



February 2014

Birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc



**WANTED for 2014 AGM:
Nominations for:
Secretary and
Committee Members**

**Saturday 15 February Hindmarsh Island Private Property
Ferryman's Reserve Car park HI.**

35°30'29" S 138°47'35" E

Friday 14 March AGM

Sunday 16 March Newland Head Conservation Park

Dennis Hut Carpark

35°37'39" S 138°29'59" E

**Wednesday 26 March Goolwa Barrage, Beacon 19, Murray
Mouth. Goolwa Barrage Carpark**

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



Party time at Laratinga (photo: Peter Gower)

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

Laratinga Breakup Saturday 7 December.

34 people attended including a few extra visitors and set up for a picnic on the lawn near the shelter sheds on a beautiful warm Saturday afternoon.

Neil led a slow walk around the main ponds and while the water level was extremely low resulting in lower than usual duck numbers we did see a few Spotted Crakes in the muddy areas near the reed beds. There were lots of wrens and honeyeaters, more White-plumed than New Holland H.E. and one of the BBQ shelters had a family of three baby swallows in its rafters.

We were so busy socializing and getting into the food we forgot to do a bird count. The food was wonderful with cold meats plus a great variety of salads followed by desserts and ice-cream.

Neil thanked Bob and Wendy for organising the chicken, turkey and ham and everyone excelled in providing the rest of the food with Peter Gower managing to keep the ice-cream cold in his car fridge.

It was a very pleasant end of the year get-together and the weather turned out perfect for us with such a balmy evening after all the cold and unseasonable weather we had experienced over the previous few weeks.

Wendy Phillips



Twilight Walk, Basham Regional Park Friday 17 January

13 people joined Denzel for the Twilight outing in windy but otherwise pleasantly cool conditions after the heat of the past few days. We had just set off through the trees when Denzel mentioned it was likely we'd see a Hobby and lo and behold two appeared directly overhead as if by command which was a lovely start to the evenings birding. The group made its way towards the beach and along the way a White-faced Heron posed beautifully on a fence post long enough to be admired and photographed. The usual suspects were noted including Starlings, Rock Doves, Galahs enjoying the wind, Singing Honeyeaters and Wattlebirds. Down on the beach we saw Pacific and Silver Gulls, Black-faced Cormorant and Crested Tern. The Common Sandpiper seen lately was a no show however the swift flight of a bird left many of us scratching our heads on its identify when Denzel solved the mystery by declaring it a Cockatiel. I don't know about the others but a Cockatiel at the beach was an unexpected bonus. We then walked around the beautiful coastal headland enjoying the view and adding a few more birds to the list before heading back past the Caravan Park where both Rainbow and Musk Lorikeets were seen along with Yellow-rumped Thornbills and an Adelaide Rosella. The bird call revealed a tally of 29 species of birds. Thank you Denzel for leading the walk in such a beautiful part of the Fleurieu.

Michelle Foster



Photo: Bob Daly

FBW Proposed Outing Plan for 2014

(Please check each Newsletter Events section for any last minute changes and GPS locations)

Day	Date	Location	Meeting Points
Friday	17 Jan	Basham Regional Park	Car Park near entrance to Port Elliot Caravan Park,
Saturday	15 Feb	Tarniwarra, sthn Hindmarsh Island (private property)	Ferryman's Reserve Car Park, Hindmarsh Island,
Sunday	16 Mar	Newland Head Conservation Park	Dennis Hut Car Park,
Wednesday	26 Mar	Goolwa Barrages / Beacon 19 / Murray Mouth (HI)	Goolwa Barrage Car Park,
Thursday	10 Apr	Hindmarsh River & Estuary	Corner of Wattle Drive & Pearson Drive, Victor Harbor
Saturday	19 Apr	Kyeema Conservation Park	Kyeema CP Carpark Woodgate Hill Rd.
Sunday	11 May	Browns Road, Monarto	Cnr of Browns Road and Old Princes Highway (top of hill east of Callington)
Wednesday	28 May	Bullock Hill Conservation Park	Greenman Inn Carpark, Ashbourne.
Saturday	14 Jun	Parawa (private property)	Corner of Range Rd / Parawa Rd,
Thursday	26 Jun	Onkaparinga River Gorge	Gate 11, Piggott Range Road,
Sunday	13 Jul	Paiwalla Wetlands, Burdett	Sunnyside Car Park,
Wednesday	30 Jul	Mt Billy Conservation Park	Hindmarsh Valley Hall, Hindmarsh Valley Rd
Saturday	16 Aug	Nurragi Conservation Reserve	Cnr Goolwa-Strathalbyn Rd & Main Rd,
Thursday	28 Aug	Cox Scrub (Coles Crossing)	Corner of Nankita Road / Heifer Lane
Sunday	14 Sep	Hardy's Scrub / Gemtree Wetlands	Gate 14 Car Park, Chapel Hill Rd,
Wednesday	24 Sep	Aldinga Scrub CP / Washpool	Cox Rd, Aldinga, opp. Aldinga Holiday Park,
Friday - Monday	17-20 Oct	Waikerie / Gluepot Campout	Waikerie Camping Ground / Caravan Park
Thursday	30 Oct	Currency Creek Arboretum	Lions Park, Currency Creek,
Sunday	16 Nov	Goolwa Ponds/Beacon 19	Goolwa Ponds Car Park, Kessel Road, Goolwa,
Wednesday	26 Nov	Ingallala Falls / Waitpinga Conservation Park	Ingallala Falls Car Park, Hay Flat Rd, off Normanville-Yankalilla Rd, or Range Rd, Parawa.
Saturday	6 Dec	Nangawooka Flora Reserve (Christmas Breakup) 4pm	Nangawooka Reserve Car Park (cnr Waterport Rd/ Adelaide VH Road)

Black-shouldered Kites make a visit

During the last couple of months on several occasions I've had visits from an adult and two immature Black-shouldered Kites. They have been using the high branches of two dead gum trees close to my house near Macclesfield in the Adelaide Hills.

The young birds have been very noisy, with calls similar to young Galahs. During the recent heatwave they spent their time elsewhere but were back again the morning after the cool change arrived.

Although flying quite well they were relying on food from the parent bird, with persistent squawking. They did have trouble though, keeping their new feathers in order, particularly when there was a strong breeze.

Peter Gower.

This juvenile was having a lot of trouble with uncontrollable feathers.



A stretch of a wing helped sort some of the feathers into a better position.



Are you making use of your website?

If not, take a few moments to check it out. Fleurieu Birdwatchers maintains it for your benefit. Our monthly Statistics reports show that it is widely used all over the world. In the last three months of 2013 we had visitors from every Australian capital city, UK, USA, Netherlands, Spain, Argentina, Finland, Croatia, Singapore, Canada and China. The Bird Sites pages and Our Birds were most used.

Details of Outings, including the proposed schedule for the whole year, are posted there. If there are any last minute changes, such as cancellation due to adverse weather conditions, that's where to find them.

Looking for a good place to take your birdwatching visitors? The Bird Sites tab will give you ideas of places to go on the Fleurieu.

Generous photographer members have contributed to the Campout records. The past three years' campouts are reported and 2013 will be available soon.

The Links page provides quick access to other bird websites you may like to visit and participate in. We have reciprocal arrangements with each of the organisations linked.

So, if you haven't visited lately, spare a moment or two, and Bookmark or make a Favourite of www.fleurieubirdwatchers.org so that you can return quickly at any time.

Verle Wood

Congratulations

Fleurieu Peninsula Hooded Plover volunteers called the "Hoodie Helpers" won the Coastcare Award at the 2013 Premier's NRM and SA Landcare Awards under the guidance of Emma Stephens.

They received a \$500 cheque and a magnum of champagne.

Ann Turner was featured on the cover of the program as she, with several other FBW members, assisted with monitoring and banding the birds.

This project is a great example of how government, NGO's and volunteers can work together to improve the plight of threatened species.



Mungalla Wetlands Campout - Article by Peter Owen

Some seventy members attended the campout at Mungalla, a small cattle station near Ingham. Whilst this was a Birdlife Photography event the local organising was done by the Townsville Birdwatchers. And what a great job they did, from painting and cleaning the ablution block prior to the event to providing group leaders for three tours on each day of the event. They deservedly received a big vote of thanks at the closing dinner.

On a personal note they also welcomed me into their outings in and around Townsville for nearly four weeks prior to Mungalla.

Townsville proved very rewarding and with the help of the local members I managed to sight 127 species including early seasonal arrivals of the Pied Imperial-pigeon and the Dollarbird. Other new birds included the White-browed Crake, Pheasant Coucal, Barking Owl, and Brown-backed Honeyeater. Each morning at the caravan park at Rows Bay we were awakened by a chorus of calls from Rainbow Lorikeets, Blue-faced Honeyeaters, Noisy and Helmeted Friarbirds, Figbirds and Great Bowerbirds. The nearby Town Common is also a hot spot with some three hundred species recorded there.



With my appetite whetted in Townsville Annie and I eagerly headed to Mungalla. We were not disappointed. I thought I did well to record One hundred and two sightings at four different locations during the weekend. However, to put this into perspective the group that toured Mungalla Station on Sunday morning recorded Ninety seven species. Of the five different locations Mungalla proved to be by far the best location.

Nick Tebneff from the Fleurieu Birdwatchers was in my group that visited a tropical forest location at Broadwater where we found a nesting Spectacled Monarch and to the Tyto Wetlands in Ingham where the highlight was a sighting of an Australian Little Bittern. Both Nick and I thought that our own Laratinga Wetlands produced more species than Tyto.

Mungalla produced several new species for me including the Oriental Plover which had just arrived for the season, Common Koel, Channel-billed Cuckoo, a male Shining Flycatcher, Yellow Oriole and Metallic Starlings which had just arrived. They had taken over a tree in Ingham and were busily building some thirty odd nests. It struck me as the avian version of Condo living.

In addition to the outings we also had the choice three workshops on Saturday and Sunday. Talk about wanting to be in three places at once however I did get to a very good presentation by Les Peters on Birdcraft accompanied by a series of wonderful photos.

On a final note we travelled south to Paluma and armed with info from the Townsville Group found the Golden Bowerbirds bower. Both Nick and I spent about two hours patiently waiting and were rewarded with several sightings. Another first!

Photos by Peter Owen



A Message from the Chairman, Fleurieu Birdwatchers

The past year has seen our membership maintained at 92 with a few new members balancing those who have left. Participation in our birding outings has increased and my thanks to Keith Jones for organising the programme in addition to his duties as treasurer. Thank you also, to all those who have volunteered as outing leaders. The 2013 annual campout at Robe was enjoyed by 33 in all, members, spouses and friends. Many thanks to Wendy Phillips and Bob Daly for their preparation and organisation of this excellent long weekend. Teresa Jack has kindly offered to organise the 2014 campout which will be at Waikerie with excursions to Birdlife Australia's Gluepot Reserve, weather permitting. On-going thanks to Verle Wood who continues to maintain and run our excellent website.

The state of any Society is a reflection of what the members are prepared to put in to it and for it to function it needs a few people to run it. I was disappointed that no one came forward to take on the job of secretary at the last AGM. Bob Daly who, with Wendy, produces our newsletter saved the day by taking the job on a temporary basis. We still need a permanent secretary and I hope someone will volunteer for the job before the next AGM in March. My other concern is the participation in our bi-monthly meetings with attendance usually around 12-15 persons. At this level is difficult to justify an outside speaker particularly if they are coming from Adelaide.

During the year we approached Alexandrina Council and secured their agreement to upgrade and make more user friendly the bird hide at Goolwa Ponds. At the request of Victor Harbor Council we have supplied them with a bird list for the Inman River flats and had some input into their proposed upgrade of the small bird hide there.

Please participate by coming along to the AGM where you can raise any issues that are of concern and perhaps make suggestions that can improve our society.

Neil Cheshire

Book Review:

GHOSTS OF GONE BIRDS - Resurrecting Lost Species through Art.

By: Chris Aldhous Published in 2013 by Bloomsbury in London.

This book is truly amazing. It is not only for Art lovers but has a fantastic conservation message to everyone around the world.

I purchased this book at the South Seas book shop in Pt. Elliott just before Christmas and could not put it down. Not only does it have fabulous art works in it but it clearly shows what the world has lost in bird species and the importance of protecting what we have left. It makes us realise the urgency of protecting threatened bird species for future generations and shows how ART can bring important messages to the forefront in fighting for conservation.

Birdlife International is the beneficiary as 50% of the sales of the book and Art work goes towards further conservation projects around the world.

Have a look on their web site. Just Google the title and you will see some of the Art. The book should be available in our libraries now or they can get it in on your request.

Wendy Phillips

