

MYALL KOALA & ENVIRONMENT GROUP

Committee Meeting 27/10/21 - Hawks Nest Golf Club

Attendance:

Richard Streamer, Christian Patteson, Jane Collison, Trish Blair, Jill & Peter Madden, Deb Wood, Ian Morphett.

Apologies:

Adrienne Ingram, Kit Streamer

Website Update ( myallkoala.org )

The website as almost ready to go live and be promoted to the members and wider audiences. The account for its creation has been paid to Jane. There just needs to be some finalising done to the “Square” payment system which can be used to accept donations, membership fees and merchandise sales. A device can be attached to a mobile phone and with the Square app, EFTPOS payments can be made (e.g. at our Easter stall).

Adrienne, Richard and Trish have update capability on the website.

Tree Giveaway and Schedule for Volunteers

Tree giveaway days are Saturday 6 November at Woodys Nursery from 9am to 1pm and Saturday 13 November at the Hunter Providores markets from8am to Noon.

Ian Morphett to send email to members asking for volunteers in 2 hour blocks.

Tree Guard Plaques

Jane Collison advised that Glenn Henry has placed the order for the plaques and has obtained a 30% discount which he is passing on to us. She is not sure when the plaques will be available. She has a box of chocolates which she will give to Glenn as a thank you.

Treasurers Report

For July to September income was $1,283.75, expenses were $2,134.95 and our total assets were $26,363.31. October income was $2.107.74 and Expenses were $1,305.00.

Although we are in a healthy financial state at the moment, any big project (e.g. drone surveys) may make a dent. However, there are many grants available which may help. Richard mentioned that MidCoast Council puts out a list of available grants from many sources and Ian Morphett said that Kate Washington also puts out a list. However, Richard said that, having recently been through a grant application for lights for the tennis club, it can be very laborious needing many skills (his was 30 pages). It was suggested that some organisations (Nature Conservation Council, Port Stephens Council ?) run online courses on how to prepare grant applications. We should have one or two Committee members do one of these courses to get ready for when we may wish to apply for a grant.

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Dingo/Koala Survey

Richard advised that Nick Colman from MidCoast Council, Neil Jordan from Uni of NSW, Ryan Witt from Newcastle Uni and DPIE are planning to do a drone survey of dingos on the northern side of Port Stephens somewhere between the National Park and Hawks Nest. Because drones can only do surveys over public land or on private land with the owner’s consent, it is not clear yet exactly where the survey will occur. There is quite a bit of public land/National Park land along the rivers edge in North Hawks Nest.

Richard is negotiating with Nick Colman to try to include koalas in the survey because they can be separately identified from dingoes.

Golf Club/Yamba Street Developments

Just today we were advised that the Land and Environment Court had approved the Yamba Street development after some changes were made to the design. IM advised that he hasn’t yet read the judgement so can’t comment on good or bad.

The 4 Corners expose on development in Hawks Nest is to go to air on Monday 8 November. IM said he is not entirely sure about what angle the program is taking but knows that, in addition to himself, at least Len Roberts, the developer of the development on Sanderling Avenue, a representative from the Karuah Aboriginal Land Council, Kathy Poldmaa, Shane Andrews and Jan Webb were interviewed.

Nerong Koala Ladders

60 ladders have been installed. About a third of them are on the highway frontage of Mr Lee’s property and the rest are at the rear (eastern) end and the sides.

Birds Report

Trish advised that there is sign of pied oystercatcher breeding on Corrie Island and on the Winda Woppa peninsular and the little terns have recently arrived here. They haven’t laid any eggs yet but appear to be doing mating behaviour over the area.

Over winter, the motion sensing camera on the island detected common rats and at least one fox on the island.

Galleries in the Gardens Summer Cooler

Ian M advised that the GiG committee have finally advised their members that MKEG is providing prizemoney for winning artworks as part of our sponsorship of the exhibition. GiG will arrange the judging by an expert. The arrangement provides that MKEG has first option to buy the winning artworks but we felt it wasn’t something we would exercise because it might be expensive and hard to recoup the cost via a raffle.

The exact date of the exhibition hasn’t been decided but will be in the first 2 weeks of January 2022.

The next general meeting of the members is Tuesday 16 November at 7:30pm in the Silver Dolphin Room of the Tea Gardens Hotel.