeding season for the Pied Oystercatcher and Red-capped Plovers season BBB members, Rangers from Arakwal NP and staff members from Elements Resort conduct a work bee to repair and replace fencing and signage and remove rubbish from the area. This activity also provides a safer place for migratory shorebirds and terns to roost and forage for food in the area.



Elements Resort: - Learning to use the Birddata in-field Ap BBB partnering with BirdLife Northern Rivers (BLNR) conducted a very successful workshop hosted at Elements Resort for members and friends to learn how to input data into the Ap while monitoring birds in the field.



BBB partnering with BLNR facilitated a workshop at Hastings Point for members to learn more about Beach-nesting birds in our area as well as conservation management



Funded by Local Land Services (LLS) a new shorebird sign was placed at Ferry Reserve. Slightly different from the original signs in that it included information regarding threats to our nesting shorebirds

Community Education

During 2016/17 BBB has presented 12 talks at a number of venues including a presentation of Birds of the Gondwana Rainforest at the Big Scrub Day in October 2016. BBB conducted a number of guided walks and held stalls at a number of community events to provide information:



Byron Shire Council – World Water Day, March 2017

Jan Olley, Jerry Coleby-Williams, and Isabel Borrelli dressed as the Pied Oystercatcher. BBB members managed a stall, gave a presentation on the Byron Wetland Birds, and assisted with the guided walks and tours.



Young and Green Festival – June 2017

BBB members provided an information stall and conducted clay modelling workshops



Partnering with Richmond Landcare - Teven Swamp Wetland Restoration Education Pilot Project. – BBB provided resources and assisted with bird identification and drawing programs



Mullumbimby - Renew Festival



Lismore Writers group at Byron Wetlands

Resource Development

BBB, as a small community conservation and education group, continues to be committed to an on-going community education program which seeks to educate the wider community on the beautiful birds which inhabit the Northern Rivers region, as well as engaging people in conservation activities either in their own backyards or beyond. Our brochures and bookmarks cover a wide range of habitats in our area and provide essential information on bird species and locations. Each brochure takes a large amount of time in the development and information-gathering process as well as ensuring that other community groups support and participate in the process



The "Wild About Birds of the Far North Coast" brochure was developed to support primary and high school students in both Byron and Ballina Shires to identify bird habitat and species as part of their curriculum studies. Each location was identified by its GPS location..



The Tallow Beach and Estuary brochure was developed as a response to illegal antisocial behaviour in the National Park and surrounding areas. The Tallow beach community wanted to inform firstly itself, and then the wider Byron community of the issues, natural beauty and local species of the area. The Tallow book mark is on the front page of this report.

Website and Facebook: BBB continues to promote a range of environmental events and talks on our website. The Twitter account is a quick method of providing bird lovers with snippets of bird news from around the world. **Website at www.byronbirdbuddies.com.au and at FB: www.facebook.com/byronbirdbuddies**

Signage: BBB's signage strategy changed in 2016/17 and is more focused on the preparation of permanent signs as well as continuing to install temporary signs as required during key bird events (e.g. breeding or migratory flight times) and in areas where there is high human impact.