

Meetings: Anglican Church Hall, Goolwa, begins 7.30pm.

Outings: Meet at 8.30 am. Bring lunch and chairs.

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Report on Meeting, 8th March, 1996, Anglican Church Hall

There were 19 members present, 8 apologies, 2 visitors and 2 new members, Helen Marinos of Hindmarsh Island and Ann Turner of Pt. Elliot. Welcome!

Judith presented a financial statement for our 1st year. Subscriptions to remain at \$15 for a family (2 or more persons at the same address) or \$10 for a single membership. She also reported on a meeting that she and Kate attended with 'Neighbourhood House' re Insurance and Incorporation cover. N.H. has been set up by the Government to "facilitate small community groups and give them some legal structure". It may be possible to use their organization to obtain cover for specific events or to apply for Government funding for a specific project. **Bronwyn** will look at forms of indemnities and seek advice.

Kate advised that Council is seeking a local Bird-list, yesterday!! The importance of mud-maps was stressed - more useful to know where to go than to have an exact list of birds.

Committee Reports

Chris and **Bronwyn** Wastell were welcomed to the general committee, both are very enthusiastic and committed to the future of our group. Chris as Programme co-ordinator is working to prepare a programme for the whole year. An 'in progress' copy is attached. **Bronwyn** is going to take over from Pam as Minute Secretary and compile the "Birdwatch". Some initial comments from her are included with this issue.

A letter of appreciation has been sent to Pam in recognition of her contribution to the success of our first year. Her support and enthusiasm to the initial concept and her skill in setting up and introducing our "Birdwatch" will be a hard task to follow. We will all miss Pam's unique sense of humour. **Thank you Pam!**

Meeting starting time was discussed and it was agreed to try a **7.30pm start for future meetings.**

A Sub-committee for the **Sewage Ponds Project** has visited the ponds and is preparing a preliminary proposal to submit to Council for Birdwatching facilities at the site

The "**Workshop for Beginners**" sub-committee has compiled information and registration forms for the workshop which will be in place of our normal meeting on Friday 10th May with a full days programme on Saturday 11th. May. Although designated for 'beginners' it is hoped that the more experienced members will attend also as it is felt that they will benefit from observing Joan's approach to helping beginners get started. There will be no limit on Friday night enrolment but a limit will be placed on Saturday. We intend to publicise the workshop to the public. Complete information is included with this newsletter and the **registration form and payment** should be returned **A.S.A.P.** and no later than the **19th. April.** This will ensure that members have priority to places.

Outings Reports.

Sat. Feb. 10th. Ashbourne. (Paula)

A very cool and overcast morning did not deter 8 members from enjoying this rather special spot and recording 47 species on the loop from the intersection at the phone box, past the Golf course, across the ford which spans the Finmiss River and finishing with Hot Soup and BYO lunch at Paula and Alan's home.

The undisputed highlight was the Rainbow Bee-eaters and their aerobatic displays. Other sightings were a Sacred Kingfisher, both the Brown and White-throated Tree-creepers and White-naped and Brown-headed Honeyeaters. Superb Fairy-wrens were in abundance throughout the complete circuit.

Sat. Feb. 24th. Hindmarsh Valley. (Denzel)

37 species were recorded on this rather warm morning. 9 members and 4 visitors enjoyed the varied walk through the Reservoir Catchment reserve. We were greeted as we parked our cars by 3 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos in the nearby Pines. Undoubtedly the sighting of the day was a rare Bassian Thrush. This is an addition to Denzel's overall list of 80 species for this reserve. Other sightings were 8 different species of Honeyeater, Varied Sittella and a Collared Sparrow Hawk, or was it a Brown Goshawk, or did we see both!??

Sun. March 10th. Estuary Boat Trip.

This outing was by courtesy of Jack Miller in his brand new 26 passenger "Wetlands Explorer" with kitchen and toilet facilities, and what! a day; weather perfect, no wind, a very stable boat able to move close into the shallows, and plenty of birds in spite of the reported early departure of many migratory waders. 53 species in all; plenty of Red-necked Stints, Crested & Caspian Terns, Sharp-tailed & Curlew Sandpipers; some Grey & Lesser Golden Plovers, Bar-tailed Godwits, Sooty & Pied Oyster-catchers, the Eastern Curlews and the sighting of 2 Magpie Geese? by 7 of our party. (What else could they have been? Black Swans, Straw-necked Ibis, Feral Duck! What distinguishing features did you see?) All day, from 9.45am to 4.45pm and a great social outing. A repeat next year is a must, **thank you Jack from us all.**

Annual General Meeting held at the conclusion of the meeting.

Bruce, Judith, Denzel and Kate agreed to remain on committee. Chris and Bronwyn have replaced Pam. (Two for the price of one*!!). This high-lights how important Pam was to us that we need two people to replace her. Her contribution in setting up and introducing our "Birdwatch" cannot be under-estimated. Her enthusiasm to the establishment of our group and all aspects of it's organization throughout our first year have been invaluable.

Kate proposed a **Motion of Thanks** to **Bruce and Judith** for their efforts in establishing the Southcoast Birdwatchers. This was carried by acclamation. Kate says through their efforts and enthusiasm she can now distinguish a duck from an eagle!

Judith replied, saying how much they both had enjoyed sharing their limited knowledge with others and how much they had learnt from the more experienced members.

Proposed 'Campout' - Danggali Conservation Park.

Tentative bookings have been made for a weekend visit (2-4 days) from 27-30 September. This park is 90kms north of Renmark with minimal cost basic accommodation and facilities. Good bird-watching is assured (with little walking!) Independent travel is proposed.

On-site cabins are available at Renmark (and elsewhere) if you want to break the journey. Contact Bruce for details if you are interested.

Subscriptions are Due

Your subscription should be paid no later than the May meeting date, 10th May to ensure that you continue to receive your copy of "Birdwatch". Cost remains at \$10 for single and \$15 for family membership.

For Your Diary

Sat, April 13th. (Outing)

Goolwa Effluent Ponds, Cemetery and Goolwa Heritage Scrub.

Meet: At the New Police Station, Cadell St., Goolwa.

Sat, April 27th. (Outing)

Inman River and Victor Harbor Cemetery.

Meet: Carpark adjacent to Inman road-bridge opposite the V.H. Council Chambers.

Frid. May 10th. & May Sat. 11th. (Workshop)

Full details and Registration form are enclosed. Note starting time of 7.30pm.

Sun. June 2nd. (Outing)

Nurragi Conservation Corridor. This is the old railway reserve between Sandergrove Siding and Milang.

Meet: On Strathalbyn Road at the intersection marked by the 'Milang/Clayton' green road sign.

For Further details of future diary dates see Chris' "Programme Planner".

SOUTHCOAST BIRDWATCHERS



'Browsing with Bronwyn'

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

Well, our first year is over and what a success, with everyone putting in so much effort to participate and help each other, no matter what stage we are all at.

A very big thankyou to Pam who held the group together by producing a very informative newsletter to keep us all up-to-date and informed.

WHAT'S TO COME?

The committee met on the Friday after the March meeting and got to work on making a plan for the next year.

Chris Wastell is going to take on the role of "Programme Co-ordinator", so you can plan more easily. We hope this will help you all to be able to plan to attend as many outings as possible. Please let us know of any ideas you have for the future.

OUTINGS

We hope to get some-one to write a trip report for each outing. This doesn't have to be extensive, poetic or intellectual, just informative. This will let people who couldn't attend see what they missed out on!

We would also like some-one to do a bird profile to go with the outing report, so we need two volunteers to take on this task for each outing.

IT'S OUR CLUB

The club can only be as successful as the people involved, which we have proved in the first twelve months. Please let any-one on the committee know what we are doing right, or what else you would like to see happening.

We are all at different stages so all appreciate help and advice at each outing or meeting, and look forward to learning about and enjoying the feathered friends together.

MEETINGS

When we have Guest Speakers to our meetings we will try not to cut down on the wonderful sharing/learning sessions we all enjoy together.

To be able to retain this we will try starting our meetings at 7.30pm and give the guest for the evening until about 8.30pm. This will still allow time after for exchange of information and informal chats we all enjoy so much.