



February 2013

Birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc



Saturday 16 February Hindmarsh Island,
(Including two new private properties)

Ferryman's Reserve Car Park 35°30'29" S 138°47'35" E

Friday 8 March AGM

Sunday March 10 Paiwalla Wetlands, Burdett

Sunnyside Lookout , (See Paiwalla Website) 35°02'04" S 139°22'18" E

Wednesday 20 March Cox's Scrub/Coles Crossing

Corner of Nagkita Rd and Heifer Lane 35°21'4" S 138°42'16" E

Thursday 11 April Mt Magnificent CP

Corner Nangkita Rd / Enterprise Rd 35°19'18" S 138°40'4" E

Newsletter Contributions:
Please send all items for inclusion in future newsletters to :
fleurieubirds@gmail.com

AGM
Friday 8 March
2013

WANTED!!
Leaders for
2013 Outings
See Page 3 for
proposed 2013
outings

WETLANDS ARE WONDERFULL !!



Location: Tokuremoar Reserve Goolwa Beach
Photo: *Wendy Phillips*

Meetings: Anglican Church Hall, corner Crocker and Cadell Streets, Goolwa
7.30 pm 2nd Friday of odd months.

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

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OUTINGS

FBW Christmas Outing 2012

On the mild and sunny afternoon of 1st December 2012 thirty-nine members and partners joined a special cruise on the historic paddle steamer the Oscar W. For 3 hours we travelled the river to Clayton Bay and return.

Only a few members took along their binoculars preferring to enjoy the atmosphere of 'cruising down the river' and touching base with members and their partners. There were few birds to be seen on the water with just the occasional tern, cormorants, ibis and pelicans soaring overhead.

On the homeward journey a meal was served. Members did the group proud with a large range of interesting salads, to accompany the meats supplied by the club, together with sumptuous sweets to follow.

Thanks must go to Wendy and Bob for the preparation and organisation of an outing, quite different to our normal activities, which was enjoyed immensely by all on board.

Thank you all for your efforts to make this outing special and thanks too to those members who have contributed in various ways throughout the past year to keep the club vibrant and interesting.

Judith Dyer



Clayton Bay Twilight Outing, January 11, 2013

We had a very relaxing start to our FBW year, with 31 members participating at our twilight outing to the wetlands of Clayton Bay. Beforehand, many of us dined at the Sails Restaurant, which looks over the river towards Hindmarsh Island. After a delicious, albeit extended meal, most of us then strolled around the foreshore, past the sailing club and caravan park towards the wetlands. Many of the waterbirds, especially Eurasian Coots, Australasian and Hoary-headed Grebes, Grey Teal and Australasian Shovelers had taken advantage of the high water level and were feeding as dusk approached. Also, a small flock of Australian Pelicans had rounded up a small school of fish. Whiskered Terns were seen patrolling the waters whilst Welcome Swallows and Tree Martins acrobatically fed over the water on flying insects. Along the edge of the waterway, some of the gums were flowering, resulting in Musk Lorikeets and New Holland Honeyeaters noisily searching for nectar. However, at one time, their alarm calls heralded the appearance of a couple of Collared Sparrowhawks. Some of us caught sight of a Common Bronzewing lurking amongst the trees. Throughout the evening many Galahs kept us company as they demonstrated their comical balancing skills on the power lines. On returning to the restaurant for the bird count, we tallied a total of 51 species, and two of our cricket 'tragics' who had stayed back, updated us on the latest scores in the International One-Day match ! Altogether, a great twilight outing !

Keith Jones



Clayton Landing
Photo: *Bob Daly*



Australasian Shoveler
Photo: *Peter Gower*

Welcome to new member: Chris Thomson from Flagstaff Hill.

Diary dates for 2013

| Proposed FBW Outings for 2013 | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|---|---|
| Day | Date | Location | Meeting Point |
| Saturday | 16 February | Hindmarsh Island | Ferryman's Landing Car Park |
| Sunday | 10 March | Paiwalla Wetlands | Sunnyside Lookout , Burdett (See Paiwalla Website) |
| Wednesday | 20 March | Coles Crossing-Cox's Scrub | Corner Nangkita Rd/Heifer Lane |
| Thursday | 11 April | Mt Magnificent CP | Corner Nangkita Rd / Enterprise Rd |
| Saturday | 20 April | Nixon-Skinner & Springmount CP's | Main South Rd, Myponga Reservoir Reserve (Gate 28) |
| Sunday | 12 May | Laratinga Wetlands, Mt Barker | Dirt car park Bald Hill Rd Mt Barker (Just west of main car park) |
| Wednesday | 29 May | Mt Billy CP | Hindmarsh Valley Hall, Hindmarsh Valley Rd |
| Saturday | 15 June | Manning Reserve, McLaren Flat | Kay's Rd NW corner of Manning Reserve |
| Thursday | 27 June | Scott CP Northern Boundary | Gould Rd, Car park closest to Deep Creek Rd |
| Sunday | 14 July | Currency Creek Winery walk (Black Swamp) | Currency Creek Winery car park |
| Wednesday | 31 July | Monarto & Ferries-McDonald CP's | Corner Langhorne Creek to Wellington Rd and Boundary Rd |
| Saturday | 17 August | Currency Creek Arboretum & Cemetery | Currency Creek Lions Park |
| Thursday | 29 August | Aldinga Scrub CP & Wash-pool | Cox Rd Aldinga, Gate opposite Aldinga Holiday Park |
| Sunday | 15 September | Newland Head CP | Waitpinga Beach Car Park |
| Wednesday | 25 September | Gilberts Siding | Corner Gilberts Siding Rd and Goolwa- Strathalbyn Rd |
| Friday to Monday | 18 to 21 October | Annual Campout - Robe | Long Beach Caravan Park Robe |
| Thursday | 31 October | Onkaparinga Estuary Wetlands | River Road car park |
| Sunday | 10 November | Goolwa Ponds – Beacon 19 | Goolwa Ponds Kessell Rd Goolwa |
| Wednesday | 20 November | Langhorne Ck Cemetery - Tolderol Game reserve | Frank Potts Reserve Strathalbyn – Wellington Rd |
| Saturday | 7 December | Christmas Break-Up | TBA |

Hooded Plover News

Only four successful fledgings have been reported this year on the South Coast. Some FBW members have been assisting Emma Stevens and other DEWNR staff to trap and band Hooded Plovers.



Photo of Hooded Plover taken at Watson's Gap 20/01/2013. Birds were captured, banded and flagged as part of a operation to band all birds on the Fleurieu. I understand 7 birds have been flagged so far. Each orange coloured flag is etched with 2 separate letters for identification. In attendance were Emma Stephens, Gri-
anne Maguire, Keith Jones, Ann Turner and Win. Syson. 2 adult birds were flagged at Watson's Gap.

Win Syson

Black Swan History

The first black swans to be taken alive from Australia were two specimens which reached Batavia (Jakarta) in 1746. They probably arrived in Europe for the first time about 1791, first in England and then in France.

The Empress Josephine had several on ponds at Malmaison. It seems the first to be bred in captivity in England were in the Earl of Derby's menagerie at Knowlsey. They were reared in large numbers later.

In a letter to naturalist and ornithologist John Gould, Samuel Gurney, of Carshalton, Surrey, gives the following account of his black swans: "They were purchased in 1851 and laid their first eggs in January 1854. They hatched their young during the greatest cold of that winter."

In England, the swans were considered unlucky and not encouraged.



Photo: Teresa Jack

Little Corella Survey

DEWNR have asked several birdwatchers, including members of FBW to take part in a Little Corella survey at a number of places in the Fleurieu. This is mainly a count, which will be done twice a week for eight weeks. Once numbers have been established the data will be used for Corella management following lots of complaints.

Peter Gower



Photo: Bob Daly

Peter's Book "Fleurieu Birds".

"Fleurieu Birds" by Peter Gower is a 280 page guide to all the birds of the region. It has a full page each devoted to 231 species, with several photos of most species showing various plumages.

Peter says:

'The book "Fleurieu Birds" is selling very well, with many people commenting on the range of photos used for identification.

It is available from several bookshops in Adelaide, including the Museum Bookshop.

In the Fleurieu region it is on sale at the Visitor Information Centres at Strathalbyn, Goolwa, Victor Harbor, and McLaren Vale, plus South Seas Bookshop, Port Elliot and Urimbirra Wildlife Park, Victor Harbor.'

Also available from Peter Gower

Email: gowerphotos@gmail.com or PO Box 290 Macclesfield 5153.

