



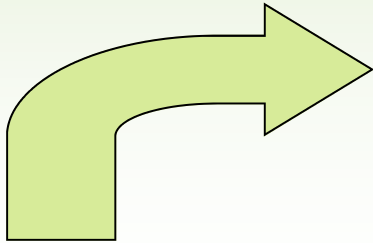
February 2017

# Birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc.

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## Events



## Reminders

**Urgent** —nominations for Committee Members required at the AGM.

**2017 Subscriptions due.**  
Payment details page 3.

**"Cruise the Coorong".**  
Details page 3.

**2017 Outings and Campout dates page 7**

**Saturday 11 February.** Newland Head CP-Waitpinga Beach.  
Dennis Hut Car Park. **35°37'39"S, 138°48'18E**

**AGM Friday 10 March at 7.30pm, Goolwa.**  
Anglican Church Hall, Crocker St Goolwa. Guest speaker:  
Alex Nankivell Conservation Manager Nature Foundation SA

**Sunday, 12 March,** Hindmarsh Island.  
Ferryman's Reserve Carpark, HI **35°30'30"S, 138°47'36"E**

**Wednesday 22 March,** Nixon Skinner- Springmount CP.  
Myponga Reservoir Carpark, Main South Rd **35°24'40"S, 138°26'16"E**

**Thursday 6 April,** Onkaparinga Estuary, Noarlunga  
Old Noarlunga Institute Carpark, **35°10'51"S, 138°30'09"S**

A young Nankeen Kestrel on Granite Island  
Photo: Peter Owen



**Meetings:** Anglican Church Hall, corner Crocker and Cadell Streets, Goolwa.  
7.30 pm 2nd Friday of March (AGM), Other meetings to be advised via Newsletter/Emails.

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

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

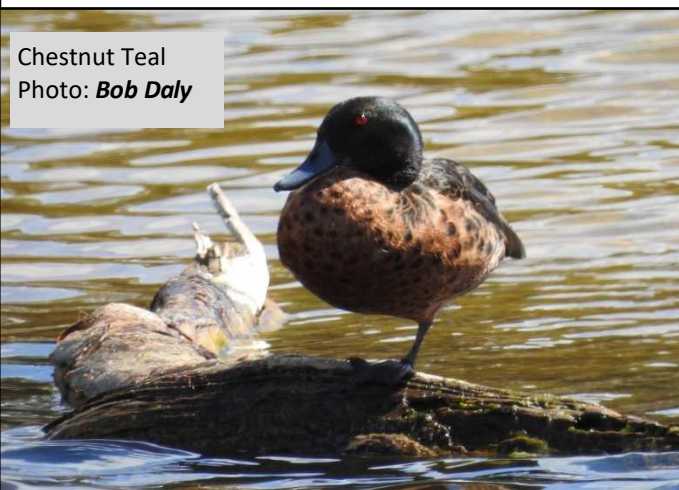
## Outing – Granite Island and the Bluff – Wednesday 23 November 2016.

A group of 15 met at the causeway entrance to Granite Island on a cool, clear morning. The outing was divided into two sections. First Granite Island and second the end of Franklin Parade, Kent Reserve, Yilki, Encounter Bay and Whalers.

As we walked over to Granite Island the wind became stronger which didn't augur well for us seeing many birds. Pied Cormorants and Singing Honeyeaters were early sightings. Further around the Island we were fascinated watching two, probably young, Nankeen Kestrels playing under a sprinkler and balancing on a nearby fence. They were watched by two more Nankeen Kestrels which remained further away high on the cliff. We saw Little Pied and Black-faced Cormorants, Pacific Gull, adult and juvenile, Caspian and Crested Terns. The rocks were checked for Little Penguins, but none were found. There was some discussion about a Cuckoo and it was finally decided it was a young Pallid. Photos will be checked for confirmation. The wind was very strong as we progressed around Granite Island and consequently not many birds were sighted. A total of only 16 species were recorded here.



Little Pied Cormorant  
Photo: *Peter Owen*



Chestnut Teal  
Photo: *Bob Daly*

For the second section we proceeded along the coast. Chestnut Teal, Pacific Black Duck, Sooty Oystercatcher, and lots of Silver Gulls with dependent young were seen. White-plumed Honeyeaters, Galahs, Little Corellas, Rainbow and Musk Lorikeets were busy among the trees at Kent Reserve. A pair of nesting Hooded Plovers stood still on the sand giving us good sightings. However once at Whalers there were no Terns and we were told, they are all off breeding! Another notable absentee was the Pelican. Lunch and birdcall at Whalers revealed 28 species for this section.

*Thanks to Neil Cheshire for leading an interesting outing.*  
**Margaret Dreyer**

## “Oscar W” Charter—Saturday 3 December.

The weather was perfect when we set sail up the Goolwa Channel towards the Barrage and headed off to Clayton with our special Christmas food and drink on board. This was a welcome relief after all the cancelled outings during the year with record rains and windy days. We had a full load of members [45 total] expected, but a few did not remember the date and missed out. The “Oscar W” volunteers keep this old paddle steamer running smoothly, providing



tourism for the Alexandrina Council. They do an incredible amount of work maintaining it, repairing the engine, collecting the fire wood and also managing the shop and museum on the wharf.

The *Oscar W* is such an important relic to show visitors a part of the history of Goolwa. It is a pleasure to still have the opportunity to travel on it and it would not be possible without the dedicated volunteers. We shared our meal with them and thanked all the people who made it such a special day bringing lots of great party food and drink. *Wendy Phillips*



# Annual Subscriptions for 2017 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 \$.....

OR

## 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.*

## Prestigious Award for Peter Merchant (UK)

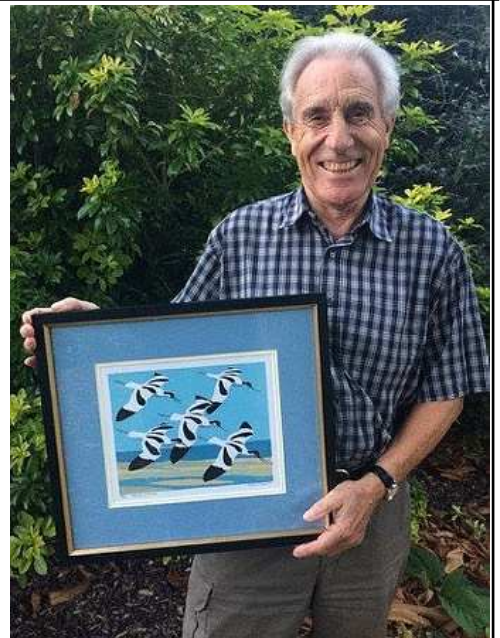
Members of longer standing in our group will remember Peter Merchant of Ipswich, Suffolk in East Anglia, England. Peter and his wife Mary have visited Mary's sister, who lives at McLaren Vale, a number of times over recent years and Peter has joined us at outings, meetings and campouts while here.

Peter's passionate talks, both formal and casual have been of great interest – from Raptor rehabilitation, his engineering and construction skills put to good use in building hides and huts on reserves, and many hours of counting birds migrating along the coast of East Anglia each year – to name but a few.

Peter has recently been honoured by the 'Royal Society for the Protection of Birds', the major bird organisation in Great Britain. He has been awarded the rather rare and prestigious 'RSPB President's Award'. This top honour rewards decades of voluntary conservation work.

Peter is shown here holding an artwork, part of the presentation, titled

'Avocets Arriving'. Avocets returned to UK as a breeding bird in 1947 after an absence of 100 years choosing Havergate Island and Minsmere Reserve in East Anglia: just two of the reserves that Peter is passionate about and has given countless hours of time to improve and maintain over many years. **Judith Dyer**



**Cruise the Coorong Charter** arranged for Wednesday 22nd February and Wednesday 1st March is booked out. Payment details direct to 'Cruise the Coorong' have been emailed to members attending. **FBW take no responsibility for non-payment or cancellations.** It is up to the individual to find a replacement or pay the full cost.

## Tolderol News: Regina Durbridge - December 2016.

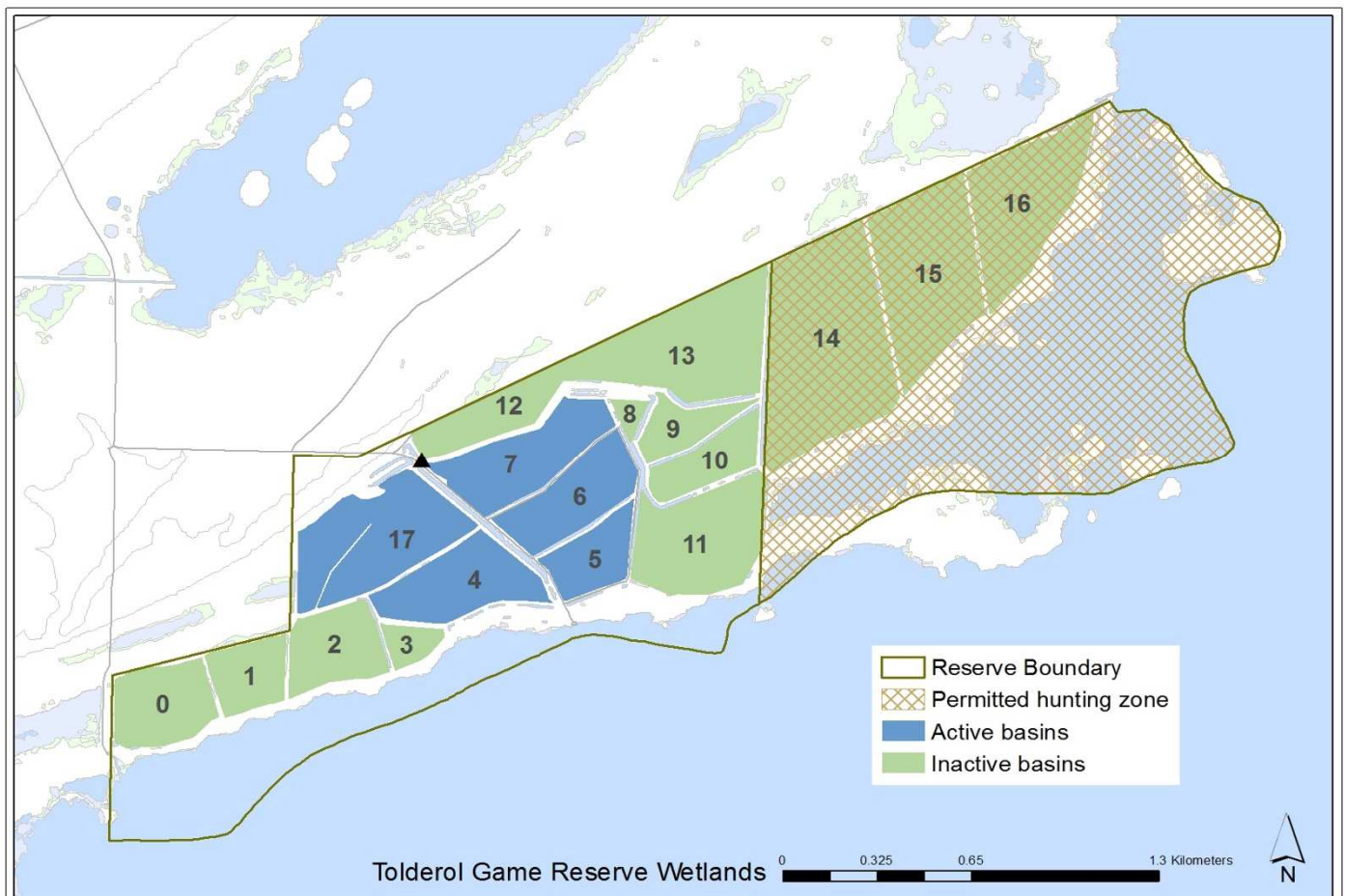
Thank you all for your support over this year, while it has been a slow start to the 2016-17 environmental watering season at Tolderol due to the very wet weather in spring 2016 it looks set to be another great season ahead. In recent weeks we have started to see some migratory waders arriving at the reserve, sightings include; 50 Curlew Sandpipers, 9 Common Greenshanks, > 200 Sharp-tailed sandpipers, Red-necked stints, 3 Golden plovers and a partridge in a pear tree! (Just kidding about the partridge). Our Australasian Bittern/s have also been sighted and can be heard calling at the reserve around Bay 11 – just across from the concrete picnic bench. **15 Glossy Ibis have just been sighted this morning!**

Most of the waders are to be found around Bays 10 and 11 however you will need a sharp eye to find them among the samphire. We are hoping to have Bay 17 ploughed in the next couple of weeks and then watered which will provide valuable habitat for our migratory visitors.

Thanks to Birds SA, Conservation and Hunting Alliance of South Australia (CHASA), Fleurieu Birdwatchers (FBW) and the Signal Point Riverine Environment Group (SPREG) for financial donations this past season, and a very big thank you goes to Chris Eckert and also to Peter Koch who has been hard at work slashing and repairing tracks around the reserve and operating the pump it is greatly appreciated.

The new plantings just to the right of the Tolderol entrance gate are coming along well, 4990 plants were planted in winter 2016 as part of the Coorong, Lower Lakes & Murray Mouth Community Revegetation project which was managed by the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association. Plants were planted by a number of different groups including; Langhorne Creek Netball Club, Birds SA, River Murray Youth Council, Fleurieu Birdwatchers, Signal Point Riverine Environment Group, CHASA and the Tolderol Working Group, so we should see an increase in bird species recorded at Tolderol in the coming years.

Don't forget to send through your bird sightings/photographs to Kate Mason [kate.mason@sa.gov.au](mailto:kate.mason@sa.gov.au) or Regina Durbridge [regina.durbridge@gwlap.org.au](mailto:regina.durbridge@gwlap.org.au) or share them to our Tolderol Facebook Community page <https://www.facebook.com/tolderolgamereserve/>







## An Update on Glossy Black-Cockatoo Population on Kangaroo Island.

**373** birds were counted in the 2016 annual census. This was the highest count ever recorded. The population is steadily increasing, with 38 juveniles (bubs still tagging along with parents) and 15 immature (the young ones kicked out of home).

Contact: **Karleah Berris** if you can volunteer in 2017. [Karleah.Berris@sa.gov.au](mailto:Karleah.Berris@sa.gov.au)

*Attached is a picture of one of the nestlings from 2016 which fledged from the Cygnet River area.*

## Local Bird Spotting by Win Syson - November 2016. What a great breeding season!

*I took a few pictures at **Beyond and Chippendale Estate, Hayborough**. The Swans had 6 Cygnets. There were 3 sets of Coots with chicks and 2 sets of Dusky Moorhens. The discovery of 30+Fairy Martin nests under the eaves of a single story house near Len Farquar Reserve, Hayborough was very unusual.*

*I also had my first ever sighting of a Little Grassbird feeding a chick. Photos supplied by Win.*



### **Fairy Martins**

are known for their bottle-shaped nests often in large clusters usually in caves or under bridges. This house is occupied and it is unusual for *Fairy Martins* to use such a structure with people nearby. *Tree Martins* are more common around here and they use tree hollows for their nests.





**World Wetland Day**  
**Thursday 2nd February.**  
*Celebrated all around the world*



Looking after the Wetlands can bring a positive response! Six Cygnets hatched from this nest at Goolwa Ponds Dec. 2016. Photos: *Bob Daly*

**Twilight Outing— Friday 20 January at Laratinga, Mt. Barker.**



Laratinga— Photo: *Bob Daly*

10 FBW members met on our first outing for 2017 on a clear and pleasant Friday afternoon. The summer rains had filled the lakes and the streams between the lakes were gently flowing. Our 2 hour meander followed the usual path around the lakes with frequent stops for observing the water birds. The healthy reeds around the lakes provided excellent shelter for unseen, but vocal Little Grassbirds and on a number of occasions the Clamorous Reed Warblers displayed for the photographers. We saw a couple of Black-fronted Dotterels at the edge of one of the lakes. The ducks were mainly Pacific Black, Grey Teal, Chestnut Teal and Wood Duck. A resting Pelican was seen on one of the islands. On the previous Monday, one of our group saw Pink-eared Ducks and a Yellow-billed Spoonbill. Along the streams we saw White-faced Herons and Purple Swampheens (both adults and juveniles). The

trees surrounding the lakes contained White-plumed and New Holland Honeyeaters and Crimson Rosellas. In the undergrowth a Common Bronzewing and Superb Fairy-wrens were observed. A bonus for several of us was the sighting of a Superb Fairy-wren's nest in use. Above were a number of feeding Tree Martins. We finished the evening with a light tea, a good chat, and the bird count resulted in a total of 31 species. **Keith Jones**

**Campout Booking Details for Oct. 2017.**

**Willow Springs** is an operating sheep station in the Flinders Ranges area of South Australia located approximately 21 Kms North of Wilpena Pound. It can be reached from the Wilpena-Blinman-Arkaroola road just north of the Stokes Hill Lookout. Their website has details of accommodation available.

If you wish to book accommodation early, contact Flinders Ranges Accommodation Booking Service.

P.O. Box 14, Hawker 5434 or call Phone 61 8 86484022 or Email: [bookings@frabs.com.au](mailto:bookings@frabs.com.au)

**Wanted:** Assistance with managing FBW website. Please contact Verle Wood. [verlew@bigpond.net.au](mailto:verlew@bigpond.net.au) *She is willing to teach you.*

## Fleurieu Birdwatchers Outing Plan for 2017

(Please print own copy)

Date	Day	Location	Meeting Point
January 20	Friday (twilight)	Laratinga Wetlands,	Bald Hills Rd Carpark Mt. Barker
February 11	Saturday	Newland Head CP	Dennis Hut Car Park,
March 12	Sunday	Hindmarsh Island (Private Property, Murray Mouth )	Ferryman's Reserve carpark
March 22	Wednesday	Nixon Skinner, Springmount CPs	Car Park overlooking Myponga Reservoir, Main South Rd
April 6	Thursday	Onkaparinga Estuary	Car Park next to Old Noarlunga Institute
April 22	Saturday	Clayton Bay	Clayton Bay Sails Café car park
May 14	Sunday	Aldinga Scrub	Car park adjacent to Aldinga Holiday Village, Cox Rd
May 24	Wednesday	Monarto & Ferries/Macdonald CPs	To be determined
June 10	Saturday	Cox's Scrub (NE & Coles Crossing)	Ashbourne/Goolwa rd, CP Car Park
July 16	Sunday	Nurragi CP & Milang Wetlands	Cnr Goolwa/Strathalbyn and Finnis Rds
August 12	Saturday	Hardy Scrub, McLaren Vale	Chapel Hill Rd Gate 16
September 10	Sunday	Private Property (Currency Creek)	Cnr Goolwa/Strathalbyn and Myrtleford Rds
Sept 23	Saturday	Mt Billy CP, Hindmarsh Falls	Hindmarsh Valley Rd Car Park
October 11	Wednesday	Ingallala Falls, Springs Rd Forest Reserve	Ingallala Falls Car Park (Hay Flat Rd)
Oct 20-23	Annual Outing	Willow Springs Pastoral Station, Flinders Ranges	Willow Springs
November 1	Sunday	Tolderol Game Reserve Langhorne Creek Cemetery,	Tolderol Game reserve
November 22	Wednesday	Bullock Hill CP	Greenman Inn Car Park, Ashbourne
December 2	Saturday (Christmas breakup)	TBA	TBA

This program is subject to change and a notice will be sent via email. If not on email then phone 85550634 to check when the weather is doubtful. You do not need to book attendance for any of the normal outings only when requested for campout and other special events. *Please* notify us if you change your email address or phone no.



The Wildlife Welfare Organisation is pleased to report that the new purpose built **Wildlife Rescue Centre in Goolwa is almost completed**. The interior fittings are now being assembled and pieces of equipment have been installed.

There are still some substantial rehabilitation aviaries to be constructed, but one large three bank aviary is already completed. Hopefully rehabilitation work can commence in the very near future.

A very exciting time!

*Rena Robinson.*



The New Wildlife Rescue Centre.  
Skewes Road, Goolwa.



Who's the Boss here?

### MEMBERS:

Please talk to us if you find anything you would like to see changed. The AGM is your chance to raise issues for further discussion. Send an email or ring us to put it on the agenda. We **need members contributions** to keep the Club viable.

Come with your suggestions. Some changes are being made this year!

**Have your say!**



Silent Members!

### An Invitation to Tolderol Open Day.

Join in for a BBQ Lunch, Sunday 5 February at 12 noon.

Hear the latest news on the Reserve. Please contact Regina Durbridge for catering purposes and bring a chair.

[regina.durbridge@gwlap.org.au](mailto:regina.durbridge@gwlap.org.au) or phone 0427 364 551

### Nature Foundation SA

has developed walking trails at Hiltaba near the Gawler Ranges to commemorate the founders of the organisation after celebrating 35 years since it's beginning. There are also Nature Drive Trails to guide tourists through the landscape providing information on the geological features, Aboriginal and pastoral history, as well as the fauna and flora. The donations to Nature Foundation SA have helped to establish a range of accommodation options for eco tourism into the future. The repairs and improvements have been achieved with the help of volunteers who attend many working-bees.

If you would like to visit or use the accommodation contact:

Phone 83402880 or Email: [naturefoundationsa@nfsa.org.au](mailto:naturefoundationsa@nfsa.org.au)



White-browed Scrubwren  
Photo: Kate Crawford