



# fleurieu birdwatch

Newsletter of Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc

February 2004

- Meetings:** Anglican Church Hall, cnr Crocker and Cadell Streets, Goolwa  
7.30 pm 2nd Friday of odd months
- Outings:** Meet 8.30 am. Bring lunch and a chair — see Diary Dates
- Contacts:** Judith Dyer, phone 8555 2736                      Ann Turner, phone 8554 2462  
30 Woodrow Way, Goolwa 5214                      9 Carnegie Street, Pt Elliot 5212
- Website:** members.iinet.net.au/~verlew
- Newsletter:** Verle Wood, 13 Marlin Terrace, Victor Harbor 5211; verlew@iinet.net.au

## Diary Dates



- @ **Saturday 7 February**  
**Aldinga Scrub** (Willunga Wetlands unavailable)  
Meet at the entrance, Cox Road, Aldinga.
- @ **Wednesday 25 February**  
**Cox Scrub Conservation Park NE**  
Meet at the northern entrance off Ashbourne Road.
- @ **Friday 12 March**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Guest Speaker:** Brian Furby, Slide Librarian,  
BirdsSA
- @ **Sunday 14 March**  
**Penrice Saltfields**  
Bus trip. Contact Pat Ashfield: 8552 5415
- @ **Wednesday 31 March**  
**Woodcove/Mt Compass Boardwalk**  
Meet at the intersection of Victor Harbor and  
Woodcove Roads, Mt Compass, by the markets.
- @ **Saturday 17 April**  
**Kyeema Conservation Park**  
Meet at the corner of Meadows–Willunga Road  
(Brookman Road) and Woodgate Hill Road.

If you have enjoyed your past involvement with Fleurieu Birdwatchers please consider taking a turn on the Committee. You don't have to be an ornithologist — just interested in birding activities and prepared to contribute positively to the ongoing welfare of the group. Jim Marsh will continue his term as Chairperson for 2004 but other positions

become vacant at the

### **AGM, Friday 12 March.**

Five or six more members are needed and the new Committee will allocate the special duties of Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer at their first meeting.

Bring fresh ideas and your expertise to the program and

*MAKE A DIFFERENCE!*

### **Worn and tired?**

If your badge is physically and chronologically challenged please let me know and I will gladly make you a new one. Verle

**Be friendly!  
Wear your name badge!**

## Penrice Saltfields

Sunday 14 March

WE LEAVE GENESIS Depot, Waterport Road, Pt Elliot at 12.30 pm

There are a few seats left. I need confirmation from those who showed interest but did not book a seat.

Please forward \$25 to the

Treasurer, Brian Ginno, 6 Janz Street, Goolwa 5214, by 23 February. Cheque preferred.

I have **Conditions of Entry to Penrice Saltfields** forms that each person must fill out and return to me as soon as possible.

Please bring a sandwich or similar to have during our outing — it will be a late return home.

Pat Ashfield 8552 5415

## OUTINGS

### Nangawooka Flora Reserve

Saturday 6 December

23 MEMBERS MET on a cool fine afternoon for the annual break-up and bird walk. We enjoyed a guided walk through the flora reserve, with some nests of various birds, and side trips to the bird hide for some. We sighted 28 species on the day but only small numbers of each species. Given that the reserve is somewhat isolated from other scrub and the windy day, this was a very good count. The birding highlight was a lack of New Holland Honeyeaters (though a couple were sighted). However, a Black-chinned Honeyeater was spotted and enjoyed by those present.

Of course the meal and chat in the rotunda was the highlight of the day. A fun evening was had by all, with plenty of laughter and catching up on recent news for everyone present.

Happy New Year to everyone in Fleurieu Birdwatchers.

Yrena Mountford

### Inman River

Friday 9 January

SIXTEEN MEMBERS LAUNCHED the year's activities with a twilight walk along the Inman, from the tram horse paddocks on the Ring Road (popular spot for Masked Lapwing) back to Barker Reserve.

The calm summer evening enabled us to hear many close and distant calls, the elusive Clamorous Reed-warbler being abundant.

An Australian Hobby set the alarm calls off just on dusk as it swooped among the trees.

By the time we reached Barker Reserve all the birds had gone to roost except for a few Wood Duck still toddling about in the gloom, and we had to resort to headlight illumination for our bird call!

In all, 35 species were spotted.

Phyll Whellams

## Paiwalla

THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED Paiwalla wetland is located on private land midway between Mannum and Murray Bridge on the eastern side of the river.

On Saturday 17 January members of Birds SA and Fleurieu Birdwatchers who could be contacted at short notice, gathered at Sunnyside Lookout opposite the Bowhill turnoff on the Murray Bridge/Mannum road. From here we viewed the wetland below. Martin Philcox, chairman of Wetland Habitat Association which manages the wetland, and Peter Koch, its treasurer told us of the history and aims of the project. Peter, member of Fleurieu Birdwatchers and Birds SA, monitors the birdlife. Records are available dating from 1965, 141 species are listed. 18 of which had not been recorded before the recent flooding.

Light rain gave way to mild, cloudy conditions as we moved further on and descended to the wetland. Water birds abounded, Black-fronted and Red-kneed Dotterel, Black Swan, Pelican, Grey Teal, Shoveller, Pink-eared Duck, Black-winged Stilt, Australian Spotted Crake, Greenshank, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Wood's Sandpiper (first recording), Masked Lapwing and a lone Glossy Ibis. On the periphery Superb Fairy-wren and Clamorous Reed-warbler enjoyed the protection of dense lignum, reeds and weeds. Overhead Fairy Martin came from their cliff-face nests to feed above us. An Australian Hobby, a pair of Peregrine Falcon, Whistling and Black Kites, and Wedge-tailed Eagle all soared overhead.

Lunch and bird call concluded a very pleasant morning's outing with 77 species recorded. It is hoped to arrange further visits to this site particularly for those who didn't have the privilege this time.

A website on the Paiwalla vision is at <http://www.lm.net.au/~paiwalla/> but does not reflect recent changes. As the wetland is privately owned and access is through private land permission is required if you wish to visit. Enquiries to Peter 8532 1777.



Photo: Verle Wood

### Congratulations!

Just a quick note to let you know Chris and I were lucky enough to win second prize in the Birds Australia raffle. It includes a Kowa scope, Minox binoculars and a Nikon digital camera. We are very excited and can't wait to get notification of when and how to pick it up!!

Cheers, Bronwyn and Chris Wastell

Lucky people! The equipment had a good initiation at Paiwalla.