

# birdwatch



february 1997

newsletter of the southcoast birdwatchers

## editorial

So much seems to have happened since we last met! The Pageant, the Christmas Party, our trip over the Barrages - what a lively group we have become! So many outside contacts, too. I'm thinking of our contribution to the current environmental display at Signal Point, our association with school groups, and our involvement with the Council in planning for the Goolwa Effluent Ponds birding area.

Already the planning for this year's meetings and outings is looking exciting, and we all owe a big debt of gratitude to the Committee who put so much thought and energy into this.

The Committee have decided that our annual subscriptions should remain at \$10 for a single, and \$15 for a family (people living at the same address) membership. A junior subscription of \$6 has been introduced this year. **All subs are due by 21st March meeting**, and should be paid by then or at the meeting. It would very much help with record-keeping if you would return the enclosed slip with your subscription.

**Please note that our March meeting is on the 21st, which is one week later than usual**

## reports

### committee

27 JAN 1997

**Signal Point** has on show the Display Board organised by Kate, as well as the Banner that Nick Marinos framed and painted (a letter of thanks has been sent). Kate has enhanced the display with two pots of reeds, and everyone is encouraged to visit and enjoy. Thanks to all involved!

**Pageant.** Did you all see the Pied Oystercatcher and the Fairy Penguin adding lustre to the Goolwa Christmas Pageant? Three other Members marched, and we hope to see more Members join the fun next year.

**Rankine's Landing.** Kate and Judith have visited the Tavern on Hindmarsh Island to discuss with the Rankines the preparation of a bird-list for visitors. A photo album of local birds is to be compiled.

#### Subscriptions.

It was decided to keep these at the 1996 rate, and to introduce a Junior subscription. Please see the Editorial for details

## meeting

MEETING, 10TH JAN 1997

This meeting took the form of a Members' night, and illustrated contributions were made by Don Cornish and Denzel. Rosalie brought along a beach-washed specimen of a Slender-billed Prion, and a Blackbird nest. Kate read a summary of the Ramsar Committee aims. An around-table call on all members to talk of sightings, report subjects of interest or ask questions produced some interesting topics. For instance: do damaged beaks grow again? (Answer: No! like fingernails they keep on growing, but the damage does not repair.) Judy Jones talked of the mimicry of Magpies. Paula commented on the proliferation of Rainbow Lorikeets in her garden - end result - an apple-core tree!

To mention just a few of the varied sightings:

- Cape Barren Geese on Hindmarsh Island, flying over Goolwa, and on the Victor/Pt Elliot road.
- Large groups of Pelicans at the bird-hide, feeding on Carp and other fish.
- Gull-billed Tern, Rufous Whistler and Crested Shrike-tit at Victor Harbor.
- Sacred Kingfishers on the Finniss River at Ashbourne.
- Unconfirmed sightings of Glossy-black Cockatoo on the South Coast.
- Hooded Plover still in evidence at Chiton Rocks.

## dates for your diary

Sat	Feb 1	Currency Creek Winery area (Black Swamp). Meet at Canoe Tree.
Sat	Feb 15	Bullock Hill, Ashbourne (meet by Telephone Box on main road).
Weds	Mar 12	Scott CS, southern boundary (meet corner Mt Compass-Goolwa/Deep Ck roads).
Fri	Mar 21	Meeting. Speaker: John Gilliland on Coorong (see details on p2)
Sun	Mar 23	Boat trip, river estuary (meet 9.15am Goolwa Wharf). See details in this issue.

*continued on p2*

continued from p1

# outings

**Christmas at the Barrage (Dec 7th).** Beautiful weather, calm water, and good conversation made this a memorable end to the year. A walk along the shore produced 19 species of birds, including: Common Sandpiper, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Little Black and Great Cormorants. Once more we thank Jim Marsh for making the area available for us, and for providing the BBQ facilities.

**Barrage Trip (Jan 12th)** *Wow!!* Surely no-one missed this one! How lucky we were with the weather, not too hot, and lots of cool shade for our BBQ at Pelican Point. It was a trip certainly worth waiting for! How do I pick which birds to mention out of the 67 species we recorded? Well - here goes: Crested Grebe, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Marsh Harrier, Whistling Kite, Brush Bronzewing, White-fronted Chat, Musk Duck, Straw-necked Ibis, Golden Plover, Golden-headed Cisticola, and (across the water) Emu.

Our gratitude to Jim Marsh for arranging access to the Barrages for us. It was certainly one of the special days in my life!

## ADVANCE NOTICE OF BOAT TRIP



This will be an extended boat cruise looking at water birds and waders.

Jack Miller will be our skipper in his 28ft, shallow-draught boat which is equipped with all-weather covered lower deck, and toilet.

We will meet at 9.15am for 9.30 departure from the southern end of Goolwa wharf.

Our return will be at about 4pm. Bring your own lunch, etc. Tea and coffee will be supplied

Members are being given preference. At present we have 24 seats booked with 15 paid up. **This will be a popular trip. If you wish to go you must make bookings and/or payment by the closing date, Feb 8th.** Any spare seats will be allocated to non-members on our waiting-list after that date.

*please contact Judith on 552736*

- ↓ Sat April 5 Goolwa Effluent Ponds / Kessell Rd / Old Cemetery. (Meet at Ponds).
  - ↓ Weds April 9 Bahloo Glen, Mt Compass. (Meet Roadmans Reserve, north of town-ship).
  - ↓ Sat April 26 Gilbert's Siding, lunch by the Finnis. (Meet cnr Strathalbyn / Gilbert's Siding Rds).
  - ↓ Sat May 3 Scott CS, northern entrance.
  - ↓ Weds May 14 Coles Crossing Rd, Nankita. (Meet cnr Nankita / Coles Crossing Rds).
  - ↓ Fri May 16 Meeting. Video: Kakadu - World of Water Birds.
- ↓ *Please note: for all outings (except boat trip) please meet at the designated place at 8.30am. Please bring lunch and chairs.*
- ↓ *Meetings are held at the Anglican Church Hall, Goolwa, starting at 7.30 pm.*
- ↓ *Contact: Judith Dyer, ph 552736, 3 Swan Ave  
Kate Bruce, ph 555020, PO Box 403  
Goolwa*

## Malleefowl enclosure

*courtesy*

*of*

*Judith*

### STOP PRESS

OUR SPEAKER AT THE MEETING ON MARCH 21ST WILL BE JOHN GILLILAND, SENIOR COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE OFFICER OF THE DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

JOHN WILL TALK ON THE COORONG AND LOWER LAKES RAMSAR MANAGEMENT PLAN. HERE IS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR THE LATEST THINKING ON THIS FRAGILE AND BEAUTIFUL ENVIRONMENT.