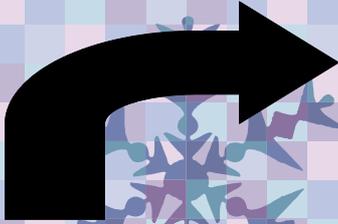




April 2014

# Birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc



## Events

**Wednesday 26 March Goolwa Barrages / Beacon 19 / Murray Mouth (HI)**

**Goolwa Barrage Car Park**

35°31'41" S 138°48'18" E

**Thursday 10 April Hindmarsh River & Estuary**

**Corner Wattle Drive/Pearson Drive Victor Harbor**

35°32'39" S 138°37'39" E

**Saturday 26 April Kyeema CP (Date Changed to avoid Easter weekend)**

**Kyeema CP Carpark Woodgate Hill Rd.**

35°15'48" S 138°39'25" E

**Sunday 11 May Browns Rd Monarto**

**Cnr of Browns Road and Old Princes Highway (top of hill east of Callington)**

35°06'41" S 139°04'37" E

**Wednesday 28 May Bullock Hill CP**

**Greenman Inn Carpark, Ashbourne.**

35°17'17" S 138°45'58" E

**Saturday 14 June Parawa (Private Property)**

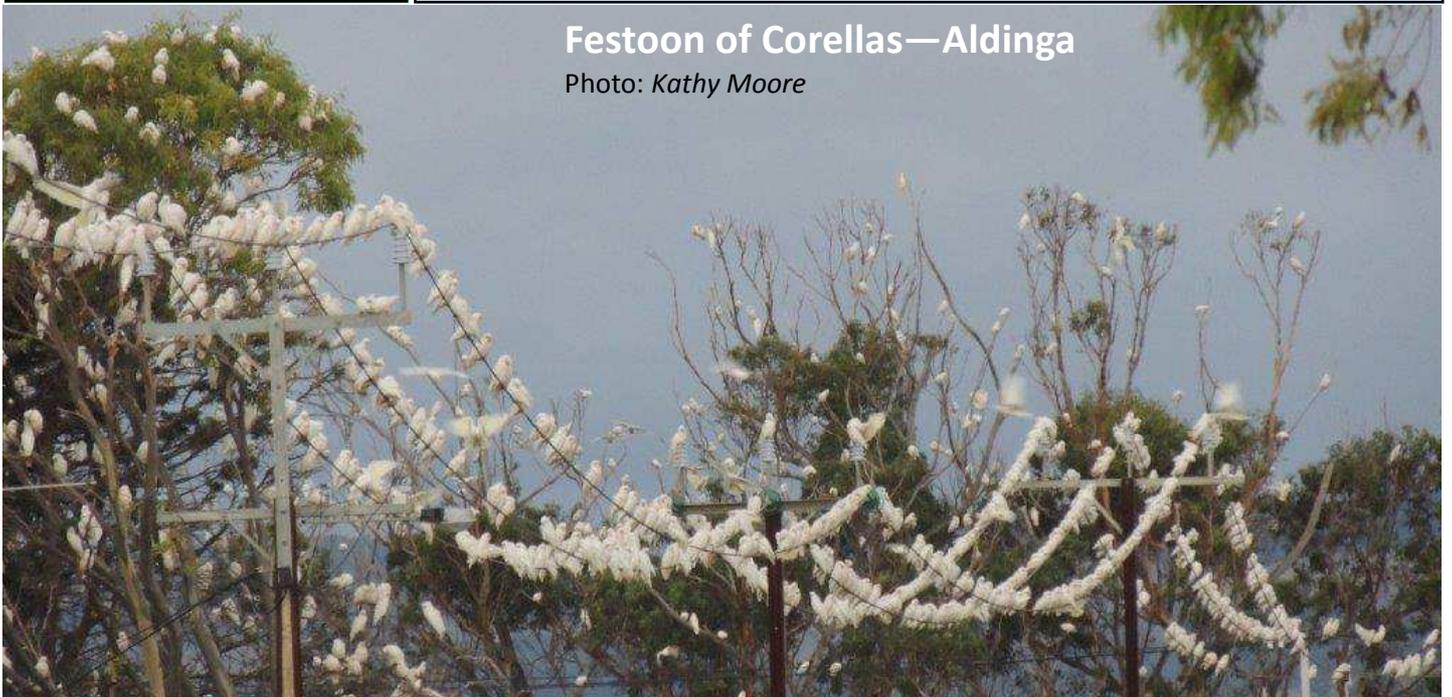
**Corner of Range Rd / Parawa Rd,**

35°33'39" S 138°21'41" E

**Subs  
Payment  
now due  
See page 6 for details**

## Festoon of Corellas—Aldinga

Photo: *Kathy Moore*



**Meetings:** Anglican Church Hall, corner Crocker and Cadell Streets, Goolwa  
7.30 pm 2nd Friday of March, May, September and November

**Outings:** Meet 8.30 am. Bring lunch and a chair. See **Events** above

**Contacts:** Neil Cheshire on 8552 7904 or fleurieubirds@gmail.com

**Website:** [www.fleurieubirdwatchers.org](http://www.fleurieubirdwatchers.org)

**Newsletter:** Contact fleurieubirds@gmail.com

# OUTINGS

## Hindmarsh Island, Saturday 15 February

On a cool morning, with a humid fog hanging low on the landscape, 23 members and 4 visitors met at Ferryman's Reserve on Hindmarsh Island. First port of call was to Richard Owens private property, Tarniwarra. This delightful and idyllic coastal dune property on the Goolwa Channel has been carefully revegetated over the last 16 years by the owner. Few bush birds were seen in the dank atmosphere of the morning but waders, duck species, including Musk Duck and Shelduck, many Red-kneed Dotterel and Spoonbills, both Royal and Yellow-billed, were just a few of the species recorded there. Soft misty rain set in just as we completed the circuit of bush and foreshore. Our thanks go to Richard for allowing us to enjoy this unique and interesting site.

A stop at Mundoo Channel was of great interest to experienced and new birdwatchers alike. As we arrived Rufous Night Heron, at least 6 birds, rose from the surrounding Cyprus pines. Rarely do we get the chance to have such a good look at these birds on the wing as they are basically night birds spending their days roosting. A Sacred Kingfisher on the fence also delighted us. Golden-headed Cisticola and White-fronted Chat were two other species recorded here on a short walk.

We returned to Ferryman's Reserve where members strolled through the maze of paths admiring the plantings that the local Landcare group have established.

Lunch and birdcall followed in the shelter of the Landcare Nursery. 54 species were recorded.

Thank you Wendy for your leadership.

*Judith Dyer*



Nankeen Night Heron Photo: *Peter Gower*

## Newland Head Conservation Park, Sunday 16 March

It was a beautiful sunny morning with a clear sky and light breeze. In all, seventeen members and friends took part in the bird walk, which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Win was our leader for the day and we drove to Waitpinga Beach, to scan the coast for sea birds. There were a number of Crested Terns, Silver Gull and a few Pacific Gulls. We stopped up along the road and walked across the dry lagoon to the Waitpinga Creek but there were only a few cormorants in the water and no ducks. We drove back to Dennis Hut and progressed on foot from there.

The park is in dry condition, but the trees and other vegetation looked wonderful. Win Syson and his group of volunteers from Newland Head CP work very hard to maintain the park on the lovely Fleurieu Peninsula and are to be congratulated for their diligent work of weeding and planting.

We lunched at Dennis Hut and the bird count came to 43 species. The highlight for me was seeing 3 Scarlet Robins. In particular the one who waited patiently for me to focus the binos and made sure I had a wonderful look! The 9 Elegant Parrots were special too.

Others of interest were: Australian Pipit, Golden Whistlers, Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Grey Shrike-thrush, Crescent Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Common Bronzewing, White-browed Scrubwrens and Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike.

*Elaine O'Shaughnessy*



Group Photo: *Win Syson*

# Annual General Meeting Friday 14 March 2014 Items of Interest

**Present** : 24 members and 2 visitors.

**Chairman's Report** given by Neil Cheshire.

**Financial Statement** by Keith Jones.

**Election of Officers:** to remain the same with Win Syson added to the Committee.

**Reduction of General Meetings to 4 per year**, 2 with guest speakers and 2 with members nights.

*The July meeting will be cancelled due to poor attendance in Winter.*

**FBW brochures** were re-printed and distributed to information centres etc. across the Fleurieu.

**Publicity Officer**– Neil Cheshire.

**Expo for Seniors** at Victor Council 9th April to be manned by Neil and other volunteers to promote bird watching.

**Bird Atlas** changes for 2014. Records of our outings will be sent direct to Birds SA for uploading to the national database with assurance we can access our records when needed. They will need to be recorded on Birds SA List.

**Web site** members section to be accessed via a secret password to view current and old Newsletters, Constitution, and Minutes of General Meetings.

**Outing Guidelines** discussed and to be reviewed at the next meeting (see below)

**Bird Hide** improvements at the Goolwa Ponds on Kessell Road has been completed and a thank you sent to the Alexandrina Council. Wendy Phillips to contact the Environmental Manager requesting signage to keep dogs on leads as they have been seen wandering in the ponds disturbing all the ducks and other bird life.

## **Bird Sightings:**

Wedge-tail Eagle at Newland Head. Stubble Quail and Buff-banded Rail near Goolwa Barrage. Crested Shrike-tit and Freckled Duck at 'Beyond'. Red-browed Finches and Golden Whistlers breeding on Uppill's property VH. Black-chinned H.E. at Port Elliot and also near Boulevard Café. Hooded Plovers banded at night at Waitpinga Beach and flocks up to 12 seen at Tunkalilla and Parsons Beach. Sacred Kingfisher at Willunga. Brown Quail at Granite Island and Goolwa Beach including 5 young chicks. Large flocks of European Gold Finches at Willunga (90%) juvenile. A Southern Giant Petrel on Goolwa Beach.

**Presentation** by Nick Tebneff on his recent road trip to North Queensland and back. Exceptional photos of birds and his stories was much appreciated by all.

An amazing photo of Black-tailed Native Hens in a huddle taken at night with infra-red camera at Paiwalla was shown by Judith Dyer. This event has not been known to occur previously and showed the birds roosted on the ground in a complete circle, eyes out.

## **Fleurieu Birdwatchers : Draft Guidelines for Outings**

1. Individuals participating in Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc. outings are responsible for their own wellbeing, health and safety. Participants should not attempt any walk that may be beyond their physical capabilities.
2. Participants with allergies, i.e. bee stings, ant bites should carry appropriate medication.
3. Participants should carry sufficient drinking water so they can remain well hydrated for the duration of the walk.
4. Participants should wear suitable footwear and clothing.
5. Leaders should be familiar with the walk and before starting should advise participants of the planned route and any potential hazards.
6. So far as possible the group should remain together. Anyone who intends to leave the group early or take a different route should inform the leader.
7. Leaders will carry a basic first-aid kit.
8. If noise is kept to a minimum more birds will be seen.
9. A bird-call will be held at the end of the walk and the leader or someone deputised should make a record of birds seen.
10. On Total Fire Ban days the outing will be cancelled.

# DUCK SHOOTING OUTRAGE

(Birdlife Australia September 2013)

Hundreds of protected waterfowl were shot at Box Flat wetland near Boort in Victoria last year. They included about 150 Freckled Ducks and many other protected species. There were Coots, Cormorants, Avocets, a Black-winged Stilt, a Black-fronted Dotterel, grebes, Swans, a Whistling Kite and a Spoon-bill found by members of the Coalition against Duck Shooting. There were birds left injured and many left to rot and it is illegal to shoot and NOT retrieve them.

This is expected to be “the tip of the iceberg” as there are no official figures taken from the many sites open to duck shooting.

Considering Shooters must pass an identification test on waterfowl and are allowed a bag limit of only 10 ducks per day they are NOT being regulated or charged with offences.

CEO of Birdlife Australia, Paul Sullivan states “there should be a full investigation into Game Victoria’s effectiveness to self-regulate duck shooting as it clearly indicates a total failure of its organisation to do so.”

Whilst bird lovers and conservationist are trying hard to protect our environment and restore what has been lost over the last century it is hard to understand why our government continues to support a small minority to shoot birds in the name of sport.

This practice MUST STOP before it is too late when we find we have wiped out more species due to utter carelessness. If we do nothing we have failed to protect our birds and failed society.

The CEO of DEWNR, Allen Holmes declares the opening of the duck shooting season from 15 February to 29 June this year. He says whilst there are good numbers of water fowl along the Coorong and South East SA other Eastern states are below average. Bool Lagoon is closed to shooters for environmental reasons. Unfortunately shooters can come to SA and continue the carnage.

The Quail hunting season goes on longer from February to July with a bag limit of 20 birds per day per hunter. This equates to 600 Quails that can legally be taken by ONE hunter in one year. Where have all the Quails gone?

SA legislation allows for properly managed and regulated game bird hunting by licenced shooters, but who is supervising and checking this?

I urge all bird lovers to ACT and write your letters to your local member of Parliament or Minister of Environment and STOP the slaughter of our birds.

Wendy Phillips



(AG/AAP Image/J Smith)

Brown Quail Photo: *Wikipedia*



## Brochure Review

The Alexandrina Council printed these two bird trail guides for visitors to the area in 2005 and distributed them through the Visitor Information Centres at Goolwa and Strathalbyn.

They are currently being updated and reprinted as they have been popular for tourists.

They fold out to a clear well marked map that is numbered and colour coded for the trails.

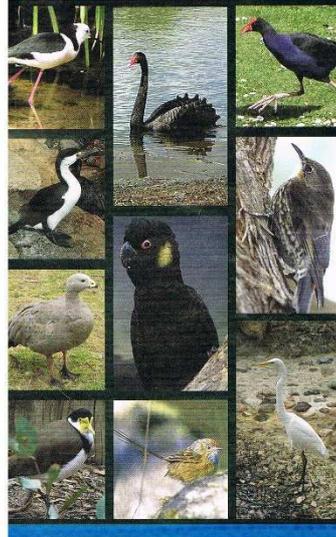
Goolwa includes the Wetlands at Hindmarsh Island and Ponds on Kessell Rd. with Bushland (a) and (b) covering Mt. Compass, Currency Creek, Ashbourne and Finniss areas.

Milang and Strathalbyn cover the towns plus Tolderol, Dunn's Lagoon, Nurragi, Bullock Hill, and Conservation Parks e.g. Mt. Magnificent, Cox Scrub, Kyeema, Ferries McDonald, and Monarto.

They are well presented and worth keeping on hand for yourself and your visitors. Wendy Phillips

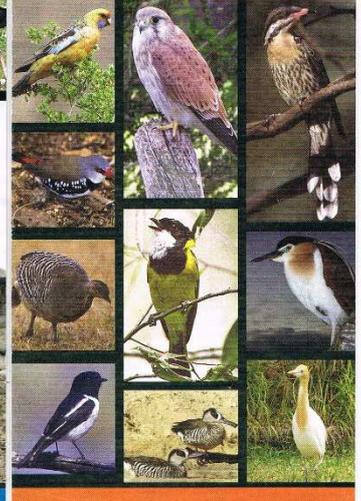
### Alexandrina BIRD TRAILS

#### GOOLWA



### ALEXANDRINA BIRD TRAILS

#### MILANG & STRATHALBYN



## 'Flourishing on the Fleurieu'

### Community Expo of Healthy Living Activities

Wednesday 9 April 10-2pm Victor Harbor Civic Centre

1 Bay Rd Victor Harbor

FBW Committee will be promoting bird watching activities.

Pop in and see what is on offer.

### TRUE LOVE

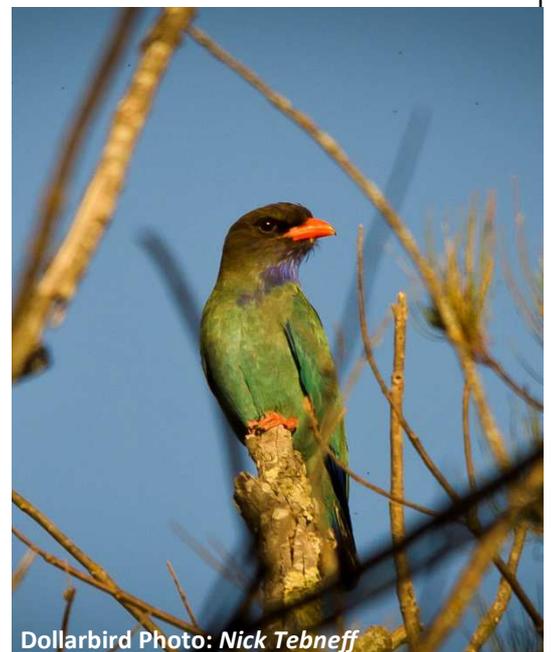
A story in the Weekend Australian 22-23 February by Thea Hayes

A pair of Dollar Birds migrates from Southern Asia to their farm in NSW each year in October to breed in a large River Red Gum near their house. They watch them chase away the cockatoos and galahs from their tree, build their nest, raise their young, then fly away 4 months later.

In October 2012 they noticed the arrival and display of courtship displayed by the two birds and nest building began as usual. The Summer heat was extreme and February's heat wave lasted for 8 days. The Hayes noticed the male Dollar Bird was calling constantly for his mate. It went on for several days but sadly there was no reply. The female and young had expired in the nest.

When the Dollar Bird finally left to fly back to Asia they wondered if they would ever see it again. They could not believe it when in October 2013 they heard the familiar sound of the Dollar Bird calling as he chased away all the cockies and laid claim to his tree. A few days later a female arrived and the process of mating began again. Their bird had found a new mate and the process started all over again.

They carefully watched over the nesting tree all summer to see the birds succeed in rearing their young.



Dollarbird Photo: Nick Tebneff

## MEMBERS ACCESS TO WEB SITE.

Have you ever needed to refer to a previous issue of Birdwatch, say to check on arrangements for campout, only to find you no longer have a copy of the relevant newsletter? The Members tab will take you to the latest newsletter and to past issues.

Note that you will need to log in to access this area. Send us an email (fleurieubirds@gmail.com) with your proposed user name (just your first name or a simple nom de plume, for example, birdtwit, is preferable to your email address) and a unique password of at least eight characters (it's not a good idea to use your email password or another that you use regularly). This will be listed with us, be secure and confidential, and enable you to see information that is for members only. Please make sure you remember/record your details. There is provision for you to change your password at any time.

**Verle Wood**

**Please note the Newsletters will continue to be sent to your email address or postal address as per normal.**

## Mangroves at Tarni Warra Sanctuary

For those of you who were surprised to see grey mangroves growing on Hindmarsh Island on Richard Owen's property he has informed us of research to establish their presence. The Dept. of Environment thought they were planted by local farmers about 50 years ago and considering that farmers were clearing native vegetation **not** planting it led to suspicion that this was not the case. There is evidence in historical data that they were present on the Island in 1866 as gazetted by FF Bailliere.

It has been suggested that the mangroves could have been wiped out during the ship building boom of 1850-1880. It is great to know that the few remaining trees are in good care as they were known to be there 145 years ago.

*Richard Owen*

## Annual Subscriptions for 2014 are now Due

Membership year is from 1 April to 31 March of following year.

**Single \$20**                       **Family \$25** (2 or more people at the same address)                       **Junior \$12**

*Please forward this **slip**, together with your **payment**,  
to the Treasurer, Keith Jones, 25 Coppin St. Glengowrie SA 5044*

Name ..... Amount enclosed \$.....

NB To save postage, receipts will be forwarded with snailmail newsletters, or by hand at meetings and outings where possible. Please enclose a SSAE if you need a receipt mailed to you.

If paying by EFT please follow the instructions below.

### To pay subscriptions by EFT

The following information is needed to make an EFT payment.

∅ Bank SA's BSB number is 105-160 (or 105160 if the hyphen cannot be entered)

∅ Our account number is 015551140.

∅ The organisation's name is Fleurieu Birdwatchers Incorporated (abbreviate or truncate if necessary).

**Important: In the Reference Box on the Transfer Screen, please enter your name (abbreviate if necessary).**

If there is a box on the screen to send an email notification to the payee, please check this box and enter **fleurieubirds@gmail.com** or send an email direct to this address notifying us of your payment (or do both)

*\*\*\* Failure to do this will mean we do not know, when checking the bank statement, who has made the payment \*\*\**