

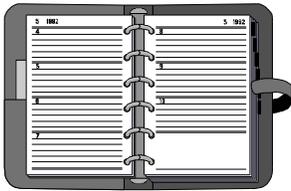


fleurieu birdwatch

FEBRUARY 1999

Meetings:	Glendale Christian School, start at 7.30 pm 2nd Friday of alternate (odd) months	
Outings:	Meet 8.30 am. Bring lunch and a chair - see Diary	
Contacts:	Judith Dyer, phone 8555 2736 3 Egret Avenue. Goolwa 5214	Kate Bruce, phone 8555 5020 PO Box 403, Goolwa 5214

FOR YOUR DIARY



Saturday 6 February **Brand's property at Parawa**

Meet at the junction of Range and Parawa Roads near the information signs.

Saturday 27 February

Muntiri, Milang. Meet at intersection of Strathalbyn and Milang/Clayton Roads at Finnis.

Wednesday 10 March

Currency Creek Gorge. Meet in the Lions Park, Strathalbyn Road, Currency Creek.

Friday 12 March

Annual General Meeting. Video: Cockatoos

Sunday 21 March

Boat Trip, Coorong. Departure from Goolwa Wharf 9.30 am sharp, return about 4.30 pm. More details overleaf.

Saturday 10 April

'Woodcone', Mt Compass. Meet at corner of Victor Harbor and Woodcone Roads by former Dairy Vale factory.

Saturday 24 April

Cox Scrub West-Coles Crossing. Meet at junction of Nangkita Road and Heifer Lane, Nangkita

CHRISTMAS BARBECUE

5 December

THANKS to Jim and Maria Marsh for once again providing facilities for a very pleasant get together at the Barrages. About 25 people attended for the meal and those who came earlier worked up an appetite with a couple of hours' bird spotting.

It was a cool evening, which subdued the mozzies, and water conditions below the barrages were different from last year. The water level was higher reducing the mudflats so we didn't see the number of waders. Of the 38 species recorded the following rate a mention: Great Crested Grebe, Musk Duck, Common Sandpiper, Common Greenshank, Royal Spoonbill, Great Egret, Swamp Harrier and Jim's resident Nankeen Kestrels - five of them.

The last few tickets for the Raffle were sold and prizes for the bird paintings drawn.

- 1st: Vivienne Crockett, Goolwa
- 2nd: Leon Auricht, Willunga
- 3rd: Jenny Fontanat, Goolwa
- 4th: John Smith, Goolwa

We raised \$247.90 from the Raffle thanks to the sterling efforts of many members who sold tickets far and wide. This money is a welcome boost to resources for our two

major projects, the Effluent Ponds and the Brochure.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

About 10 members gathered to take part in the annual pageant at Goolwa. Nick Marinos had done a splendid job with changing the group name on the banner at short notice. As we set off into a brisk wind it was jolly, but hard, work keeping it erect. So we took turns, except for Robert who was determined to expiate sins of some kind and lasted the whole distance.

Helen, Rosalie and Kate – Pelican, Sooty Oyster-catcher and Owl respectively – and Denzel with his oversized binoculars, were popular with the onlookers. Their performance of the last rites over a squashed friend on the roadway also amused the crowd. Altogether, it was a fun PR exercise!

MEETING REPORT

Friday 8 January

12 members, 2 junior visitors and adult visitor, Brian Jackson, of Clayton, attended the first meeting of the year at Glendale School, Goolwa, on 8 January. Apologies were received from several members but the later appearance of Judith, on her way home from holidays at Pt Lincoln, negated her apology.

Kate Bruce welcomed all and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Those present were asked to indicate on the attendance sheet their intention re the Coorong Boat Trip on 21 March. Members will be given first preference.

We were urged to fill in our Atlas forms leaving a blank for Location for the time being. Denzel will be able to provide GPS readings later.

Chris Wastell reported on the Effluent Ponds project: the building of the bird hide is expected to begin on 18 January.

This being a Members' Night three members gave their prepared presentations:

- Kate – Red-necked Stints
- Chris – Owls
- Rosalie – Zebra Finches

Other members then contributed their recent observations: Brian Ginno brought along two frozen Crested Pigeons and also told us about his resident Magpies regurgitating the casts of beetles; Judy Jones has sighted a Cockatiel locally; Ann Turner spoke about the invasive spread of the Common Mynah in her former birdwatching territory in Queensland; Dianne shared her observations from her



recent Russian excursion; Brian Jackson had seen a White-bellied Sea Eagle at Clayton and watched a Swamp Harrier make a meal of a New Holland Honey-eater; Verle had noticed a flock of Crested Terns in a feeding frenzy (pilchards?) in Encounter Bay; Renee was alarmed when a Crested Pigeon collided with a window; Bronwyn has lots of Superb Fairy-wrens in her garden; Hillary was concerned at the disturbance of the Swans by jet skiers on the river; and finally, Judith reported briefly on her Pt Lincoln experience.

Members were invited to a supper cuppa in the adjacent room.

EFFLUENT PONDS PROJECT

GREEN CORPS has commenced construction of the hide which Chris is overseeing most successfully. There has been a slight alteration to the height of the planned viewing platform to enable a good view over the fence to the second pond. Poles delivered for the hide were larger than planned, necessitating a change to bigger bolts, but all is OK.

STOP PRESS: *The bird hide is now in place, minus a few boards. The approach path has been completed and the earth work down the side fence to the second pond has been partially completed. We will need a working bee at some stage to finalise the cladding and put the table and seat in place. Further down the track we will need to build the platform overlooking the second pond.*

ATLAS

Judith is beginning to receive Atlas forms from members and others from the Fleurieu area. If you have any queries regarding filling in of forms, positioning data, sightings etc, contact her on 8555 2736. If you haven't an Atlas Kit and would like to join in Judith can provide one for you.

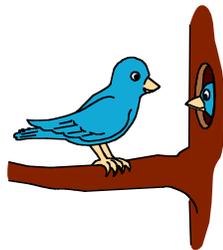
VIDEOS

Birds of Broome – The Endless Summer has been circulated to most members and donated to the Goolwa Library where it is available for members and others to borrow. The Librarian also plans to purchase the David Attenborough series *The Life of Birds*.

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS:

Brian Jackson, Clayton
Roger and Chris
Blackmore, Somerton Park



We look forward to meeting you and trust you will enjoy your birdwatching experiences with the group.

WEB SITE

The WEB PAGE for Fleurieu Birdwatchers is now independent, but retains a link to the Fleurieu site. Many thanks to the efforts of computer wiz, **Mary Haywood**, who has liaised with Jai, manager of the Fleurieu site.

We will also have a free listing in a directory of information sites for bird-orientated accommodation, tours and operators, local guides, books, bird clubs and societies and other useful web pages. The directory is advertised in appropriate magazines in USA, England and Germany as well as Australia nationally.

Check out our site on terra.net.au/~mhaywood/Fleurieu%20Birdwatchers.htm

Mary has registered the URL with AltaVista and also put a counter on the page to record hits. When you Bookmark it or make it a Favourite it should say Fleurieu Birdwatchers.

Cruisin' Down The River



BOAT TRIP

Sunday 21 March

Jack Miller will again guide us through the best birding sights on the Coorong in his purposebuilt boat. The maximum number of seats is 26 so the trip will initially be restricted to members only. A waiting list will be compiled so family and friends may come if places are available. We are hoping Denzel may be available to lead the outing.

Bring your own packed lunch; tea, coffee and water will be available on board. We may land for lunch so you may also like to bring a rug. And don't forget the *slip, slop, slap!* If the day is cool remember too, that it will be even cooler on the water.

Cost for the day is **\$25** per person. To confirm your place this **must be paid in full** on or before **Friday 19 February**.

Please place your **payment in an envelope** and forward to the Treasurer, Judy Jones

Mrs J Jones
6 Johnston Street, Goolwa, 5214.
Phone 8555 1108

In a newsletter there are always odd sized spaces like this to be filled. If you have any snippets of bird talk, copyright free, please share them around via this newsletter. I'll be pleased to have them, preferably written, but in any way you can – at a meeting or outing, via an executive member, snail mail to Verle Wood, 13 Marlin Terrace, Victor Harbor 5211, or by e-mail: verlew@dove.net.au

NEWLAND HEAD

Sunday 10 January

On this outing we had four adult and two junior members turn up. We had a good sighting of a Wedge-tailed Eagle. Then I thought I saw a Pelican in the distance but it turned out to be an immature White-bellied Sea-Eagle. It was a hot day and the furthest we went was the lookout but that was far enough.

After that we went to the beach where we saw 40 Silver Gulls, 9 Crested Terns, 2 Swans, 1 White-faced Heron, 6 Masked Lapwings and 4 White-fronted Chats. Afterwards we went back, very hot and bothered, to do the bird count. Then we went home.

Daniel Kennedy (Junior Member)

Well done, Daniel!

Snipe-ts

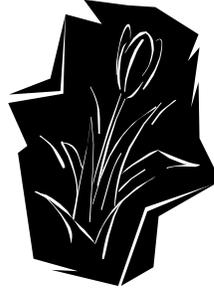
35 Japanese Snipe were recently spotted behind the Railway Cottage at Milang



Last week we visited the Pharoahs Exhibition at the Art Gallery in Adelaide.

I was fascinated by the number of birds featured in the hieroglyphics and spoke to a calligrapher there. She says there are 24 bird symbols in ancient Egypt's writings. The one which stood out for me was the Sacred Ibis, which

represented Toth, the God of Knowledge and Wisdom. *Verle*



GET WELL SOON

Maureen Kutcher was unable to attend the Christmas function but sent greetings to all. We do hope you're soon mobile again, Maureen, and can once more join us on outings.