

Meetings: Anglican Church Hall, Goolwa, begins 8.00pm.

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

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Report on Meeting, 19th Jan 1996, Anglican Church Hall

Sixteen members sat in a novel circular formation which led to good interaction. We discussed the options for our future meetings and outings, as our next evening together will be our Annual General Meeting - time to re-assess how things are going. There was a consensus of opinion in favour of the informal group, and that we prefer the organization to be carried out by an elected Committee of five members (including a Secretary/Treasurer). Pam gave notice that the job of editor of 'Birdwatch' will be vacant, so please consider if you would like to take this on. We explored members' preferences for Outings days, and agreed that weekends suited more of us. A great feature of the evening was the good ideas for outings and talks put forward by members.

Christopher and Bronwyn Wastell have offered to give the Club a photograph album, and this was most gratefully accepted, so please start bringing your contributions.

Because of the time taken in these discussions, our short talks were a little rushed, but none-the-less enjoyable. **Jim and Gwen Baron** told us about birds they had seen on their East Coast travels (91 species), and had some great photographs to share. I liked the boat-trip at Mallacoota to feed the sea-eagles!

Anna gave us a talk on Scott Conservation Park, and encouraged us to offer Friends of the Park help with planting and weed-control later in the year. As Scott is proving one of our best birding areas, it seems a good idea to get involved in its upkeep.

Denzel must be congratulated for the skill and energy with which he performed the 'Diamond Firetail Grass Dance', before showing us very helpful slides of the five Cormorants to be found locally. Several members said how useful they found this.

Jim Marsh told us that the Pied Oystercatchers at the Murray Mouth had successfully reared two chicks, and that though the Nankeen Night-herons may still be seen at Pelican Point, they have gone from Goolwa. An adult Pacific Gull has been seen at the Barrage (fresh water). Lately there has been a large increase of Whimbrels, Knots and other waders especially at Ewe Island, where there are Teal and Black Duck

Steering Committee Report 19th Jan

In line with the wishes of members it was decided to keep the Meetings and structure of the club informal.

There will be regular Outing days on the Sunday after the Meeting, and also the *first* and *last* Saturdays of the intervening month.

Negotiations are proceeding with Neighbourhood House about our coming under their insurance umbrella.

The development of Goolwa Effluent Ponds as a birdwatching area has been discussed with the Council. At our next meeting we hope some members will volunteer to look at the area and come up with some ideas.

Outings Reports.

Sat, Dec 2 Christmas Party at the Barrage.

We had such a good time I forgot to count members and their guests, but I know how much we all enjoyed the peace and beauty of the setting, with good food and good company. The birds put on their turn, too. We saw 32 species, including a Rufous Night Heron and a Great Crested Grebe.

We are all very grateful to our hosts, Jim and Maria Marsh, and feel spoilt to have been there in that beautiful twilight.

Sat, Dec 16th, Goolwa Christmas Pageant.

We made a mess of this one! Due to a lack of good communication, it appeared no-one was interested in taking part, so we didn't attend as a group. We apologise to Kate, who turned up and walked. Pam made a Penguin costume, but wasn't brave enough to parade without support! Let's get it together next time.

Sun, Jan 14th Scott Conservation Park.

The very hot day kept all but three hardy members from attending. Sixteen species were recorded, including the Brown Tree-creeper, Black-chinned Honeyeaters, and Tree Martins.

Other Sightings.

Kestrels nesting in a nest-box at Middleton Heights (Lilian Harper); Black Falcon and hurt Cape Barren Goose (Inman area - Rosalie); young Magpies, Fairy Wrens, Wattlebirds, Black Duck feeding near causeway at Granite Island (Denzel); Crested Terns at Victor Harbor (Guy); Spur-winged Plovers with 5 young at Liverpool Rd (?); Magpies eating at water's edge in seaweed (Gwenda)

For Your Diary

Sat, Feb 10th, (Outing)

Ashbourne. Please note that due to late notification, this outing is on the second Saturday this month. Meet at telephone box intersection (Leader: Paula).

Sat, Feb 24th (Outing)

Hindmarsh Valley. Meet at Church Hall along Myponga Rd. (Leader: Denzel).

Fri, March 8th (Meeting).

Annual General Meeting. Subscriptions for 1996 will be due. They remain at \$10 single and \$15 for family membership.

*Sun, March 10th (Outing) * See attached Stop Press*

Hindmarsh Island. Another Wader outing - details to be finalised. We hope to have a boat. Meet on Causeway on Island side of ferry.

Sat, April 13th (Outing)

To be advised. This is a second Saturday again because of Easter.