

**Meetings:** Anglican Church Hall, Goolwa, begins 8.00pm.

**Outings:** Meet at 8.30 am. Bring lunch and chairs.

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**BRUCE DYER**

It was with great shock and sadness that birdwatchers heard of the sudden death of our co-founder and President, Bruce Dyer on August 27th. It will take a long time to come to terms with, and our deep sympathy and loving support surround Judith at this difficult time.

Bruce and Judith together initiated and presided over the growth of the South Coast Birdwatchers, from the preliminary meeting to assess local interest in January, 1995, to its present form as a lively centre of birding, sharing, discussion, learning and friendship.

Bruce, with his infectious enthusiasm, had a great concern for the problems of beginning birders, which resulted in his willingness to share information about equipment and methods, and stimulated the organization of, for example, our very successful workshop with Joan Paton.

Bruce stressed the importance of maintaining repeated visits to selected local areas, such as Scott Conservation Park and the estuary, with the object of accumulating a data-base which could be used not only by visiting birders, but also for research. His experience of local areas was most valuable to our group, and his knowledge was always generously shared.

Bruce was currently involved with two major birding projects. One was the generation of computerised listings in the most useful format for our purposes. The other was the establishment of observation facilities (tracks and hide), in conjunction with our local council, at the Goolwa effluent ponds.

The continuation of both these projects will be our best memorial to Bruce.  
Bruce Dyer - thank you.

**Committee Report (20 Sept)**

The **Display Board** is well under way, and has been on show in the Library. We now need habitat photos for the board, and also a more sturdy structure, possibly a frame. The District Council Environmental Committee is running an evening workshop on Weds Oct 30th at 7.30pm in the Centenary Hall, Goolwa, where our Board will be displayed, so that help with both the habitat photos and the 'sturdy structure' would be

appreciated, preferably before this, but help is always welcome. Please contact *Kate* or *Di*.

*Gael Maloney* checked the copyright on the **Pelican logo**, and has found it will be OK for us to use it.

*Gaynor* and *Judy Jones* have agreed to help with the monthly survey of the **Byrnes Road Wetlands** area.

*Chris Wastell* will report to the next meeting on the **Effluent Ponds Project**. Our involvement with **local schools** is developing well. *Chris* has prepared a list of common birds found in the area for Goolwa Primary School area. *Gaynor* spent a day visiting their camp on the Coorong.

The **Christmas Pageant**, 'Carols on the Goolwa', will be on Dec 14th. Pam is dusting off her Penguin costume, and hopes others will join in the parade. We need quotes on a banner (1500mm x 900mm) which we can carry.

### **Meeting, Friday, Sept 6th**

At this meeting Ross Whiteford brought along some absolutely wonderful slides, and shared with us the problems and skills needed to overcome them. We all learnt lots about bird photography, and I no longer feel quite so ashamed of my little blurs (where the bird I was photographing had just decided to leave!). Now I know that a good bird portrait is the result of years of practice, and sometimes a little judicious pruning! Everyone enjoyed the evening, and we can't wait for more!

### **Outings Reports.**

*Sat. Sept 1st, Winery Road (led by Judith Dyer).*

It was a cool, brilliant, sunny first day of Spring, and, while walking along the rail-track and back along the road, seven members observed 44 species of birds. Also enjoying the Spring weather was a White-faced Heron riding on a thermal!

The noisy, active behaviour of two male and one female Golden Whistlers was also attributed to the Spring season as they appeared to be establishing territory prior to nuptials.

Endavouring to thaw himself (or herself) after winter hibernation was a beautiful Frilled Dragon, which we were fortunate to see. A further bonus to our morning of birding was to see the many native plants in bloom, with knowledgeable people present who could identify them. The usual bird-count followed a picnic lunch together. Thank you, Judy!

*Gaynor Jones*

*Sun. Sept 15th South Australian Museum*

A small but keen group of birdwatchers met at the Museum for a tour of the taxidermy workshop with our guide, Joe, an enthusiastic young man who was very willing to share his wealth of knowledge.

Joe took us to the rear of the Museum and down into his workshop where he explained how he had become interested in taxidermy when he was only 14 years old. He showed us the polystyrene moulds used to make up his displays, and also explained how a bird is skinned and made ready for mounting.

A skin can be kept for a number of years, but care must be taken not to let it dry out. Joe told us how to prepare and keep the creatures ready to be mounted. They need to be laid out flat with their heads extended, then rolled in clean paper, and put into a tube of newspaper and into the freezer. Joe would be pleased to have any specimens, not only birds, and will make arrangements to have them picked up if you give him a call.

Joe told us that taxidermy had now moved into the modern times of conservation and that, unlike the olden days, a party is no longer sent out to shoot something when a display is needed.

We also took time to look at the wonderful Antarctic display which included many varieties of Penguin, Albatross, Frigate Birds, etc. We then moved on to a spot of great bird-watching. There they were, all lined up, perfectly still, with names on them! - a joy to behold!

I am sure that everyone who attended would recommend a day at the Museum to all of our members, be they beginners or more experienced.

Joe also suggested that we contact Phillipa Horton to arrange to see the scientific collection in the future, and he offered to get in touch with her when she is back from *Nesting* - I mean *Maternity Leave*!

*Bronwyn Wastell.*

*Sept 27th to 30th, Danggali Conservation Park.*

Friday - lovely weather, Saturday and Sunday wet, wet, wet and Monday slip and slide. Only three members ventured out for our weekend 'campout', but a most rewarding time was had. A total of 43 species within the Park boundaries, and a further six while travelling in and out on the access track, plus another three (???) The rain didn't dampen our enthusiasm, and although conditions became too difficult to travel within the Park we took every break in the weather to walk in the vicinity of the station homestead. We saw many birds not familiar in our own area; to name a few: a Chestnut Quail-thrush, a small flock of Major Mitchell (Pink) Cockatoos, Mulga Parrots, Choughs, Apostle Birds, a Crested Bellbird, White-eared and White-fronted Honeyeaters, a Black-eared Cuckoo, and - best of all for yours truly was a Gilberts Whistler (another ✓). Another trip to Danggali next Spring comes highly recommended.

*Judith Dyer.*

*Sun. Oct 4th. Coles Crossing - Cox Scrub.*

An overcast sky and light, drizzling rain resulted in only six members putting in an appearance on this outing. However, our enthusiasm was well rewarded with 37 species sighted, and two, the Sacred Kingfisher and the Dusky Moorhen, being identified by their calls.

Highlights were the sighting of up to 50 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, appearing to be quite at home in a pine plantation, two Purple-crowned Lorikeets and several Elegant Parrots. A Hooded Robin and a Crescent Honeyeater were also seen, and our last two sightings of the day were of a lovely little Scarlet Robin and two European Goldfinches.

Denzel and Paula were also kept busy identifying many of the great variety of beautiful wildflowers on display.

*Di Shearer.*

*Weds. Oct 9th. Mt Compass boardwalk and Coles Crossing Road.*

Sunny, cool, with a moderate breeze..

Four very keen Birdos had lots to watch on the boardwalk. Twenty species were recorded in or flying over the area. The Fairy Wrens were hyperactive, defending territory and establishing their harems. At one stage we had six fully-coloured males in the view of our binoculars in the one location. The brilliance of their plumage was exceptional. We heard a Brown Thornbill singing sweetly in a thick shrub, Brown Songlarks singing in the adjoining paddock, a Little Grassbird calling, and three Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes flying over. Also worthy of mention was the sighting of a Golden-headed Cisticola. A pair of Black-shouldered Kites gave a good aerial display, showing us the markings on both upper and lower wings - but no Emu Wrens! All this in just an hour and a half!

By the time we arrived at Coles Crossing Road at about 11am, the temperature had risen quite a few degrees, and the breeze was intensifying, but another 16 species were recorded. The first bird heard calling was a Golden Whistler deep in the pine forest. Curiosity got the better of him when we tried to call him up, and he popped out to the edge of the plantation to show off his plumage. As with the Fairy-wrens aforementioned it was ultra-brilliant. Our other sightings were: two Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos flying over, Silvereye, Eastern Spinebill, Yellow-rumped and Striated Thornbills, and Red-browed Firetails, with Grey Shrike-thrush and Crescent Honeyeaters calling. This spot is worthy of scheduling for an early start outing in the future.

#### **Forward Notices.**

The **Christmas BBQ at the Barrage** is confirmed. BYO, and Jim will organise the BBQ as he did last year. 4pm for birdwatching, and 6pm for BBQ. Members, family and friends welcome.

Jim has obtained permission for us to take a **bus trip across the Barrages** to Pelican Point on Sunday, Jan 12th. Time, costs and other details will come later, but some indication of the numbers wanting to go would be helpful in the planning stage. Members should book at the November meeting, or ring Judith if unable to attend that night.

The **March meeting** has been put back one week to Friday, March 21st, with the outing on Sunday 23rd. This is because of a major Street activity taking place in Goolwa on our normal meeting night. We have made a tentative booking with Jack Miller to take us out **on a boat** again for this outing. A decision must be made at the November meeting as there will be a greater cost than last year now that Jack has his boat running commercially.



#### ***Thankyou***

*I wish to say a very special 'thank you' to all the members of our group for the expressions of sympathy and the help and support that came from so many of you and your families. Your feelings were expressed in so many ways, donations, flowers, cards, letters, phone calls and food. The response to Bruce's death has been overwhelming for me and I feel unable to reply to you all individually, so I'm taking*

*this opportunity to say a very heartfelt thank you. Please accept also the thanks of my family for the help and support you have given me.*

*Judith*



**For Your Diary**

Saturday	26th Oct	<b>Beach walk-Bluff area.</b> (Meet at carpark opposite Victor_Harbour Council - Inman Bridge).
Friday	8th Nov	Meeting - <b>members' night</b> - slides.
Sunday	10th Nov	<b>Mt Compass area.</b> Meet at Dairy Vale .BYO BBQ lunch at Wastell's property.
Saturday	7th Dec	<b>The Barrage Christmas BBQ.</b> BYO. Birdwatching from 4pm, BBQ for 6pm. <i>Members, families and friends are welcome.</i>
Sunday	12th Jan	<b>Barrage trip</b> (see details above).
Friday	21st March	Meeting date change (see above).
Sunday	23rd March	Outing, probably a boat trip with Jack Miller.

