



Birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc



Saturday 13 February. Laratinga Wetlands Mt. Barker.

Car Park, Bald Hills Rd. Mt. Barker.
35°04'23"S 138°53'10"E

AGM. Friday 11 March at 7.30 pm at Goolwa.

Sunday 13 March, Hindmarsh Island.

Murray Mouth Lookout Car Park.
35°32'59"S 138°52'58"E

Wednesday 23 March, Langhorne Creek/ Tolderol

Frank Potts Reserve, Langhorne Creek.
35°18'31"S 139°08'28"E

Thursday 7 April, Manning Reserve/Gemtree Wetland

Whiting Rd. McLaren Flat.
35°11'26"S 138°34'49"E

Reminders

WANTED

2-3 New Committee Members.

(no experience required).
Contact FBW email or phone 8555 0634.

2016 Subscriptions now due. See page 6

2016 Outing Plan. See Page 7

Australasian Grebe and chick at Mt. Compass Wetland.
Photo: Peter Owen



World Wetland Day Tuesday, 2nd February.

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

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

Contacts: fleurieubirds@gmail.com or phone 8555 0634

Website: www.fleurieubirdwatchers.org

Newsletter: Contact email: fleurieubirds@gmail.com

2015 Australasian Ornithological Conference held at Flinders University 25th, 26th, 27th November 2015.

This 3 day conference was sponsored by *Birdlife Australia, Birds New Zealand, Birds SA and Adelaide and Flinders Universities* and provided a forum for the exchange of ideas and information between avian-based researchers and conservationists throughout the Australasian region. With more than 230 attendees, including four FBW members and more than 100 papers and posters presented over the three days, many topics were covered including:

1. Sea and shore-bird conservation.
2. Fire management for bush birds.
3. Cost-effective ways of monitoring bird populations.
4. The effects of feeding urban birds.
5. Waterbirds of the Coorong wetlands.
6. Bush birds of the Mt. Lofty Ranges.

Both these latter two topics gave excellent examples of the results of long-term monitoring programs carried out largely by students and volunteer birdwatchers.

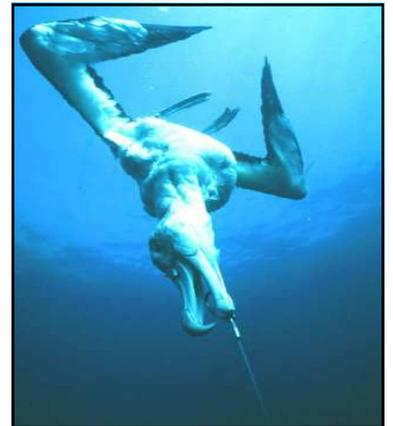
Sadly they both showed that habitat changes due to:

- 1) over-extraction of water in the Murray Darling Basin,
- 2) man-induced modification to the woodland habitat in the Mt Lofty Ranges have significantly impacted the population status of a number of our birds in these areas.

However, if certain human activities affecting bird numbers are controlled then bird populations have the potential to recover. For example, the survival of certain sea-bird populations has improved due to the modification of fishing gear. Also, changes in the practice of treating human waste e.g. closure of rubbish dumps can result in the control of large breeding colonies of disease-carrying gulls.

Keith Jones

The effects of long-line fishing decimated sea-bird populations. Banning the practice has improved their chance of survival.



The outing to Newland Head C.P. planned for Wednesday 25 November was cancelled due to high temperatures and extreme fire danger.

The Xmas Break-up Picnic in the Park at Strathalbyn on the 5 December was also cancelled due to a forecast of 40 degrees. Fortunately we were able to quickly change the plans and book Dinner at the Victoria Hotel across from the park and sit in air-conditioned comfort. 24 members attended and enjoyed the excellent food and venue.

Birdlife Australia News:

This year BirdLife Australia will launch a new campaign to make 2016 the year to turn things around for our declining migratory shorebirds. While saving migratory shorebirds is a global issue, BirdLife Australia is committed to supporting and extending the incredible work of Shorebirds 2020 staff and AWSG volunteers to facilitate shorebird protection both in Australia and throughout the Australasian-East Asian Flyway.

BirdLife will host a **shorebird conservation summit** and take a leadership role in implementing the federal government's forthcoming Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds.

There will be many ways you can get involved in the campaign, monitoring their progress along the flyway or running an event on World Migratory bird day in May. *We will keep you posted.*

News from Tolderol:

Natural Resources S.A. Murray-Darling Basin sent out an invitation to attend the end of the year celebration at Tolderol on 4 December. Six FBW members joined in. We split into two groups for the survey and enjoyed a BBQ lunch afterwards. Water is being delivered into the 3 main basins that were filled last year and repairs to the pump have made it much more efficient. Work is planned over the next few months to extend the water further into other basins.

The water levels are now better controlled to suit the various waders and are providing feeding grounds for many varied species from the tiny Red-necked Stints to large Ibis.

Bird counts can be sent in at any time when you visit Tolderol and this information is vital for the project to continue into the future. The more people involved the greater the chances of gaining further funding. Please email your observations/bird counts to Kate Mason. Kate.Mason@sa.gov.au

A private survey on 14th December revealed over 1000 plus Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, 60 Curlew Sandpipers, 100 Red-necked Stints, 5 Pacific Golden Plovers, 4 Black-tailed Godwits, and 25 Marsh Sandpiper, 6 Wood Sandpipers. There were a few Red-capped Plovers and Red-kneed Dotterels and one Latham Snipe. 2500 Whiskered Terns, 105 Caspian Terns, 6 White-winged Black Terns. There were Spoonbill and Ibis but no Glossy Ibis at this stage. 18 Banded Plovers were seen in a nearby paddock. *Just so much to see!*

A request has been sent out to form a Working Group Committee to help devise a plan for the ongoing management of the Reserve. People with an interest in Tolderol Game Reserve/ Wetland can apply for 6 positions. If you have skills in Agricultural irrigation, Waterbird ecology or an interest in the local region and would like to apply contact Kate Mason, Wetlands Management Officer, NR SAMDB. (address above)



The Group at Tolderol Information Day



John Chris and Kate make it all happen!



A rare sight. **White-winged Black Tern at Tolderol.** Photo: *Regina Durbridge*

You can be excused for not recognising this Tern as it is in its non-breeding plumage. It's a more common migrant to northern Australia and rare in the southern area. Recently spotted amongst the Whiskered and Caspian Terns. It is slightly smaller than the Whiskered Tern.



TASSIE TRIP October 2015 by Ann Houghton.

Les and I were lucky enough to tag-along with the Warnambool Birdlife Group to Tasmania in October. We took our car on the overnight ferry from Melbourne to Devonport then headed to Beauty Point where we met up with the rest of the group. We stayed at caravan parks along the way which had been booked prior to departure. Our objective was to see the endemic birds of Tasmania and for us to photograph them whilst others were content to see them. Our route took us down to Swansea, on the east coast and then on to Seven Mile Beach, Port Arthur, Bruny Island, Bronte Park, Strahan then back to Devonport for a daylight ferry crossing back to Melbourne.

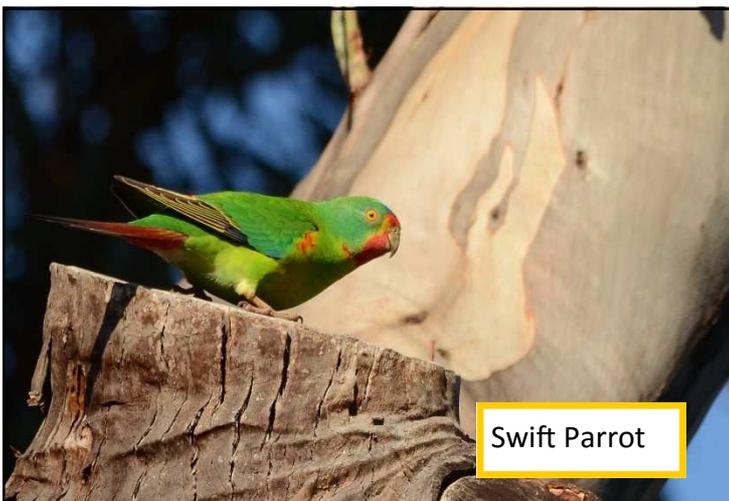
The whole trip was fantastic taking two weeks with highlights being Bruny Island where we saw the Swift Parrot, Dusky Robin and Bassian Thrush and included a visit to the beautiful lighthouse on the south island of Bruny with its stunning views. Another highlight for me was going on my first pelagic trip out from Eaglehawk Neck where every bird was new to me. Seeing the magnificent Albatross species up close looking so smooth and sleek, was stunning plus the many other species that came in too. When in Strahan we did a cruise up the Gordon River and on a walk to see the Huon pines along a rainforest boardwalk we saw the most beautiful Pink Robin. It came in close to us and sat on the railings - *that made my day*. There is still so much more to see in Tassie that we may just have to return again.....See Photos below.



Green Rosellas



Albatross
and Petrel



Swift Parrot



Baby Silvereyes

Good News for Waders:

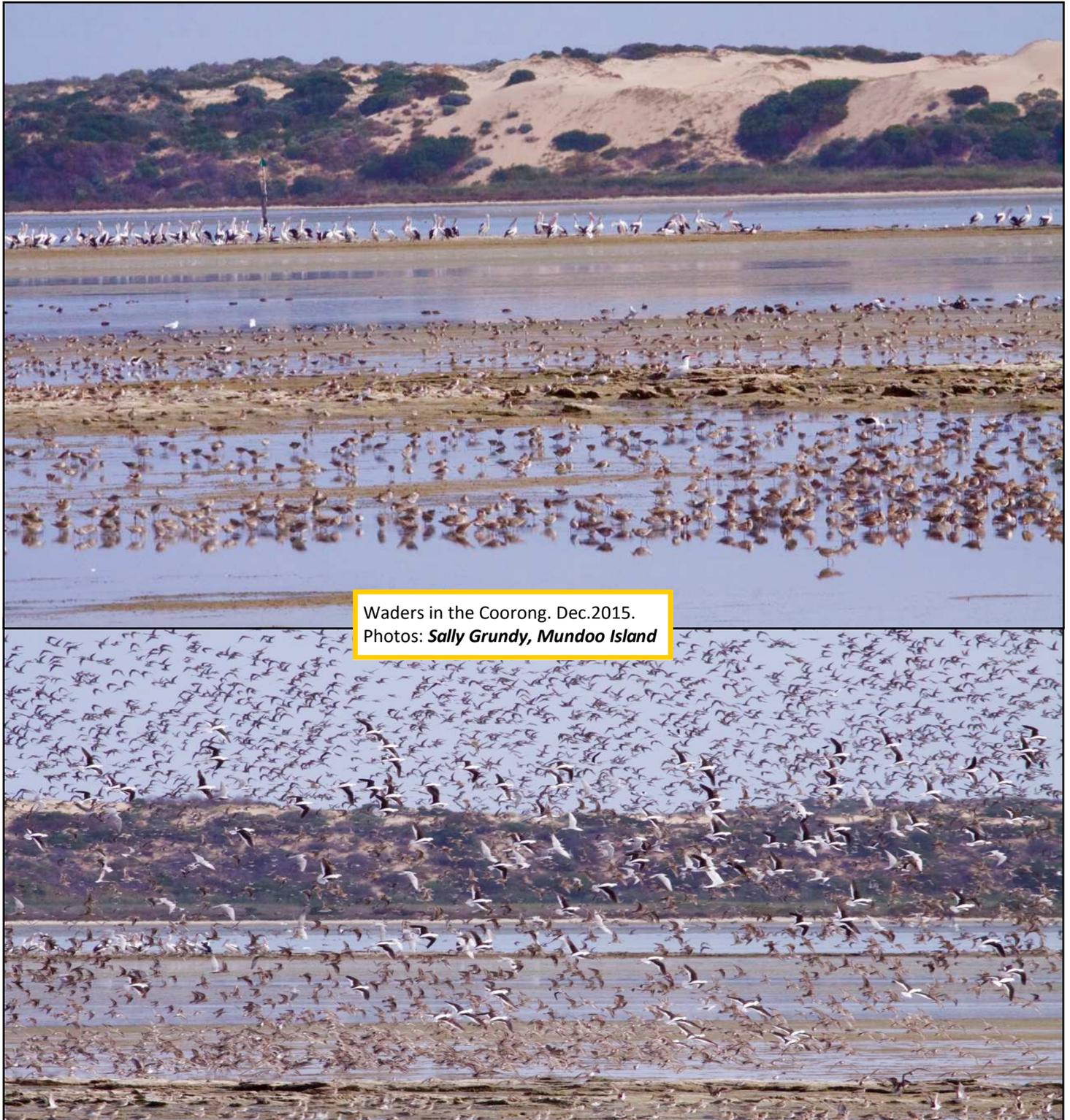
Europe's largest man-made wildlife refuge has been developed by moving millions of tons of earth down the Thames on barges from the excavation site of the new railway tunnel being built under the city of London. Shorebirds and waterbirds will benefit from the new lagoons, salt marshes, mudflats and islands built from the waste to attract migratory birds.

Coorong Cruise Bird Observation Report from *Dan Easton*. (via email)

A small group Fairy Terns sighted mid December with a few nesting on the Coorong near the mouth of the River. Hundreds of Australian Shelduck sighted late Oct. early Nov. near the Snake Pit. Good numbers of waders filling up the sandbars all along the way mostly sandpipers and stints.

A few Banded Stilts present in the south and large numbers of Avocets nearer the Goolwa Barrage.

This is a great time to book a boat trip on the 'Spirit of the Coorong' or the 'Coorong Cruise' and view the amazing bird life present.



Waders in the Coorong. Dec.2015.
Photos: **Sally Grundy, Mundoo Island**

A Mundoo Island Tour can be arranged with Sally Grundy. If you missed out last year or would like to go again please let me know. Cost \$30 each for one and half hours. Wendy Phillips 8555 0634

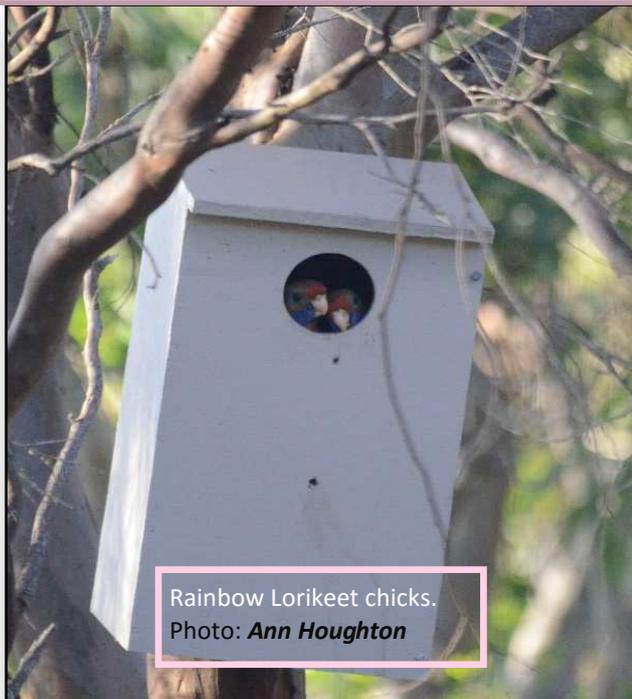
Twilight Outing, Friday 15 January, Goolwa Barrage.

It was perfect weather for our Twilight Bird Outing followed by a BBQ at the Barrage Picnic Shelter. 23 Members enjoyed our bird searching between the Barrage and Beacon 19. The tide had been out so there were good numbers of birds on show. Many Pelicans, Swans, Great Cormorants and Grey Teal, good number of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and 40 Red-neck Avocets. There were 12 Great Egrets, 3 Little Egrets and 4 Royal Spoonbills that had been seen back near the bird hide. 45 species were found in total with the help of so many eyes.

Teresa Jack.



Little Egret in breeding plumage. Photo: Teresa Jack



Rainbow Lorikeet chicks.
Photo: Ann Houghton

Newhaven Bird Survey.

The annual Newhaven Bird Survey will be held between 5th and 19th March 2016. Newhaven lies 340kms north west of Alice Springs in the Great Sandy Desert. It was originally purchased by Birds Australia before being transferred to the Australian Wildlife Conservancy in 2006.

Meticulous maintenance and fire management regimes has transformed Newhaven into an oasis in the desert.

So if the thought of being part of a dynamic team surveying one of the most beautiful remote areas in Australia appeals, contact the survey coordinator,

Judith Hoyle, on 0437549301 or email her at

puffin_54@hotmail.com

Port MacDonnell 2016 Pelagic Trips:

February 14

March 13

April 10

May 8

June 19

Contact Colin Rogers

Email: calidris48@outlook.com



Black-fronted Dotterel.
Photo: Bob Daly

Fairy Terns in the Coorong:

Beside the small number near the mouth reported by Dan Easton, David Paton has recorded over 200 birds present in the South Lagoon of the Coorong with some also nesting. Unfortunately, the activity of 4-wheel drive vehicles had been noticed travelling through the nesting area near the mouth over the Christmas and New Year Season. SA Water have roped off the area and DEWNR have erected more signage to try and keep them out. **Beach-nesting birds are having a very hard time with the increase of traffic, dogs and people, as well as their usual predators.** To stop cars driving on beaches in vulnerable areas would help them survive!

Fleurieu Birdwatchers Guidelines for Outings:

1. Individuals participating in Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc. outings are responsible for their *own* wellbeing, health and safety.
2. People with allergies, i.e. bee sting or ant bites should carry their own appropriate medication.
3. You need to carry sufficient drinking water to remain well hydrated for the duration of the walk.
4. You must wear suitable footwear, clothing and a hat.
5. Leaders need to be familiar with the walk and before starting and need to advise participants of the planned route and any potential hazards.
6. The group should remain together as much as possible. Anyone who intends to leave 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 outing and the leader is responsible for recording the numbers and species seen which will be entered into BirdLife bird data.
10. On Total Fire Ban days the outing will be cancelled. Emails will be sent out the night before to notify members.

Annual Subscriptions for 2016 are now Due

Please pay the Treasurer by end of March.

- Single \$25** **Family \$30** (2 or more people at the same address)

*If paying by cash or cheque then 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 newsletters, or by hand at meetings and outings where possible. Please enclose a SSAE if you need a receipt mailed to you.

OR

To pay subscriptions by EFT

The following information is needed to make an EFT payment.

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

Ø Our account number is 015551140.

Ø 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.

FBW members need to be aware that the Club runs *totally* on volunteers. It is running low on Committee members and must have more if it is to survive as decisions can not legally be made without a quorum of members. All the jobs should not be left to a few dedicated people [as is happening at the moment] for if they cannot do it for personal reasons the Club will fold. Even if you are not on the Committee, you can share the workload by offering assistance with setting up the meeting room, serving supper, writing the outing reports in a timely fashion, sending photos and articles for the Newsletter, leading some of the outings, offering ideas to keep the interest up. Don't be shy!! Contribute what you can.

Proposed Schedule for FBW Outings 2016

Day	Date	Outing Venue	Meeting Point
Friday (Twilight)	Jan-15	Goolwa Barrage – Beacon 19	Barrage Car Park, Barrage Rd. BBQ afterwards.
Saturday	Feb-13	Laratinga Wetlands	Laratinga Car Park, Bald Hill Rd, Mt. Barker
Sunday	Mar-13	Hindmarsh Island	Murray Mouth Car Park, Hindmarsh Island
Wednesday	Mar-23	Langhorne Creek / Tolderol Game Reserve	Frank Potts Reserve, Langhorne Creek
Thursday	Apr-07	Manning Reserve /Gemtree Wetlands	Whiting Rd entrance to the reserve, McLaren Flat
Saturday	Apr-16	Newland Head CP / Waitpinga Estuary	Dennis Hut Car Park, Waitpinga
Sunday	May-15	Onkaparinga Estuary / Old Noarlunga	Old Noarlunga Town Hall Car Park
Wednesday	May-25	Cox's Scrub/Coles Crossing	Cnr. Nangkita Rd / Heffer Lane.
Saturday	Jun-11	Aldinga Scrub / Washpool	Cox Rd, Aldinga, opp. Aldinga Holiday Park.
Thursday	Jun-23	Angas River Walk	Coleman Tce, Strathalbyn
Sunday	Jul-10	Monarto / Ferries-MacDonald CP.	Monarto CP car park, on Ferries-MacDonald Rd.
Wednesday	Jul-27	Inman River Flats / Nangawooka Reserve	Barker Reserve, Bay Rd. Car Park opposite VH Library
Saturday	Aug-13	Private Property Currency Creek	Cnr Myrtlegrove and Goolwa Rd. Currency Creek
Thursday	Aug-25	Nurragi CP / Milang Wetlands	Cnr Strathalbyn-Goolwa Rd/Finniss Rd
Sunday	Sep-11	Brown's Rd, Monarto	Cnr of Brown's Rd and Old Princes Highway (top of hill east of Callington).
Wednesday	Sep-21	Bullock Hill CP	The Greenman Inn Carpark, Ashbourne
Saturday	Oct-08	Hindmarsh River / Estuary	Cnr Wattle Drive and Pearson Drive, Victor Harbor.
Friday -Sunday	Oct-21-24	Campout at Nelson Victoria	Kywong Caravan Park, Nelson.
Sunday	Nov-13	Scott Conservation Park (north)	Gould's Rd, Car Park Nearest Deep Creek Rd.
Wednesday	Nov-23	Granite Island + The Bluff	Granite Island Car Park (Near Kiosk)
Saturday Christmas Breakup	Dec-03	Oscar W Paddle Steamer Cruise	Goolwa Wharf Car Park

Please Note: Some changes may be necessary due to the weather or lack of leaders. On these occasions check your email or if in doubt ring Bob or Wendy 8555 0634. Reminders will be sent by email a few days in advance. *Thanks to Keith Jones for the plan.*