



# OUR FUTURE SHOALHAVEN

INC200082  
PO Box 129  
Huskisson  
NSW 2540

**AGM Our Future Shoalhaven Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**6.30 – 7.30pm**

## **Minutes**

**Present-** Evan Christen, Bruce McKenzie, Sue Tolley, Ronnie Kroon, Daniel J. McConell, Penny Davidson, Stan Brown, Judith Blackall, Magali Goirand, Christine Butler, Edwin Tindall, Carlo Grana, Megan Jobson, Ross Popplewell, Robyn Neeson, Janice Koester, Anna Everts, Carol Blake, Brooke Butler, Kate Goodnow,

**Apologies** – Roger Hart, Margot Curtis, Rachel Marsden, Sue Willis, Camilla Hamilford, Janet Langridge, Jo Warren

### **Acknowledgement of country**

I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.

#### **1. Acceptance of minutes of previous AGM –**

- Moved- Sue Tolley
- Seconded –Stan Brown

#### **2. Chairperson's Report –** Read by Bruce McKenzie. See Attachment 1.

- Moved to accept- Sue Tolley
- Seconded – Penny Davidson

#### **3. Treasurer's report –** prepared by Rachel Marsden, read by Penny Davidson

additional information: OFS Main account currently holds: \$2,264.19, Community Science currently holds: \$4,000.12, KJBU currently holds: \$614.76  
see Attachment 2

- Moved to accept- Ronnie Kroon
- Seconded – Ross Popplewell

#### **4. Keep Jervis Bay Unspoilt report –** read by Sue Tolley **See Attachment 3.**

- Moved – Kate Goodnow
- Seconded – Stan Brown

**5. Citizens Science** -Report Brooke Butler, Carol Blake, Judith Blackall.

Attachment 4.

- Moved – Penny Davidson
- Seconded – Magali Goirand

**6. Jervis Bay Community CruiseShip Coalition** – Report Penny Davidson

- Have recently written to Penny Sharpe requesting that Marine Parks be moved into the Environment Department, and that cruise ships not be allowed in Jervis Bay
- Wrote to the Chair, Jervis Bay Marine Park Advisory Committee pointing out that the local community hadn't been consulted by the committee, and asking that we would be consulted in future
- In 2022 we met with a number of politicians, all of whom seemed to be sympathetic
- We lobbied our candidates in the State election (remember that!)
- We have links to the Global Cruise Activist Network
- Australian Marine Conservation Society has established a NSW Sanctuary Alliance – they are hosting a Marine Parks Forum 13 November – UTS, Sydney
- *We're still waiting for the Marine Park Management Plan to be finalised*
- *We still need to push to strengthen not weaken our marine parks*

**7. Safer Roads for Wildlife** – Daniel McConell.

Daniel explained the history and levels of protection for the area and that protection of a habitat corridor no longer exists. The construction of a 4 lane highway, which more than doubles width of road and removes connecting tree canopy will make it impossible for animals to cross. Other parts of the world, and the northern roads of NSW are putting considerable effort and resources into fauna connectivity strategies, and we'd like them to do the same on the south coast.



**Pacific Highway Upgrade  
Woolgoolga to Ballina**  
Fauna Connectivity Strategy (sections 3-11)

### Appointment of Returning Office – Evan Christen

Previous position holders	Newly Elected for 2023-2024
<b>President</b> Bruce McKenzie	<b>President</b> Bruce McKenzie Moved Sue Tolley Seconded Ross Popplewell
<b>Vice President</b> Joanne Warren	<b>Vice President</b> No nomination, Position Vacant
<b>Public Officer</b> Rachel Marsden	<b>Public Officer</b> Rachel Marsden Moved Penny Davidson Seconded Ronnie Kroon
<b>Treasurer</b> Rachel Marsden	<b>Treasurer</b> Rachel Marsden Moved Penny Davidson Seconded Bruce McKenzie
<b>Secretary</b> Penny Davidson	<b>Secretary</b> Penny Davidson Moved Bruce McKenzie Seconded Kate Goodnow
<b>Membership Officer</b> Ronnie Kroon	<b>Membership Officer</b> Ronnie Kroon Moved Megan Jobson Seconded Kate Goodnow
Sue Tolley Camilla Hamilford Daniel McConell Magali Goirand Sue Willis Roger Hart	<b>Committee</b> Camilla Hamilford (KJBU social media) (Bruce McKenzie, Magali Goirand) Magali Goirand (Bruce McKenzie, Penny Davidson) Roger Hart (Penny Davidson, Bruce McKenzie) Kate Goodnow (Sue Tolley, Ronnie Kroon)

### 13. General Business - Suggestions

- a. Given success of Nathan's talk hold 3 or 4 talks per year
- b. Organise more in depth talks from the BBCS group as there is so much more knowledge to be shared about the 'whys' and 'reasons/results'
- c. Link with other parts of the Shoalhaven – hold a forum with other environmental groups and meet in places other than the Bay and Basin

**Meeting Closed 7.30pm**

## Attachments

### Attachment 1: 2022/2023 President's report

Over the last year OFS has advocated for all sectors that make up the Moona Moona Creek estuary as Sue's report of Keep Jervis Bay Unspoilt project details. This project has increased our understanding of the damage that can be done by non-resident stakeholders striving to exploit the local environment to make money that will have only minor benefit to the Shoalhaven economy. This project has also engaged us in representations to the Land and Environment Court where the concept of advocating for entities in the environment is seen to have only fringe legitimacy. Until State laws require the environment to be a central stakeholder in all planning decisions and 'zombie' Development Application approvals are dissolved we will face rogue developers destroying the Shoalhaven environment. OFS has made a low key submission to the NSW Legislative Council Inquiry into the 'Planning system and the impacts of climate change on the environment and communities', which is the only glimmer of hope in this policy area.

The achievements of the Jervis Bay Community Cruise Ship Coalition in protesting cruise ships allowed in Jervis Bay Marine Park deserve our strongest congratulations, however as the group has stated this is no time to rest on past achievement as the forces wanting to add Jervis Bay to cruising itineraries remains and like all complex problems will raise their head in some new guise in the future. In addition, the draft Marine Park management plan, and its problems is still not resolved.

Over the next 5 plus years the Shoalhaven will be subjected to continual highway and bypass developments that will destroy large areas of natural bushland and the habitats of local fauna. OFS is joining with other Shoalhaven groups to advocate that at all stages of road construction protection of the environment and wildlife be a major planning and operational constraint. This challenge is massive, and we need to recruit many more concerned residents to monitor and advocate in this field. The irony is the greater success we can achieve in protecting the wildlife the safer the roads will be for human use.

Finally I want to draw attention to the growing importance of our Citizen Science Club as it approaches its second birthday. The cost of data collection about the health of our environment is becoming too much for governments and hence the critical data being used in planning and policing is being ignored. Citizen's Science Clubs are being called upon to fill more and more of this gap, our Bay and Basin Group has equipped and trained itself to be a significant player in filling this gap. However, they too need more members to share in the fieldwork required. The CSC is an excellent place for any younger person wanting to become an environmental warrior to start their journey.

Communications from Our Future Shoalhaven to the community are essential to informing and educating everyone about the threats and opportunities to sustain our natural heritage. Thanks to Camilla for her regular inputs on content and design, to Magali for her attention to the Website and all members who have distributed posters and flyers from time to time. Also a special thanks to our several submission writers who not only type the words but do

background research, participate in workshop meetings to hone a Shoalhaven perspective on each of the challenges and present to this advocacy to appropriate authorities.

Every organisation that succeeds has a set of hands attached to an organising mind that can read the current situation and sense the future possibilities, in OFS this is Penny our extraordinary Secretary. Penny's optimism, tenacity and competencies gives us all energy to do better. Thank you Penny.

To Daniel, Roger, Sue T, Ronnie, Rachel, Magali, Camilla, Sue W, Joanne and Penny I want to thank and assure you that the millions of beings that we advocate for appreciate the sacrifices you make, you are the life blood of OFC. I want not just for myself but for the whole committee to give a special thanks to Sue Tolley who is completing her position of the leader of the Keep Jervis Bay Unspoilt group to focus her entire attention on the crisis emerging around 4 Murdoch Street development. KJBU is the 24/7 watchdog over JB and Sue has contributed so much to that vigil and responses to concerns as they arise. I'm confident Sue that these thanks are echoed by all who are aware of your commitment to Jervis Bay.

To the wider Shoalhaven community, we ask you to take your observations of the environment seriously. Wherever you see evidence of creeping environmental destruction speak up, share your insights with OFS. The environment is a significant variable in our quality of life and is therefore everyone's responsibility, by sharing knowledge we can achieve much more than as an individual in advocating against the forces driving the cancerous creeping destruction going unchecked in many situations.

## Attachment 2: Our Future Shoalhaven - Income Statement, Year ended 30 June 2023

### Our Future Shoalhaven - Income Statement (1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023)

#### Income

Donations & T shirt sales	3,076
Membership fees	235
Refund for projector	99
Interest	2
	<hr/>
	3,412

#### Expenses

Website and social media (Community Science)	3,812
Monitoring and testing kits (Community Science)	8,050
Training (Community Science)	1,500
Events (Keep Jervis Bay Unspoilt)	200
Insurance	1,594
Website domain name (OFS)	136
Fair Trading lodgement fees	50
	<hr/>
	15,342

**Net loss** (11,930.59)

### Our Future Shoalhaven - Cashflow Statement (1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023)

#### Opening balances (1 July 2022)

KJBU	252
Main account	1,342
Community Science	19,134
	<hr/>
	20,728

**Net Loss** (11,931)

#### Closing cash balance (30 June 2023)

KJBU	615
Main account	2,310
Community Science	5,872
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	<b>8,797</b>

**Our Future Shoalhaven - Balance Sheet  
(1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023)**

**Assets:**

Cash as at 30 June	<u>8,797</u>
	<u>8,797</u>

**Reserves:**

Net loss	(11,931)	
Profit brought forward		<u>20,728</u>
		<u>8,797</u>

**Outstanding bills to pay**

Reimbursement to Penny Davidson for T shirt purchase	1,283.00
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**Community Science - Grant Acquittal summary**

Grant income brought forward 1 July 2022	<u>19,134</u>
Simply connecting invoices (website design, maintenance & Social media)	(3,812)
Water testing equipment	(8,050)
Training	(1,500)
Refund for projector	99
Interest	<u>1</u>
<b>Remaining grant income</b>	<u><b>5,872</b></u>

### Attachment 3: Keep Jervis Bay Unspoilt

The main focus of attention for Keep Jervis Bay Unspoilt was once again the very controversial 4 Murdoch St development. Facebook and Instagram posts were kept up in order to provide some good news stories as well as to draw attention to issues of concern. Camilla Hamilford, our social media manager, did this admirably. Social media is an excellent way to alert the community to urgent, unexpected matters such as the news that Japanese missile bombs were to be tested off Point Perpendicular during the whale season! Posts of bio luminance were more pleasant to read. Preservation of Trees were an issue as the Council grappled with amending the 45% tree removal rules, tree vandalism around Jervis Bay increased, KJBU participated significantly in order to help save our trees and improve community awareness of their importance. I'll devote the rest of the report to the 4 Murdoch campaign.

It's hard to believe the 4 Murdoch St campaign has been going for over 3 years i.e. since Sept 2020. To recap, the development being opposed is a 3 storey development of 32 apartments with an underground car park, only 30m from Moona Moona Creek directly adjacent to a Marine Park sanctuary zone, and bordering the Jervis Bay National Park on two sides.

It has consumed hundreds if not thousands of volunteer hours and countless hours of Council and State Government staff hours. The result has been that the development is stalled at the stage of seeking approval for modified plans, and the block has been cleared. What KJBU has achieved so far however can only be described as a mix of good and bad outcomes.

The original aim was to stop the approved development from going ahead. The 12 year old DA (commonly known as a Zombie DA), we were told by Council at the start of the campaign, was untouchable. Unless the owner withdrew his applicant there was nothing that could stop it going ahead.

We knew the odds weren't exactly in our favour when we tried to persuade the Owner to give the block to the National Parks or even down size the construction, he wasn't prepared to do that but did suggest that ... "you'll love my new design". **No one did.**



***First modification applied for Feb 2022 later withdrawn***



***2<sup>nd</sup> Modification submitted Aug 2023, directly to the Land and Environment Court Hearing. Submitted with a plea that the community not be invited to comment.***



A fight then pursued over Modifications being sought, this gave us a chance to challenge many aspects of the revisions but not the original plans. We sent a huge 60 page submission to Council. Many KJBU supporters wrote individual submissions, all of which had to be read and considered by Council and the developer. Thank you to all those people.



Whilst all this was going on, KJBU fought for tree clearing work to stop, because of a pair of endangered Gang-gangs nesting on the block which put the owner in breach of the Endangered Species Act if work on site disturbed the breeding cycle. This fight also went on over two years because the same pair came back the next spring.



Sadly as soon as the 2<sup>nd</sup> breeding cycle finished and 2 gang-gang chicks fledged leaving their hollow, the developer brought the bulldozers in and cleared the site. So far Gang-gangs have not returned this year. This was predicted since vital companion trees to the Hollow bearing tree used last year were all removed. It was the saddest week of the campaign. More than 40 mature Blackbutts and other native trees were literally ripped out of the earth and smashed to the ground, this was



heartbreaking to watch. Many of the trees had hollows for a variety of other birds and animals besides the Gang-gangs. The benefits of this forest of trees, life sustaining giants of our neighbourhood, past present and into the future cannot be measured. Replaced by concrete and human behaviour is the intention, which will continue to simply take from the environment and cause further destruction.



The totally desecrated block with an ugly fence currently sits in wait for the Land and Environment Court's decision.

Earlier this year, (Feb 2023) Bulum took the Council to the NSW Land and Environment Court in order to pressure them to approve modifications that did not meet certain State and Local requirements. KJBU presented opposition arguments at the conciliation which was unable to reach a resolution. KJBU also presented later at the Court hearing in August (2023). Six different persons presented on both occasions. The matter is still before the court. Our guess is that some time, possibly before Christmas, approval with conditions will be given. Conditions that possibly will not satisfy the developer or us!! Conditions however, that may take Council some time to assess and cause many more months of delay.

But we still have 1 more fight to battle. That being, the road itself. Murdoch Street as you can imagine would need to be upgraded to cope with the traffic in and out of 32 units. The road however would be a serious danger to Moona Moona Creek, its embankment, the mangroves and fish sanctuary zone. Moona Moona Creek is a 4th order watercourse type which means it is required to have a Vegetated Riparian Zone of 40m on either side. We are arguing it would be illegal to build a road on what is the creek's "riparian" zone. Since plans have not yet been submitted they will need to comply with today's legislation. We intend to challenge any requests to waiver strict regulations

that apply to geology and environmental sensitivity of this area. The road could well be the Developer's biggest stumbling block.

So the fight goes on, that ugly fence will stare us in the face for quite some time yet. This in itself is a matter of concern. It is shameful that clearing of blocks is allowed before the owner has got final approval for construction.



There are plenty of examples of desecrated blocks of land and ugly fences all around the Jervis Bay and the Shoalhaven region, many like 4 Murdoch having been there for years. There is currently a review of the State Planning System and the impact of climate change. OFS has already got on board and sent a lengthy submission and has amongst many other issues raised the absurdity of allowing clearing of blocks before construction certificates are given. 4 Murdoch was used as an example of where the current laws go so very wrong. Other "Zombie" developments in Jervis Bay have been used in the submission as clear evidence of system failure. KJBU collaborated with Callala, Manyana, Culburra and others in the Shoalhaven to maximise each other's impact on the review. See full submission on OFS website ([ourfutureshoalhaven.org.au](http://ourfutureshoalhaven.org.au)).

The summary of the 4 Murdoch campaign to date can only be that no one is a winner; Bulum would clearly like the project finished and says he'll never look at Husky again. We have simply caused delays, leaving us with a blight on the landscape.

A big thank you goes to the volunteers who have helped with monitoring, research, writing submissions, and presenting at the L&E Court. They are a fabulous group of locals who the project could not continue without their dedication.

As for the coming year, more monitoring will be needed if construction work starts, or if Gang-gangs do decide to return. (Beggars can't be choosers, there is a distinct shortage of Hollows around so they may have to come back to the "open plan" site at 4 Murdoch.)






More research and lobbying about the proposed roadwork will be needed and who knows what else!!

As soon as the Land & Environment Court makes a final determination on the pink modifications we will let supporters know via email and facebook. Likewise we will keep supporters up to date with news of the State Planning review on impact of Climate Change.





## What is Citizen Science?

-  It's when the public actively participate and collaborate in scientific research.
-  Anyone can be a citizen scientist, even kids!
-  A citizen scientist makes observations, collects and records data, builds new skills, and contributes to scientific knowledge.
-  You can become a citizen scientist just by using your phone to record images, sounds, or short videos of the natural world and uploading them to an app.
-  Start by exploring and observing the plants, birds and insects in your own backyard.

# Did You Know?



Citizen science has been around for decades and is critical in helping scientists learn the location, abundance and diversity of species all over the world.



**10 million species observations** were made in Australia alone last year **9.6 million** of these were recorded **by citizen scientists**, only 4% were recorded by professional researchers.

Source: CSIRO



**Atlas of Living Australia** is one of the major tools for biodiversity data collection. The apps citizen scientists use feed into this, providing an incredible **62 million observations** out of a **total 125 million species** records so far.

Bay & Basin Citizen Science

## Reasons to get Involved



**START**  
a new  
**HOBBY**



**LEARN**  
about the  
**WORLD**



**CONNECT**  
with  
**FAMILY**



**GOOD**  
for your  
**HEALTH**



**NO**  
experience  
**REQUIRED**



**BE**  
**OUTDOORS**



**MAKE**  
**DISCOVERIES**



**PROTECT** the  
**ENVIRONMENT**



**JOIN IN** from  
**HOME**

Bay & Basin Citizen Science





Founded by  
**Our Future Shoalhaven Inc**  
in early 2022

Community members interested  
in the local environment

Engage in citizen science initiatives

Gather data which contributes to scientific projects

Meet regularly to improve our knowledge and understanding  
of the Bay and Basin natural environment





# Our Current Projects



## Our Current Projects

### Waterwatch

Testing water quality at three sites every four weeks since mid-June 2023

Moona Moona Creek  
Swampy stream near HomeCo  
St Georges Basin

 Bay & Basin Citizen Science



## Waterwatch

Moona Moona Creek, on the northern bank, near the tree swing.

Testing here started in June 2023, and we take samples every 4 weeks on a falling tide, two hours after high tide.

 Bay & Basin Citizen Science



## Waterwatch

Site of a swamp stream that flows below the HomeCo Vincentia complex and joins Moona Moona Creek just east of the Sewerage Treatment Works.

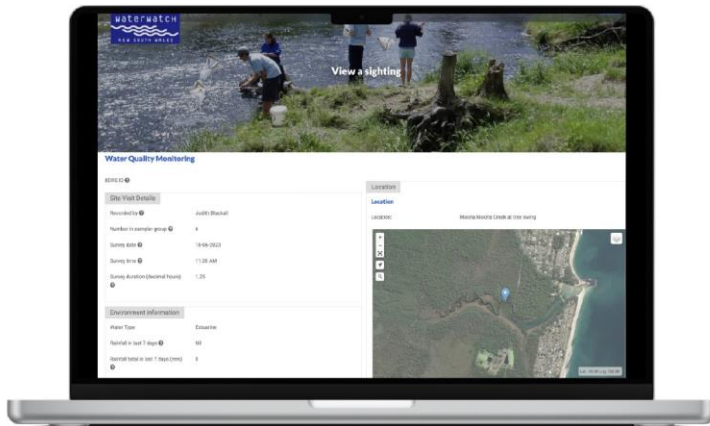
 Bay & Basin Citizen Science



## Waterwatch

Inlet into St Georges Basin, at Blackett Park, Collett Place. It's unnamed on Google Maps, but we think it's Saltworks Creek. This stream flows from the hill behind the shopping village which has recently been cleared for development.

 Bay & Basin Citizen Science



## Waterwatch

We enter our data in to the Waterwatch Data Portal

 Bay & Basin Citizen Science





# Our Current Projects

## AusMap

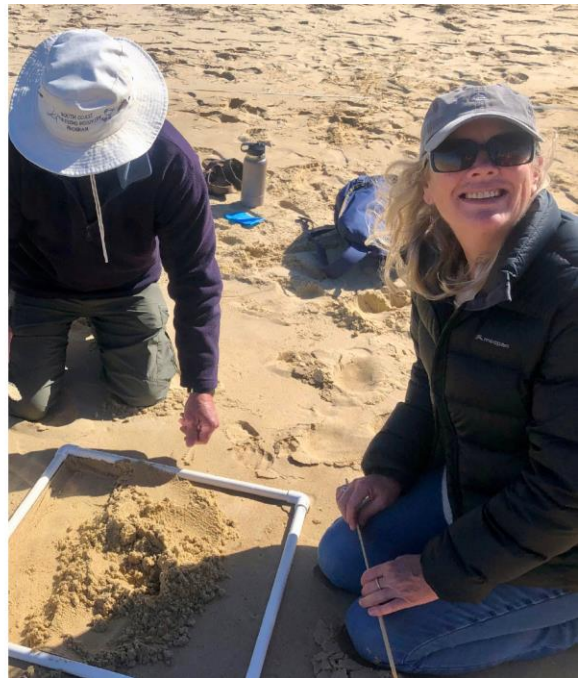
Australian Microplastic Assessment Project

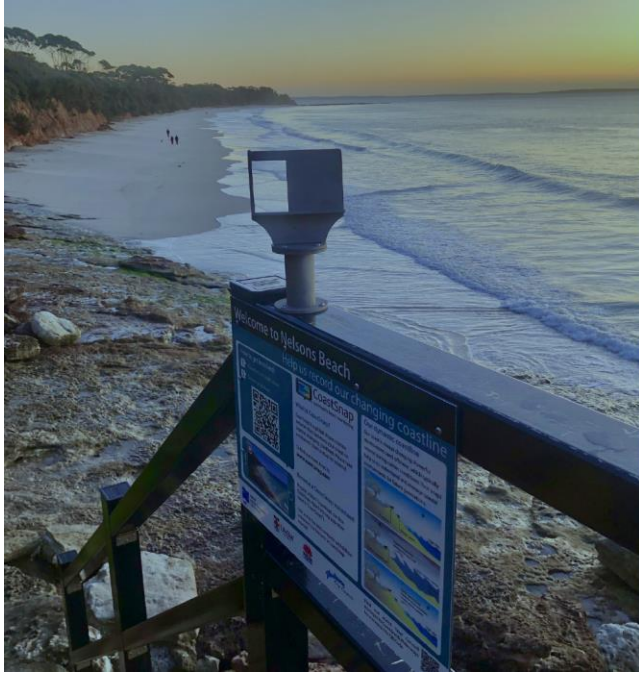
Monitoring and recording microplastic pollution on Australian shorelines

Using data to create vivid maps of microplastic pollution hotspots around Australia

Helps communities and government to implement behaviour change, regulate industry, and develop better waste management systems.

 Bay & Basin Citizen Science





## Our Current Projects



**CoastSnap**  
community beach monitoring

Bay & Basin Citizen Science were instrumental in lobbying for a CoastSnap cradle to be installed at Nelsons Beach

## Bay & Basin Citizen Science



[bbcitizenscience.au](http://bbcitizenscience.au)



[@bbcitizenscience](https://www.facebook.com/bbcitizenscience)



[bbcitizenscience@gmail.com](mailto:bbcitizenscience@gmail.com)



[@bbcitizenscience](https://www.instagram.com/bbcitizenscience)



meeting 3rd Wednesday, each month at 7pm

1 St George Ave, Vincentia (school hall behind the Baptist Church)

**NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL  
GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL  
COMMITTED CITIZENS CAN  
CHANGE THE WORLD. IN FACT,  
IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT  
EVER HAS.**

**- MARGARET MEAD -**

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