

BirdLife Shoalhaven Magazine

Spring 2019



Image by Kim Touzel

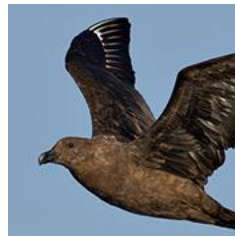
In this issue ...



Presidential Musings

Rob ponders the average age of birders and stars on YouTube.

[Page 3](#)



Brown Skua Photos Wanted

Find out where to send your Brown Skua photos.

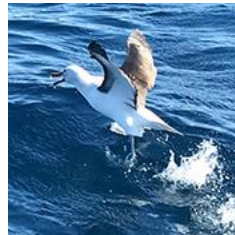
[Page 19](#)



Gimpy, Michelle, Zip & Swoopy

Lilli Morrison - a 12 year old tells us about her bird friends.

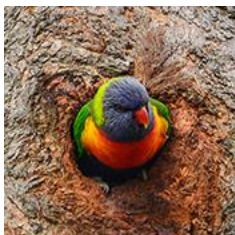
[Page 5](#)



SOSSA

Charlotte Brady takes us on a pelagic trip out of Kiama.

[Page 20](#)



Conservation Officer Report

Chris Grounds reports on the battle to save Shoalhaven trees.

[Page 6](#)



Ethical Bird Photography

Georgina Steytler explains how we should behave around birds.

[Page 22](#)



The Heads is a Bird Haven

A report on the Bird Haven Festival at Shoalhaven Heads.

[Page 8](#)



The Beecroft Weapons Range

Rob Dunn survives a visit to the north side of the Jervis Bay KBA.

[Page 23](#)



Bherwerre Wetland Update

Sustainable Tourism Infrastructure Projects.

[Page 11](#)



Cat Ownership

Allan Benson wants to change the law and save birds *and* cats.

[Page 25](#)



Black Cockatoos Big Winners

South Coast Black Cockatoos beat their country cousins.

[Page 11](#)



Web Watch

Intriguing conservation stories found on the Internet.

[Page 26](#)



Interview - Karen Davis

Our Treasurer tells us about her involvement with birds.

[Page 12](#)



Conservation Curiosities

Fascinating insights into the lives of endangered local birds.

[Page 31](#)

Cover Photo: Kim Touzel took this month's cover image of a Little Tern bringing food to its waiting chick.
Plus: find out about our new posters and banner - [page 33](#), and check out our Calendar - [page 40](#).

Presidential Musings

- by Rob Dunn

Should the average age for birders concern us?



So what happens?

Jobs, partners, mortgages are all part of the answer. Learning more about birds and nature and fighting to save the planet often slips down the list of priorities. Of course, there are exceptions. At the global scale, who cannot be inspired by the action taken by the emerging generation marching for action on climate change.

Closer to home, Intrepid Landcare is doing amazing work connecting young people to local environmental projects. The group was set up on the South Coast and remains very active in our area - <https://intrepidlandcare.org/>.



On a smaller scale, many teachers, parents and grandparents breach the generational divide and get younger eyes looking through a pair of binoculars, and when jobs and careers are coming to a close, many slowly come back to the fold. This is happening with BirdLife Shoalhaven, which has an increasing membership. So let's keep providing opportunities to learn more about nature for school children and young adults, be patient as many drift away, and welcome them back when they are ready.

We would love to feature more bird stories from people who are 40 or 50 years younger than me! I know they are out there!

This edition of our magazine is especially significant because it has one article written by a Shoalhaven school student and another from a university student. These writers are the youngest we have featured by several decades. This includes myself, as I am four decades senior to one, and half a century older than the other.

I hear a constant refrain about the need to get more children and young people involved and thinking about nature. Of course, this is right, but I am not as despondent as most. There are many already involved, but we just don't hear about them. Also, given the difficulties for younger Australians living in a post-baby boomer world, it is inevitable that many drift away from having a direct involvement, but often re-engage and become more active in later life.

The challenge of getting birds into school curriculums is not trivial given the many demands on teachers. However, BirdLife Australia is having success rolling out its Birds in Schools programs in Sydney, Melbourne and Queensland - <http://birdlife.org.au/projects/urban-birds/birds-in-schools-project>.

Also their Beach Nesting Birds programs in Victoria and South Australia, and the NPWS in NSW are excellent education programs. At our universities there are many students focusing on birds as part of innovative environmental courses and research. If you ever go to a bird conference, you notice that the quality of student presentations is excellent. They also know how to use PowerPoint a lot better than many of the older speakers!

BirdLife Shoalhaven hits the silver screen

BirdLife Shoalhaven has been featured in a 90 second YouTube video, highlighting the Shoalhaven as a Mecca for birdwatchers. Shoalhaven City Council's tourism team initiated and produced the video as part of its "Shoalhaven Stories" series.

This adds to the Tourism department's support for our birds through both its popular Bird Walk brochure, and through grants for the highly successful Bird Haven Festival (see my report on page 8).

The video features three of our committee members, Yolande Cozijn, Oisin Sweeney (with his children), and me. Importantly, the first message from Yolande is that BLS focuses on conservation and education.

BLS has - and will continue to have - many concerns about the impacts of tourism in the Shoalhaven. The influx of tourists to the South Coast is forecast to increase, but the more tourists who appreciate birds during their visit, the more support we will hopefully get for the conservation of birds and their environments from those very same tourists.

Having Council Tourism help us spread the message about bird conservation should be seen as a positive.

www.shoalhaven.com/blog/shoalhaven-stories-birdlife-shoalhaven is the place to go to view the BirdLife Shoalhaven "Shoalhaven Stories" video.



Rob Dunn and Yolande Cozijn (it's called "acting")



Yolande Cozijn (above)
and Oisin Sweeney with his kids (below)



Gimpy, Michelle, Zip & Swoopy

- by Lilli Morrison

Hi, my name is Lilli and I am a big bird fan and do a lot to help my bird friends. I know a Lorikeet named Gimpy who finds it very hard to share food, and a Satin Bowerbird who loves to use our old blue milk bottle lids.

Last year I met Michelle, a poor Major Mitchell (Pink Cockatoo) who was an escaped pet in Bomaderry NSW. She turned up at my Nan and Pop's house one night while we were eating dinner and decided to scream till we gave her a feed (peanuts). She is quite the character who has shown up quite often and became one of my best friends.



One day Michelle (above) came over with a strange eye infection and we were worried we were going to lose her. But she got better in the end. Shortly after we realised she had a harmless flat fly living under her feathers who we now call Zip. Michelle is very funny and we are thrilled to know her and call her our friend.

Recently we have been caring for a baby Magpie which fell out of its nest at Nan and Pop's house, which he was sharing with two other babies. It has been a great experience for us all.

What a delightful little Magpie he has been. We called him Swoopy. My sister and I took turns to feed him when we have been over in the school holidays. Sadly, Swoopy had injured his wing when he fell from the nest, so he has now gone to live with a more experienced carer, as we do not think he will be able to fly.

Editor's Note: Lilli Morrison is 12 and attends a local primary school.



Lilli (above) and caring for Swoopy (below)



Conservation Officer Report

- by Chris Grounds

The Tree Battles continue in the Shoalhaven

One of the major conservation actions of BirdLife Shoalhaven (BLS) is the development and presentation of submissions on particular issues, usually within the Shoalhaven, which require a BLS perspective.

These submissions are often shared within our network of conservation partners across the Shoalhaven, and at times we are co-signatories to shared submissions.

Generally, BLS works to a standardized format, which is revealed in the most recent submission concerning the exhibited Council Tree Vandalism Policy Draft.

The full BLS submission - like all of our submissions - can be seen on our website under the CONSERVATION menu.



The "Tree Vandalism" issue has its origins in the destruction of dune vegetation, but has had a life longer than many of the trees vandalized and destroyed.

Another strongly related element of this conservation issue continues to be the so-called 45 degree rule that is linked with an acceleration of the destruction of urban and peri-urban trees and tree canopy.

Only this week a recission motion to change the current council position on the 45 degree rule was defeated in Council's Ordinary Meeting.

The growth, expansion and development of urban areas has also come under attention for the degree and manner of tree destruction.



The sort of arguments BLS presented in the introduction of the submission were that we acknowledge the draft policy document as a necessary and valuable step forward in the management of "tree vandalism" in the Shoalhaven, and broadly speaking, BLS acknowledges and agrees with the principles espoused, and the intended outcomes in the draft policy.

Whilst it appears that with appropriate submissions and adjustments a good basic policy should result, it is just as clear that the implementation with supervision, policing and education will be the real test, though the policy draft suggests that is realized.

BLS, its members and supporters, are very conscious of the fact that "tree and vegetation vandalism" is now a longer term, entrenched and continuing situation, and a challenge for Shoalhaven City Council and the community, which involves many areas of the Shoalhaven.

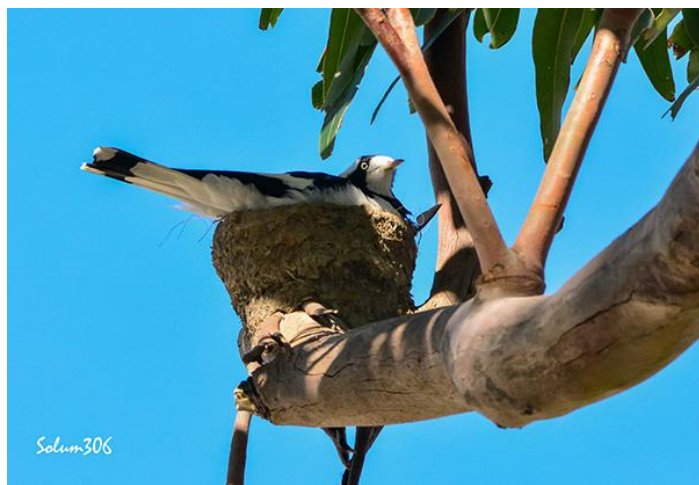


Many of our members are well aware of the extreme vandalism that has plagued Collingwood beach, but this is just one example. Vandalism has taken place, and is increasingly taking place in coastal areas and elsewhere in public places throughout the Shoalhaven. Our committee recognizes it as an unresolved, decade long issue.

For BLS, the focus element is that the vegetation vandalized represents serious habitat destruction, which impacts the biodiversity and the individual and collective health of the birds and species that would utilize such habitat.

BLS recognizes the importance of trees on private land and the concern that exists across the Shoalhaven with the demise of so many tree and vegetation clusters across the Shoalhaven as population expands and development occurs. Shoalhaven Council's Tree Management procedures have contributed to the unnecessary loss of so many "urban trees" on private land, road verges, parks and community property.

This, happening in the context of a recognized "climate emergency" and the nationally recognized critical status of Threatened Species, simply introduces more urgency to the success of this policy.



BLS provided four major recommendations in our submission.

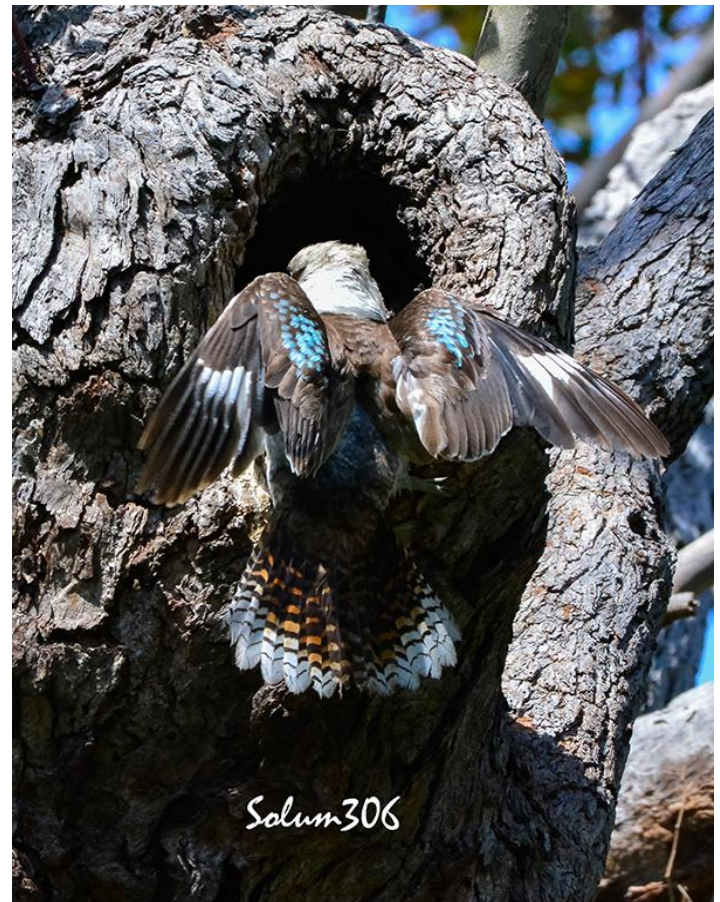
Firstly, that the policy draft, whilst mentioning habitat, needs to expand on that concept, and it is BLS experience that birds can be the least confronting, most appealing and educational way to do that.

Further, given that tree and vegetation vandalism has such a significant impact on birds, the actual profile of birds in the Shoalhaven needs to be recognized as part of the education theme of the policy.

Further, that the contribution to habitat in all its contexts must be recognized in policy as part of the management of everything from a single tree or plant to communities of such trees and plants if it is to be effective.

Finally, the submission contended that BLS supports the draft policy recognition of "Education" as a major component of progress through the policy but BLS is compelled to comment that it will have to be tailored to what could be called "Vandal Effective Adult Learning". This would necessarily involve structured, inter-related and sequenced strategies rather than a package of seemingly appropriate actions.

As is usual BLS practice, recommendations in submissions are supported by a range of relevant comment.



The value of BLS submissions also involves the support of any of our members in preparing their own submissions in terms of either content, appropriate arguments and format. Whilst BLS submissions are always prepared on behalf of the membership, members can provide valuable support with their own individual submissions as well.



The Heads is a Bird Haven

- by Rob Dunn

The Bird Haven Festival at Shoalhaven Heads on 18-20 October 2019 was a huge success and the organisers, Perrie Croshaw and Cathy Law, should be congratulated for an amazing achievement!



Perrie Croshaw, Tim Low and Cathy Law

Last year Perrie and Cathy wanted to do something to get people thinking about nature, and they saw birds as a great way to do just that. October was chosen to coincide with BirdLife Australia's Bird Week and the Aussie Backyard Bird Count, as well as a perfect time to see migratory shorebirds at the Heads. 2018 was the inaugural event and was very successful, so they set out to do something bigger and better in 2019.

They certainly pulled it off!

As Cathy says, "Our aim right from the start was for people to learn something about birds while having fun. The feedback overwhelmingly shows we met that target. We are just thrilled."

The three days of the Festival had so much on offer.



On Friday evening, Sean Dooley, editor of BirdLife Australia's award-winning magazine, kicked off the Festival at the Heads Bowling Club with an entertaining look back at his quest to see over 700 birds in one year. Sean is unique in the Australian birding community. Who else can claim to be a stand-up comedian and make a crowd of 200 laugh so much about birds?



Saturday started off with a migratory shorebirds workshop with Dan Lees from BirdLife Australia, followed by a bird walk to the Heads to look at some of these long-distance specialists. The workshop was repeated on Sunday.



The Bowlo was full again on Saturday for talks on a broad range of subjects after a Welcome to Country by Jerrinja elder, Delia Lowe (below).



Researcher Nicholas Carlile spoke about how rehabilitation work on the Five Islands Nature Reserve off Wollongong is helping the survival of Australia's smallest seabird - the White-faced Storm Petrel.



Nicholas Carlile (photo by [Esther Beaton](#))

Jacqueline Nguyen from the Australian Museum opened everyone's eyes to the world of avian paleontology. Peggy McDonald covered her tireless efforts to rehabilitate raptors at her centre in the Southern Highlands. Fiona Blandford and Andrew Hunter from BirdLife Australia talked about the Act for Birds campaign, exemplified by the fight to stop a major development at the Ramsar-listed Toondah Bay in southern Queensland. Prof Richard Fuller from the University of Queensland talked about the decline of some of our migratory shorebirds, but finished with the up-beat news that governments along the East Asian Australasian Flyway had agreed recently to stop further loss of vital mud-flat habitat.



Peggy McDonald from the Higher Ground Raptor Centre

The final speaker was Tim Low, the author of *Where Song Began*, an acclaimed book which explains how Australia is the source of all the songbirds in the world. Cathy Law says, "People were fascinated to hear that in Australia it is birds, rather than bees, that are responsible for pollinating most of our native plants. This makes their continued existence even more important. We are delighted that Tim told us the Festival was the best bird event he has ever been to."

The Sunday Market at the Heads Community Hall attracted a large crowd of locals and visitors. The local arts community were out in force along with a number of environmental groups. It was the ideal venue for Sean to launch the national Aussie Backyard Bird Count.



Satin Bowerbirds in front of the BirdLife Shoalhaven tent

Inside the hall there was a program of talks through the day, including presentations from some of the speakers from the day before. Cathy says, "There was such a lovely atmosphere on the Sunday - it was a relaxed way to find out about birds through talks and info stalls, participate in creative activities and enjoy the bird-themed market."

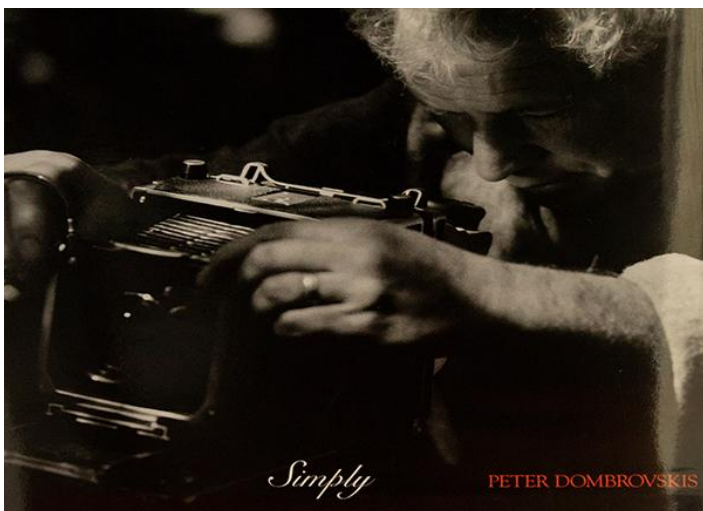
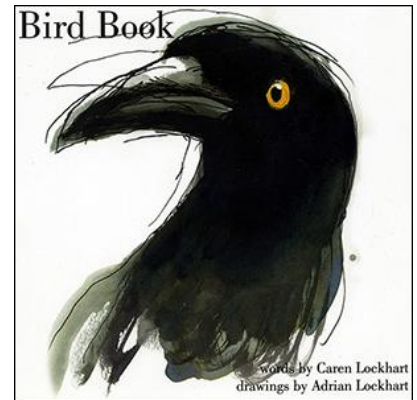
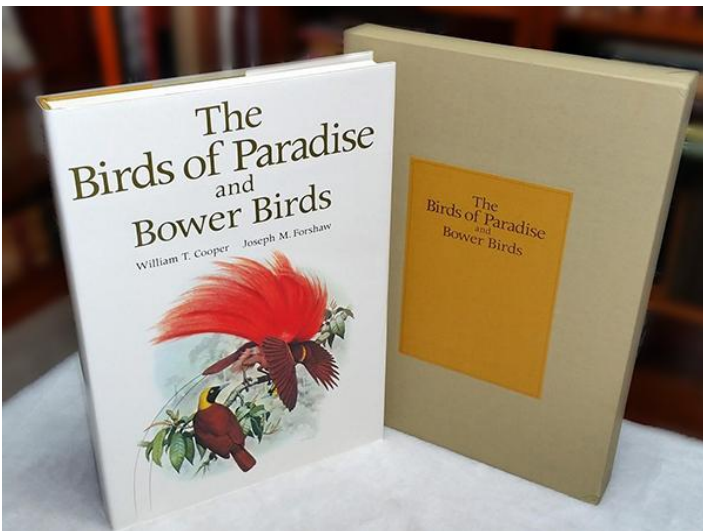
After the stalls were cleared away, the Festival wound up with a concert at the Coolangatta Estate Winery, by classical musicians Simone Slattery (violin) and Anthony Albrecht (cello), inspired by Tim Low's book.

One of the real wins of the Festival was the number of people that were attracted by the variety of activities on offer. Counting those that bought tickets and an estimate of those at the Market, close to 2,000 people attended. These were not just people living on the South Coast, but they also came from Sydney, Canberra, and the Gold Coast and I am sure there were others from farther afield. It was almost impossible to find a spare bed in the Heads if you had not booked early.

Importantly this was not birders talking just to birders, but a much wider audience was engaged in the discussion. Some wanted to listen to scientists or learn how to spot birds or meet local artists or enjoy classical music or just have a laugh. Some did all of these. This is all so important if we are going to spread the message of the need to fight for the survival of our birds.

I would like to thank those who generously donated prizes for our raffle: the Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve (www.benricketts.org.au) for a two night accommodation package on Jamberoo Mountain, Norm & Maureen Webb for "The Birds of Paradise and Bower Birds" collector's

boxed book by Cooper and Forshaw, Carla Jackett for her personal 3 hour guided bird tour with Birding Shoalhaven (for details visit ausbird.com/birding-shoalhaven or check out facebook.com/BirdingShoalhaven), Vivien Davidson for her delightful Hooded Plover made from felt, Tomi & Ana Strugar for the Peter Dombrovskis book "Simply", BirdLife Australia for donating one year's membership, Charles Dove for donating his 2020 Calendar (contact BLS if you would like to buy a copy), and Caren & Adrian Lockhart for their "Bird Book".



The lucky winners were Nerida Hudspith, Lieve Stassen, Barbara Stewart, Sue Josephsen, Mandy Anderson, Jenny Packwood, Ann & Robin Smith and Bill Carr. Many thanks to everyone who bought raffle tickets or items from our market stall. We are now ready to work with Council to have bird interpretative signage installed at the Bangalee Reserve. Just one more win from the weekend!

I would also like to thank everyone who volunteered for us at the Festival. This meant that BLS could give Perrie, Cathy and their team as much support as possible. I will leave it to Paul Sullivan, CEO BirdLife Australia, to sum up what Perrie and Cathy achieved:

"The feedback I've received from staff and supporters who attended the festival has been overwhelmingly positive. That's a reflection of all the hard work, energy and passion which goes into making this a successful event. You are inspiring new people to become the nature champions we need to turn around Australia's extinction crisis. Legends!"

Bherwerre Wetland Update

- by Chris Grounds

On October 28 Shoalhaven Council posted the news that success with State Government grants worth a total of \$5.3 million will enable the progress of "Sustainable Tourism Infrastructure Projects".

The funding will assist projects in **Bherwerre Wetland**, Vincentia, Sanctuary Point, St Georges Basin, Hyams Beach, Ulladulla Headland and Murramarang with the next step being consultation with these communities.



"Shoalhaven City Council has been successful in securing the NSW State Government's Regional Growth Environment and Tourism grant announced this week by the Minister for Local Government, Shelley Hancock MP.

"The grant funding will see multiple projects commence in areas of inclusive access, cultural and nature-based tourism."

The Grants funding will be supported by Council's own commitment of \$1.5 million and the Ulladulla Aboriginal Land Council's \$80,000 (for Ulladulla Headland projects) to assist in seven coordinated projects.

As you are no doubt aware, the Bherwerre Wetland is an area of council owned, flood-prone land in Sanctuary Point adjacent to the north-eastern corner of St Georges Basin that has been rezoned for environmental purposes under the controversial Biodiversity Offset scheme.

After years of abuse, the land has been gradually regenerating while its fate is being decided. A large list of birds has been recorded at the wetland by BLS.

The full news report is available at:

<https://shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/My-Council/News/ID/3361/Shoalhaven-Sustainable-Tourism-Infrastructure-Projects-given-the-green-light-thanks-to-NSW-State-Government-grant>

Black Cockatoos Big Winners

- by Chris Grounds

BLS featured the NAIDOC Week Bangara "Black Cockatoo" dance at Wreck Bay in our last magazine. The Black Cockatoo story continues with this magical Shoalhaven bird, which lends its Dhurga name to Nowra.



The South Coast Black Cockatoos won the 2019 NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout, or the Koori Knockout, against Griffith Three Ways with an impressive 28-point win in the grand final, held on the NSW Central Coast.

Ben Wellington, captain of the South Coast Black Cockatoos, told NITV News that it was an emotional win.

"It's a fairy tale, we came through for him." This is the first Knockout for the South Coast Black Cockatoos, a memorial team put together by Mr Wellington and his sister Mel for their brother, James Wellington, who died just over a year ago.

"It means the world ... we put so much work in for my big brother James to get all the brothers together from the South Coast to play for him, it's beautiful mate," he said.



The full news report is available at:

<https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/article/2019/10/07/south-coast-black-cockatoos-are-2019-champions-koori-knockout-day-four-highlights>

An Interview with Karen Davis

[Karen Davis is a committed environmentalist who is not only the BirdLife Shoalhaven Treasurer and Jervis Bay Key Biodiversity Area Guardian, but also supports Greenpeace and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy. She was a contributor to the Atlas of Australian Birds in the early 2000s, and has volunteered for Birds Australia, the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) and Bush Heritage. She is also involved with Parkcare and has lived in the Shoalhaven for over 20 years.]

BLS: Have you always had an interest in the environment?

KD: No, but I have always had an interest in the outdoors. I was in the scouting movement from the age of 14 when I joined the Venturers, then graduated to the Rovers until I was "booted out" when I turned 26. I was a cub leader for a couple of years, but dropped out of scouting when my life got busier. I was working full-time (as an accountant), doing a big personal fitness program involving swimming, cycling and aerobics, I had just met my future husband, and I was bushwalking in the little spare time I had left.

BLS: So how did your interest in birds happen?

KD: After I was married in 1990 (on Summercloud Beach in Booderee National Park), my husband and I went to Lord Howe Island for our honeymoon. We couldn't help but notice the birds on the island, and we actually made a conscious decision to "add value" to our bushwalking by becoming birdwatchers. We bought a bird book and a pair of binoculars, and started ticking off all the different species of birds that we spotted.



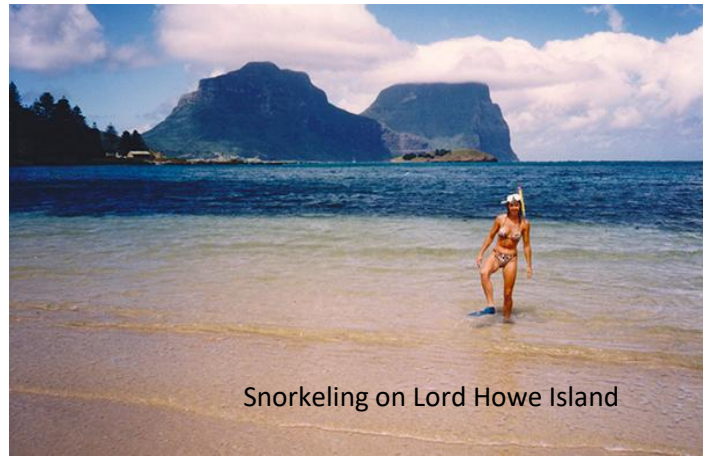
Married barefoot on Summercloud Beach

In the early 90s Dick Smith and his Australian Geographic magazine asked for volunteers to be a "wilderness couple" - to spend a year alone in the wilds of north-west Tasmania and report on their adventures, similar to the first wilderness couple who had spent a year in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. My husband and I volunteered, and were seriously considered, but a younger couple was eventually chosen.

Because we were quite prepared to give up our jobs and have an adventure, when the opportunity with Australian Geographic fell through we discussed what other options we could explore. That was when we discovered that both of us had always wanted to ride around Australia on pushbikes, so we decided to give that a go!

We had seen about 140 species of birds by the time we started our bike trip around Australia in 1995, but we decided to start our bird list over again.

The bike trip was a long, rambling affair. We did lots of different things, like working at Lawn Hill National Park for a couple of months, sailing to Lord Howe Island, and bushwalking for six weeks in Tasmania.



Snorkeling on Lord Howe Island

Eventually - three years later - we completed the journey, and we not only saw all of those 140 species again, we ended up with our life list totaling 495 species.

BLS: How did that adventure affect you?

KD: The first thing I learned on the bike trip was that one pair of binoculars between two birdwatchers just doesn't work! I also learned that one of the greatest pleasures in life is a chair with a back! We also had a mantra of "What do we like? Rain. What do we hate? Wind."



Cycling north of Port Augusta

The bike trip made me realize that simple things are the best. I like the outback, I like desert, I like freedom. I couldn't see myself working 9 to 5 forever. I also realized that if you are frugal, you can get by with very little income. The two of us lived on \$30 a day, which was the rent from our house. We actually had more money in the bank at the end of the three years of cycling than we did when we started!

One of the first things I did after the bike trip was join Birds Australia (now BirdLife Australia). I had started off birding being happy to tick off new species, but the more you learn about birds the more you find out about their conservation issues, and over time I began to understand that birds needed our help, and that supporting Birds Australia was a good thing to do.

The bike trip also made me realize that I didn't want to live in Sydney, and I soon realized that the south coast of NSW was where I would settle down. One day I walked into a house for sale in St Georges Basin and as soon as I stepped inside I knew that was where I was going to live. We bought the house, moved in (1999), joined the local Country Club for its tennis, squash and golf, and joined Shoalhaven Bushwalkers.

BLS: Do you still cycle?

KD: Yes. I ride my mountain-bike with the BUG (Bicycle Users Group) every Thursday morning, and I have a variety of 40km rides based from home that usually go somewhere in Booderee National Park like Murray's Beach or Summercloud Bay.



On a BUG ride in the Jervis Bay KBA

BLS: Did you join a local bird group when you moved to the Shoalhaven?

KD: Not at first. I worked at the Visitor Centre in Nowra for a year before getting a job close to home for 4 days a week as a tax accountant. Most of my days off were devoted to bushwalking, or cycling or swimming, but my husband and I did contribute bird surveys to the second Atlas of Australian Birds in the first few years after moving here. We did regular surveys in Booderee (Murray's Beach and Telegraph Creek), plus Bangalee and Bomaderry Ck.

On the first bushwalk I ever did with Shoalhaven Bushwalkers I met Maureen Webb. I told her that I was a birder, and she later introduced me to her husband Norm who is mad about birds (see Norm's interview in the Summer 2019 magazine). They invited us to dinner one night and we met Stan Brown, who was in Barry Virtue's Shoalhaven Birders group. Barry was also a bushwalker, so eventually I started birdwatching with Barry's group.

BLS: Can you watch birds and bushwalk at the same time?

KD: Not really, but it didn't take me long to start pointing out birds to my fellow bushwalkers, and I even led bushwalks that were specifically devoted to birdwatching. On one bird walk in the Booderee Botanic Gardens in early 2003, we saw 32 Freckled Ducks. This was a lifer for me and I was very excited, but to all the other bushwalkers it was just another bird! My husband's 50th birthday party later in the year had the theme of "F" for Fifty, and one of those bushwalkers came dressed as a "Freckled Duck". She is now a keen birdwatcher! Hi Sandra!



At Endrick Trig

BLS: 2006 was a significant year for you - what happened?

KD: 2006 was a big year for a couple of reasons. In February I started leading bushwalks to all 74 of the trigs in the Shoalhaven (trigs are the fixed markers used in surveying) and I reached the last one in mid 2007. The second major event happened on June 19th, although we didn't really realize it at the time!

I had read an Open Road article about the Kamilaroi Highway, 605 kilometres of road stretching from the Mitchell Highway near Bourke to the New England Highway near Quirindi, and thought it was worth exploring. The trip included visits to Bourke, Brewarrina, Lightning Ridge, Mt Kaputar and Barraba - where I was very excited to add Turquoise Parrots to my life list.

A few days earlier, however, while passing through a little town called Burren Junction - midway between Walgett and Narrabri - I spotted a bird that I didn't recognize. It looked a bit like a Masked Lapwing, but I immediately knew that I hadn't seen it in our Field Guide. I asked my husband to stop, turn the car around, and go back to look for the bird - and for some strange reason he did!

I was reading Sean Dooley's "The Big Twitch" at the time, and it said we should try to get photographs of the bird and take field notes.

My husband took some photographs, I took the field notes and twenty minutes later the bird flew away and we resumed our journey.



The original photo (with the bird enlarged in the corner) and Rohan Clarke's image (right)

When we got home about six days later, we emailed the photos to Brian Everingham, a bushwalking friend who was involved with migratory birds and Ramsar sites, figuring he would know what it was. He replied almost immediately, saying "I hope you are sitting down, because I think you have found a new bird for Australia!"

Brian identified the bird as a Grey-headed Lapwing, normally found in Mongolia, China and Japan. In the northern Winter they migrate south to the northern parts of Southeast Asia from about India to Cambodia.

The bird was not only a first for Australia, it was a first for the Southern Hemisphere! Brian suggested we submit the sighting to BARC - the Birds Australia Rarities Committee - so we did.

Half an hour later I received a call from Mike Carter, who still holds the record for seeing the most species of birds in Australia (over 850), who told me he was just about to leave Melbourne to head for Burren Junction (a 3,000km round trip) to see the Grey-headed Lapwing, and could I provide him with any additional information! I was gobsmacked, because I had just been reading about Mike Carter in the Big Twitch - he was Sean Dooley's mentor when he was young. I later learned that Sean had done a similar trip from Melbourne to see the bird too.



Australian Field Ornithology Volume 25 Issue 4 (Dec 2008) contains a paper written by Rohan Clarke (and nominally co-authored by my husband and me) which reads "A Grey-headed Lapwing (*Vanellus cinereus*) was observed within the township of Burren Junction, northern New South Wales, on 19 June 2006. Six days later it was relocated at the same site and then observed almost daily by a steady stream of visitors until it was last seen on 7 October 2006. This sighting constitutes the first record of this distinctive species for Australia (Birds Australia Rarities Committee Case no. 442).

In the birding world, this was my "15 minutes of fame" - and it was life changing!

BLS: Life changing? Really?

KD: Yeah. A bit over a year later I heard that volunteer birdwatchers were wanted for two weeks of bird surveys at a Birds Australia property called Newhaven Station. I applied, and my husband and I were accepted. I think the main reason we were chosen was because the survey coordinator, Richard Jordan, knew about our discovery of the Grey-headed Lapwing.

Newhaven is 350 kilometres northwest of Alice Springs - you drive 200km up the Tanami Track then turn left and head west into the desert for another 140km or so.

Bird surveying at Newhaven was wonderful! We would start at dawn, and do 8 to 10 surveys of 20 minutes each at different locations before returning to our base for lunch. In our free time in the afternoon we went out walking and birding. And at night we sometimes went spotlighting for birds as well!



Birding at Newhaven Sanctuary

Birds Australia had handed Newhaven Station over to the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC), so we had a shoe-in when the AWC called for volunteers for fauna surveys (including birds) at another AWC sanctuary in 2010. Pungalina is in the northeast corner of the Northern Territory, not far from the Gulf of Carpentaria.



Putting in a drop trap at Pungalina

Pungalina led us to caretaking at Buckaringa - an AWC property in the Flinders Ranges in SA over the New Year period in 2011. We were alone on the property for 2 weeks - responsible for its Yellow-footed Rock Wallabies.



Buckaringa

We also participated in bird surveys at Mornington Sanctuary in the Kimberley in WA in 2013. That was part of a great, three month trip! We drove to Mornington via the Oodnadatta Track and the Tanami Track, then travelled across the top to Cape York just before the Wet was due to arrive. We drove over 20,000 kilometres - but we got 34 lifers on that trip!



With the other surveyors at Mornington

Caretaking at Buckaringa led us to successfully apply for a similar position at Bowra Sanctuary in Queensland, not far from Cunnamulla. We spent the Xmas / New Year period there in 2015 and again in 2016, all by ourselves. And in October last year we participated in a week of bird surveys at Naree Station (a Bush Heritage property) - another survey organized by Richard Jordan. Naree is about 150 kilometres northwest of Bourke in NSW.



At Bowra

Every one of those experiences was fantastic! And they probably wouldn't have happened if it wasn't for that Grey-headed Lapwing!

BLS: Have you done any birding trips overseas?

KD: We have. We look for birds in every country we visit - Borneo in 2001, Peru in 2003, NZ in 2006, Switzerland in 2007 - but they were really sightseeing and walking trips. In late 2011, though, we went to Uganda for three weeks on a birding trip organized by Richard Jordan. We saw about 400 bird species on that trip! And Richard organized another birding trip to Africa in 2015, this time to Namibia. I think we identified about 350 birds that time!

We stopped over in South Africa on the way back, and spent five days walking in the Drakensburg Mountains. And birdwatching of course!



BLS: How did you get involved with BirdLife Shoalhaven?

KD: Rob Dunn was a board member of Birds Australia. He was involved in the merger of Birds Australia and BOCA. The merged entity became BirdLife Australia on January 1st, 2012 while we were in Uganda.

Up until that time, Birds Australia had been a Melbourne-centric organisation, with quite a few branches in Victoria but only one or two in the other states. BOCA, however, was based on branches, and Rob thought it would be a good idea if my husband and I formed the first branch of BirdLife Australia after the merger.

We formed a steering committee responsible for setting up the branch with Barry Virtue, and we became the test case for BirdLife Australia. I was an accountant and could set up the financial side of the branch, my husband could set up the I.T. side, and Barry was the birder.

It took almost two years for head office to work out how they wanted a branch to be created, and for us to comply. The BA board approved the formation of our branch in November 2013. We held our first outing to Lake Wollumboola in February 2014 (see photo below).



We then held our first AGM in March 2014. Barry was voted in as President, I became the Treasurer, and my husband was the Secretary.

We had established the nuts and bolts of the organization, but what we really needed was a group of enthusiastic and committed birders and environmentalists who could then take over and give birds a voice in the Shoalhaven. The first to come on board was Chris Grounds, who took up the Conservation Officer role midway through 2014 and was formally elected to the position at the 2015 AGM.

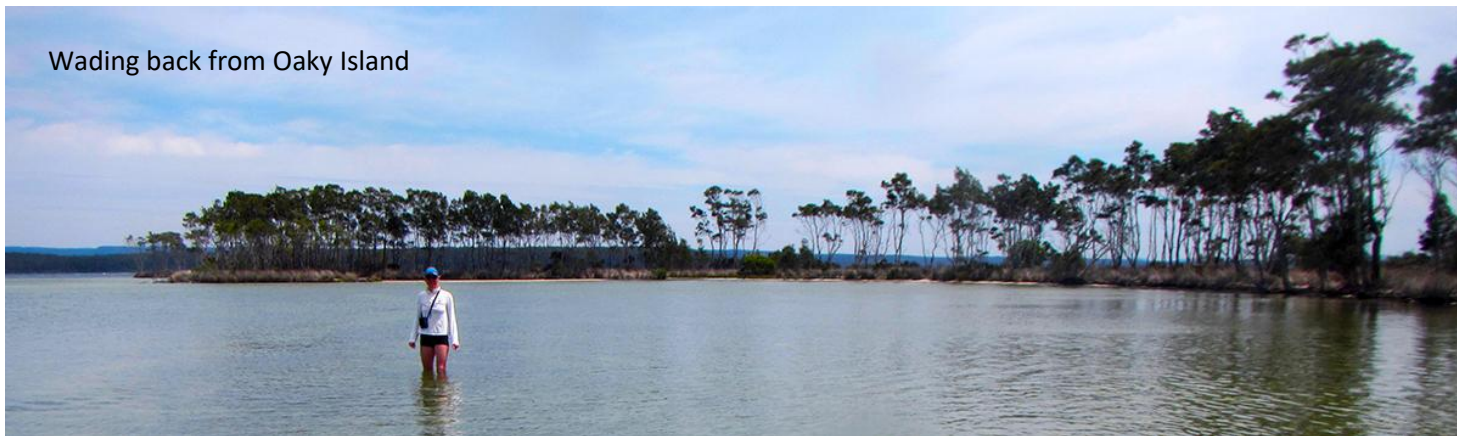
Since then we have had other really excellent people join the committee - Mike Jefferis, Matt Jones - and Rob Dunn after he retired from his day job. Rob took over the Presidency when Barry indicated he would be moving out of the area, and since that time Kim Touzel, Yolande Cozijn and Oisin Sweeney have also joined the committee - an exceptional group! It was a sad day when Matt was forced to leave the committee because of his health issues.

BLS: I see you are wearing a shorebird hat - how come?

KD: I've been involved with the NPWS South Coast Shorebird Recovery project as a volunteer for a long time - probably close to ten years now or maybe more - as part of a local group that monitors endangered Pied Oystercatchers and Hooded Plovers on the south side of Jervis Bay, the beaches of Booderee National Park, and the islands of St Georges Basin.



Wading back from Oaky Island



Bherwerre is the main beach we monitor, and that's a big job - 70km of driving including a car shuffle or pick-up, and over 7km of beach walking. The whole process takes about 4-5 hours depending on what we find!

And then there's the St Georges Basin Islands. Oaky Island on the south side of the Basin involves 40km of driving and about 450 metres of wading through knee-deep water and soft sand. Luckily, if the Pied Oystercatchers nest at their usual location, we can actually scan the island with a telescope from the mainland. Checking Garden and Sepulchre Islands requires a 6km kayak paddle!

Unfortunately, although we find a lot of nests, most of them are unsuccessful due to threats as varied as foxes, dogs, tourists, 4WDs and illegal campers, as well as natural predators and the vagaries of wind, waves and tides. As Chris Grounds says - if it wasn't for those threats, they wouldn't be threatened species! The occasional wins - like the two POC chicks at Moona Moona Creek at the moment - are special. They keep us going!

BLS: I know you do Parkcare. Can you tell us about that?

KD: I do Parkcare in Booderee National Park. It is on every Monday, and I try to get there as often as I can, although other things sometimes get in the way. The Parkcare group does a lot of different things in the park - from picking up sticks and general tidying in the Botanic Gardens to propagating plants and planting them out, but most of what we do is weeding. We are constantly removing sea-spurge, bitou bush and wandering dew. It is back-breaking work sometimes, but socializing with the other volunteers makes it enjoyable.

BLS: You got married in Booderee NP, you bushwalk and bike ride there, you do Atlas and Birddata surveys there, plus Parkcare and your Shorebird Recovery work on Bherwerre Beach and Oaky Island, so you really spend a lot of time in Booderee. Is that why you also wear another hat - as the Jervis Bay Key Biodiversity Area Guardian?

KD: The Jervis Bay KBA contains a lot of threatened species, with the target species being the Eastern Bristlebird.

It also has endangered Pied Oystercatchers, Hooded Plovers and Glossy Black Cockatoos, and I have seen vulnerable species there like Freckled Ducks, Gang Gangs, Little Lorikeets, Sooty Owls, Powerful Owls, Ground Parrots plus others. I have even seen critically endangered Regent Honeyeaters on both sides of the Bay, on the Beecroft Peninsula and in Booderee NP.

I don't have the expertise of some of the really good birders and committed environmentalists, but when the position became available and nobody else volunteered for it, I seemed the logical one for the job. I wouldn't be able to do it without the help of a lot of people - especially Chris MacGregor (see his interview in the Autumn 2019 edition of the magazine).

Looking after the Jervis Bay KBA is an administrative nightmare! It contains areas controlled by the Shoalhaven City Council, NSW State Forests, NSW National Parks, Commonwealth National Parks, Jervis Bay Marine Parks, the Wreck Bay Community, and includes Defence Force involvement on the Beecroft Weapons Range and at HMAS Creswell. And it skirts villages full of private residences and public land as well.

I have a team that does regular bird surveys in the JB KBA using Birddata - one of the surveys covers Bayswood and the Vincentia Marketplace. The bird list for the area is usually pretty good, so it must have been amazing in the past. Who knows, if those surveys had been going before the area was developed, maybe the developments would never have happened! Everyone should use Birddata!

BLS: I hear you do a bit of work for the head office as well!

KD: I have updated the online index for the BirdLife Australia magazine - Australian Birdlife - since 2012.

BLS: You had 495 birds on your Australian life list when you finished your round Australia bike ride. How many birds are on your list now?

KD: After moving to the Shoalhaven it took a while to get over 500, but then we started targeting desert species, Cape York visitors, Western Australian rarities, and all the

Tasmanian endemics. We stalled just short of 600, which had been one of my goals since I became a birder. After spending a long time in the 590s, my husband and I bit the bullet and went to Christmas and Cocos Islands in 2017.



You are guaranteed to get a dozen lifers on Christmas Island! And the weather, walking, swimming, snorkeling, different cultures, and scenery are all excellent! We even toured the phosphate mine and drove around the detention centre! And the crabs are amazing!



The Christmas Island trip got us into the 600s, but I can't see us going much higher. I worry about seasickness, and have only ever done one very short pelagic trip -so I can't see myself adding too many seabirds to my list. And we don't go twitching all over the place, although we did twitch recently - we went to Shoalhaven Heads to see the Semipalmated Plover (see image at bottom of page).

BLS: What is your favourite bird?

KD: That is a hard one as I love nearly all of Australia's birds but today I will say the Gang-gang Cockatoo as I love its "bad hair day" look and generally quiet, placid nature.

BLS: Do you have a bogey bird at the moment?

KD: Yep, the Lewin's Rail is my current bogey bird. It has replaced the Australian Painted Snipe, which replaced the Black-breasted Buzzard, which replaced the long-standing Speckled Warbler.



Although I probably won't be seeing many new seabirds or rarities in the future, the Grasswrens are definitely one group of birds we haven't had a lot of success with yet. We might do a dedicated Grasswren trip one day soon!

And you never know what I might find along the way - maybe even that elusive Lewin's Rail!



Skua Photos Wanted!

-by Vincent Mourik

Many of you will have heard about **SOSSA** and their well-known pelagic boat trips led by Lindsay Smith, initially from Wollongong but now from Kiama (see the next article). Although these trips are attended by many birdwatchers, their prime purpose is to conduct research on the seabirds in NSW waters.

With so much still unknown about our seabirds, a recent scientific article based on sightings on the SOSSA pelagic trips shows the great urgency of understanding the basic biology and ecology of these birds. The article can be viewed at [twitchers have a treasure trove of data](#)

Many species are in decline, threatened by factors as varied as climate change, plastic pollution, long-line fishing and feral animals at the breeding grounds. Multiple species or species groups are targeted in the research, and **SOSSA seeks help from the birdwatching community** regarding its Skua project.

Brown Skuas are common winter visitors in NSW waters, whereas South Polar Skuas are rare spring and autumn migrants. Although these birds are reasonably well studied on the breeding grounds, very little is known about their biology away from the breeding grounds. After fledging, young Skuas tend to spend the first few years at sea, before returning to the breeding grounds at about 4 years of age.

As a consequence, the subtle plumage development from juvenile to adult plumage is poorly understood.

Furthermore, the timing and duration of flight feather moult of the different age groups is poorly known, however together with breeding and migration moult is one of the biggest events in the life of a bird.

Lastly, the identification of dark coloured South Polar Skuas and Brown Skuas remains unresolved. With the advent of digital photography in the 2000's, we now have a chance at researching these different aspects in detail, by carefully examining digital photographs. This data will be a vital complement to new insights on Skua migration obtained through the banding of birds out at sea.

Initial data already shows promising results regarding moult timing and duration, and the division among different age groups. However, to substantiate these observations, many more Skua photographs are needed. **We therefore call upon the birdwatching community to share your photographs with SOSSA.** Combined together they will present a marvelous data set allowing in-depth analysis. All picture qualities are welcomed. The more shots of a single bird, the better!

Place (port suffices for a pelagic trip) and date of the observation are crucial information. Pictures all along the eastern seaboard are of interest, as well as pictures taken on the breeding grounds. SOSSA is most grateful for your contribution - without your help this research cannot be conducted.

Please send images to me - vincentmourik@gmail.com



Left - a Brown Skua caught at sea after banding, ready to be released. Additional morphometric data has been taken on this bird. The SOSSA banding data is shedding light on the origins of the birds observed off the NSW coast. On the right is an example of moult analysis based on a photograph of a Brown Skua. Very limited information is available about moult in Brown Skuas.

SOSSA

- by Charlotte Brady

The final Sunday morning of August began cool and still in Kiama, the humid morning air wrapping the Illawarra escarpment in a vaporous blue cloak. Kiama harbour was quiet, disturbed only by the brisk stroking of swimmers braving the ocean pool, occasional squalling seagulls, and the bustle of sleepy birders boarding the "Sandra K" with SOSSA's pelagic trip.



SOSSA (the Southern Ocean Seabird Study Association Inc) boasts responsibility for the world's longest running albatross study. Albatross were first tagged on Australia's south-east coast by the New South Wales Albatross Study Group in 1956, whose work SOSSA has continued since 1994. SOSSA's work relies on a member base of ornithologists and amateur naturalists, and the charter fees of keen birders who join their boat surveys off the coasts of Kiama, Southport, Sydney and Port Stephens.

The birders aboard the August trip were strung with heavy crystal binoculars, arm-length camera lenses, and hats and t-shirts bearing the logos of other birding expeditions. SOSSA claims to attract amateur birders from around the globe, and the August crew delivered. Aboard were a Southern English father and daughter, who were hobby swan-handlers, and a San Franciscan who had taken over 100 birding charters off the Californian coast.

The skipper gave a rudimentary safety introduction, assuring us that bird sightings were almost impossible without the high winds expected that day. It was then over to expedition leader, Lindsay Smith OAM, a founding member of SOSSA. A fitter-and-turner by trade, his now five-decade long involvement with albatross study earned him a research position at the Australian Museum, and an Order of Australia honour in 2004. Lindsay is also the proverbial seadog. His hands are coarse and crossed with the scars of previous bird captures.

Lindsay speaks in a low, gruff voice, in-pitch with the thrum of the Sandra K's engine, between tokes on a cigarette. The moustache of his wild white beard, like the tip of his thumb and forefinger, are stained turmeric yellow. Lindsay's love of birds clearly runs deep. He shrugged his shoulders dismissively at a pod of breaching humpback whales sighted as we ploughed out to the reef shelf, but watched a plume of Hutton's Shearwaters sweeping around the boat with admiring wonder.



At 215 fathoms, the boat stopped to drift southeast - so we were informed by the expedition summary Lindsay emailed the week following our return. From a white bucket, Darryl McKay - Lindsay's co-expedition leader - spooned pads of pale fatty meat into the sea. Lindsay poured a slick of tuna oil over the chum, singing "calling all ducks!"

We were nearly 40 kilometres offshore, and low fog had swallowed the slim coastline. Wallowing in this expanse of sea and sky, the featureless ocean surface suddenly felt desert-like. Then, from nowhere, birds came shooting. Within minutes, Fairy Prions and Crested Terns fluttered in to feed. "Flags", Lindsay said. Moments later a squabbling legion of Petrel, Skua and Albatross descended on the feast.



Albatross aeronautics have a cartoonish quality. With paddle-like feet they waddle across the water, launching themselves off waves into flight. It seems improbable from this awkward start they should soar so acrobatically, swooping and skiing over the contours of the swell. A half-hour into our drift, a Wandering Albatross joined the fray. She flew sweeping rings around the boat, the tips of her wings barely clearing the ocean surface.

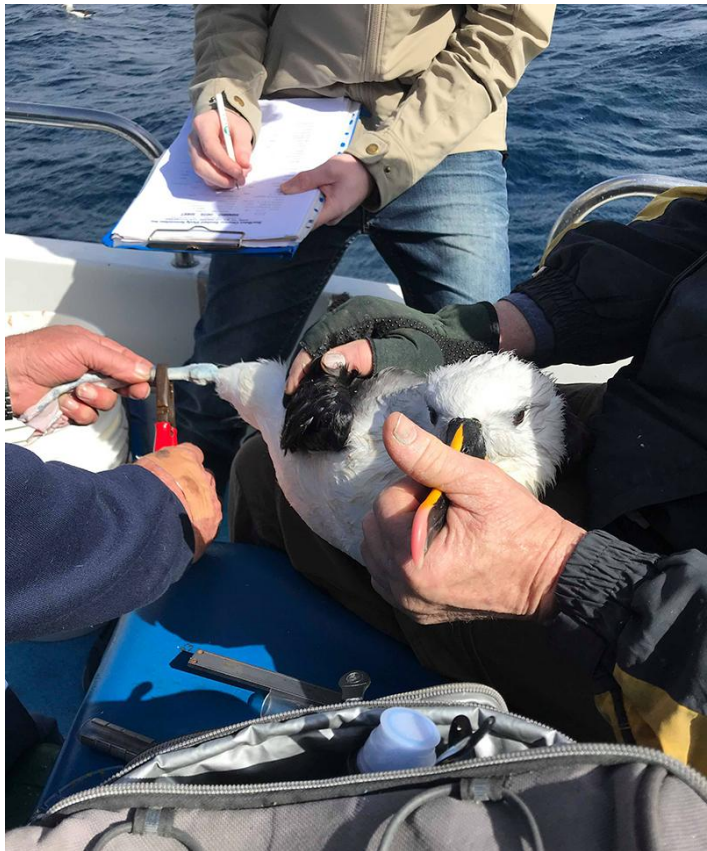
The SOSSA study captures and tags albatross and other seabird species of interest. With the work of other research groups globally, this data helps map the global movements of migratory seabirds. Recapture rates of tagged individuals can be used to estimate the population density of a species, and so monitor its conservation status.

Birds coaxed close to the boat with chum were scooped into a net and wrestled by Lindsay or Darryl into a boa-constrictor hold, hands around the legs and beak, wings pinched between the elbow and chest. A trainee on his first survey measured beak and wing dimensions, and pliered a small metal band on to the captured bird's leg. The process looked rough, but Lindsay and Darryl were conscientious handlers, talking gently to the birds while they worked. They tagged a silky Great-winged Petrel, a cranky Brown Skua, and several albatross - Shy, Campbell, Indian Yellow-nosed, Buller's, White-capped and Wandering.

Albatross are all glamour. Fierce streaks of dark plumage sweeping from their eyes and beaks, like theatrical make-up, give them a sultry, chiseled appearance. Their plumage is so fine, they appear to have shrugged on sable coats.

Their calls are low and guttural - they are masters of sad song. It is easy to personify these birds. The tagged Wandering Albatross struggled little, resting in Darryl's hold with what looked like regal, resigned courage. "That eye", said Darryl, "you can see a soul in there."

As circumnavigators, albatross cannot be conserved by localized efforts. Their future relies on international cooperation. With 15 of 22 species classified critically endangered, albatross are one of the most threatened bird groups. SOSSA's mantra seems to be that exposure to what could be lost is key to conservation.



The morning's wind had dragged woolly grey clouds across the sky by the afternoon. The Sandra K ploughed through a high swell home, buffeted by salt spray and rain. The lurching and heeling drove the deckhand to the cabin, sick. We stopped briefly back over the reef and tried to entice shearwaters with the last of the chum, but the skies were empty. "Time to go home", Lindsay kept muttering quietly, like an incantation that would trick the birds out of hiding. But even they were taking shelter from the squall.

"There are better days" Lindsay said, "but no bad days."

Ethical Birding and Bird Photography

- by Georgina Steytler

There are many guidelines for ethical nature photography on the internet. The common theme is that taking great nature photographs should never be at the expense of the subject.



Birding Code of Ethics

I have borrowed from these guidelines and put together my own code of ethics. Some photographers may regard these rules as unnecessarily strict (e.g. no call playback unless for scientific / conservation purposes), but they should ask themselves, assuming everyone does it, what is the cumulative impact likely to be? And always remember, as a bird photographer, you do not have any greater right to approach or disturb birds than does an ordinary member of the public.

Respect their spatial needs

View birds from a safe distance for both you and them. If the bird interrupts its behaviour (resting, feeding, etc.), then you are too close and must distance yourself.

Don't force an action

Don't force an action, crowd, pursue, prevent escape, make deliberate noises to distract, startle or harass birds. This is stressful and wastes valuable energy in needless flight. The impact is cumulative.

Don't feed or leave food (baiting) for wildlife

Habituation due to handouts can result in disease (poor health because inevitably the bird is not eating its native food) or even death of that bird.

Avoid using Call Playback for attracting a species

The use of call playback can distress some species and may disrupt feeding and / or breeding activity. It is worth noting here that the use of call playback is (apparently) banned in Germany unless a special permit is obtained for scientific studies.

Keep habitat disturbance to a minimum

Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist and NEVER enter areas designated off-limits by the local wildlife / nature conservation authorities.

Avoid nesting animals

I never photograph nesting birds or publish such images. Photographers MUST keep an appropriate distance from nesting birds. Nesting is the most critical and stressful time in a bird's life.

It is vitally important that all photographers keep an appropriate distance from nesting birds so as to ensure that they do not:

- accidentally cause damage to the nest or nest site;
- cause nest desertion or stress to the nesting adults or nestlings;
- attract predators to the nest site;
- remain at a distance from the nest site, which elicits a behavioural response from the nesting bird(s) - such as 'broken wing' response or the nesting bird not returning immediately to the nest.

In any event, photographers must **NOT**, in relation to nesting birds:

- damage or trample vegetation that results in exposing a nest;
- startle a bird as that may cause it to accidentally break the eggs or cause the premature eruption of young from the nest;
- 'garden' the area around the nest by removing objects which may block a clear view of the nest;
- modify the nest or its approaches in order to force the bird into a more photogenic position;
- linger too long in the bird's core territory;
- visit nests when any desertion by a parent may result in the eggs/young becoming cold;
- use call playback in the vicinity of a nesting bird which causes the bird to leave the nest to respond to the playback;
- use flash on a nesting bird;
- show undue attention to an otherwise well-camouflaged nest (e.g. birds nesting on the beach or in dense foliage);
- leave a dead-end trail to the nest and back;
- act contrary to the law



Editor's Note:

Georgina Steytler is a BirdLife Australia member and an amazing award-winning Australian nature photographer. This edited article can be found in full [here](#) or via the "Ethics" link on her website at georginasteytler.com.au and has been reprinted here with Georgina's kind permission. Everyone should visit her website!!!!

A day at the Beecroft Weapons Range

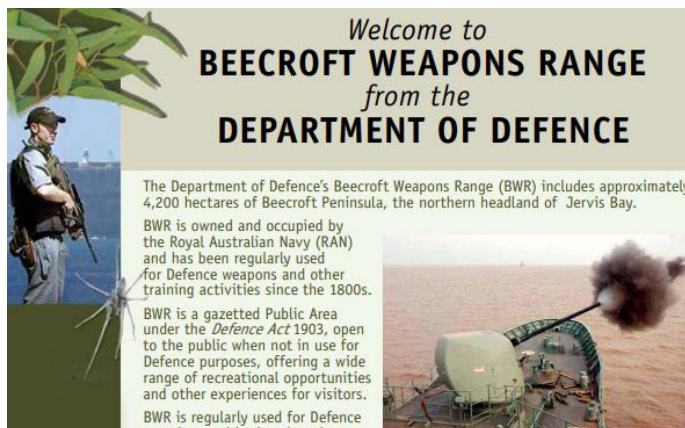
- by Rob Dunn

As the Beecroft Weapons Range (BWR) was open to the public recently, I decided to visit this part of the Jervis Bay Key Biodiversity Area (JB KBA) and do the walk from Honeymoon Bay to Target Beach. The different habitat, including areas of littoral rainforest, offers great birding and with the views across Jervis Bay, it is a great walk.

But a trip to the Range is not quite like going into Booderee National Park (BNP), also in the JB KBA. Let's do a quick comparison.

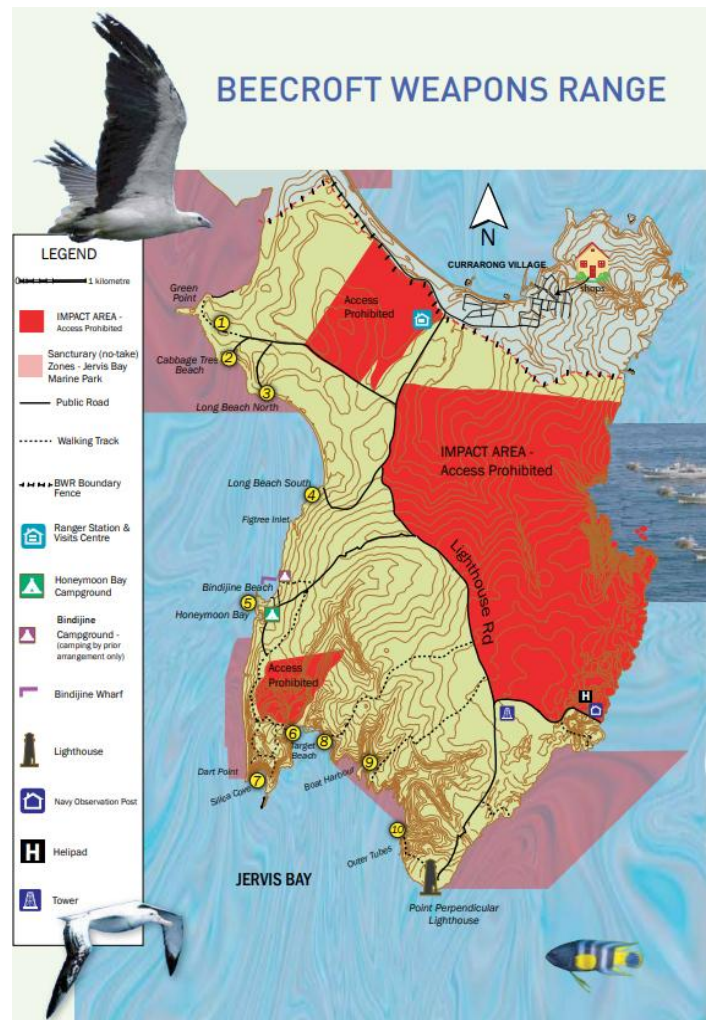


BWR - friendly welcome from a Wilson's Security contractor. BNP - friendly welcome from one of the park's traditional owners. BWR - free entry - I assume this comes out of the national defence budget. BNP - \$11 for two days, which is a bargain. BWR - car registration, phone numbers taken and barrier raised on entry. BNP - straight on through. BNP - fold-out DL brochure on the best places to go, the natural and cultural importance of the park and one on the Botanic Gardens. They also have their own bird list and app. BWR - their brochure could not be more different!



It is certainly an impressive eight A4 page document, thanks again I assume to the defence budget, though the graphic design is a bit too "khaki" for my liking. The front cover suggests that this part of the JB KBA is well protected with pictures of a serviceman with his machine gun and flak jacket and the blast of a naval ship's gun.

And if you needed encouragement to keep on the path, certainly "Don't risk your life! Beware of unexploded ordnance! (UXO)" gets the message across. If in doubt, there is an excellent map on page 4 with large sections in red and marked "IMPACT AREA Access Prohibited". Still the UXO is not the only danger. The brochure warns that you should also be aware of steep cliffs, rips, high seas, bushfire, gravel roads, snakes, spiders, ticks, European honeybees and dangerous marine species.



What is really confusing though is the message on the side of the front page "defence environment, sustaining defence capability". This seems to mix a few conflicting ideas in my head, in much the same way that the environment, tourism growth, nature, sustainability, dogs and beach nesting birds should not really appear in the same sentence.

It is not until the middle of page three that you learn about the Range's heritage values.

"Beecroft Peninsula is a sandstone plateau created some 280 mya. BWR contains several rare and endangered plants and animal species as well as unique natural, cultural and heritage sites including historic Point Perpendicular Lighthouse and many sites of strong traditional cultural and spiritual significance to the local Jerrinja Aboriginal people.

"In recognition of its outstanding natural, cultural and historic values, Beecroft Peninsula is listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List and is protected by legislation under the Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)."

Hopefully the next version of the brochure will mention that the range is part of the JB KBA.

The existing JB KBA was originally recognised as an Important Bird Area in 2009 for its population of Eastern Bristlebirds (EBB), listed as endangered under the EPBC Act. It is now recognised as one of Australia's 330 KBAs and on-going research is likely to highlight its importance for other fauna and flora. The BWR has experienced more fire events in recent years, compared to other parts of the JB KBA.

An out-of-control fire in 2015 was followed by a second in October, 2016, during the EBB breeding season, with 350ha. being destroyed when a hazard reduction burn broke containment lines. This was followed in April 2017 when a Department of Defence drone crashed, starting a fire which burnt another 2 hectares of EBB habitat. Is this the first fire in a Key Biodiversity Area caused by a military drone (similar to the one shown below) in Australia or even globally?



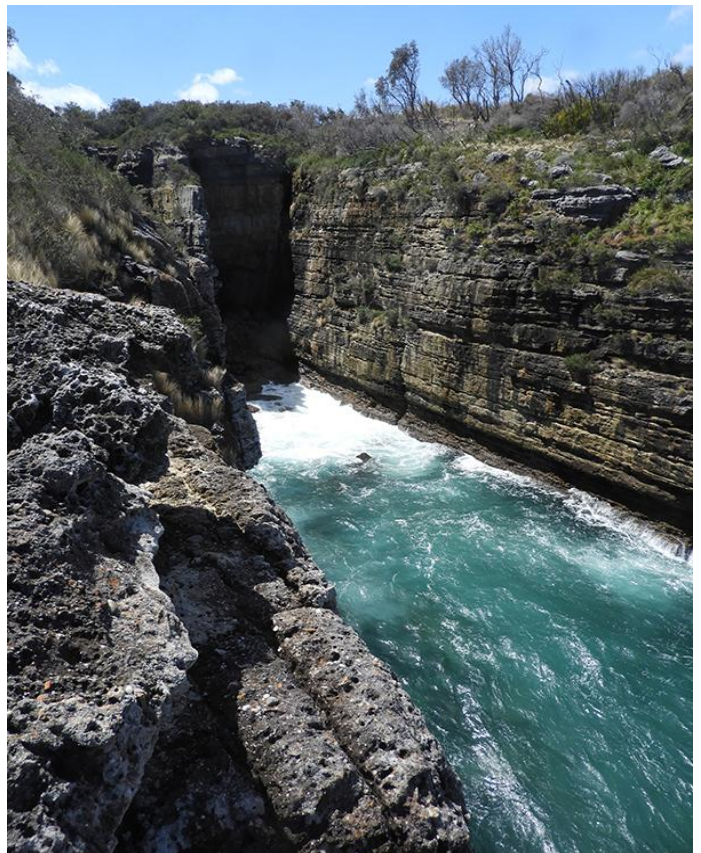
Regardless, hopefully it will be the last fire. Too frequent burnings of the same area can adversely impact the heathland ecology rendering it unsuitable for EBB. Thankfully there have been no fires in the Range since 2017 and the heath and EBB numbers are slowly recovering.

An Australian National University (ANU) team of ecologists, including BLS member, Chris MacGregor, carry out annual EBB surveys at both the BWR and in BNP. BLS would like to add to ANU's work by conducting quarterly surveys of all bird species at selected sites. To date we have focused on BNP and the NSW Jervis Bay NP. We will be looking for volunteers later this year.

The Beecroft Weapons Range is under very different ownership and land management, compared to the other sections of the Jervis Bay Key Biodiversity Area. However, they are all equally important and need to be managed to ensure protection for its natural and cultural values. So, try to visit the Range whenever it is open to the public. Its birds, other fauna, flora and the views on offer will not disappoint. Do not be put off by the brochure!



Target Beach (above) and part of the Docks (below) in the BWR



Changing the Law on Cat Ownership

- by Allan Benson

Four Regent Honeyeaters were resident at a wetland at Blue Haven on the Central Coast in July and August. The Regent Honeyeater is the most critically endangered bird in NSW with an estimated population of only 400 individuals.

Naturally, this generated a lot of interest from bird watchers and photographers. They were shocked to see two cats regularly patrolling the wetland. They were observed attacking birds and there was concern for the welfare of the Regent Honeyeaters. We approached the Central Coast Council to remove the cats but were shocked to learn that under the Companions Animals Act (1998) that cats are allowed to roam. Cats are predatory hunters. Both domestic and feral cats having a devastating impact on wild life.



Why keep cats confined?

An indoor cat has a life expectancy of 17 years compared to a cat that is allowed to roam of 2-5 years. This is because roaming cats get attacked by dogs and other cats, hit by cars and pick up disease.

A study by Norris et al in 2007 entitled "Prevalence of Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) infection in domesticated and feral cats in eastern Australia" found an infection rate of FIV of up to 25% in feral urban cats. FIV is transmitted by saliva so infection requires the cat to be bitten. Letting cats roam increases the risks of contact with an infected cat.

What can you do?

The recent Local Government Conference agreed to a motion put forward by Shoalhaven and Blacktown Councils to stop domestic cats roaming. I would ask everybody to email the Minister for Local Government - Ms Shelley Hancock - to ask her to act on this motion. Simply Google Shelley Hancock and send an email to the Minister for Local Government asking that she enacts legislation to **make it illegal for cats to roam.**

Less than 5 minutes of your time will make a huge difference to the wild life in your area.

Or follow this link for an online form you can fill out that will go to the Minister - www.nsw.gov.au/your-government/ministers/minister-for-local-government



Web Watch

- by Chris Grounds

The impact of cats on our native birds

I have given the lead to this report from The Conversation re the impact of cats on our native birds. It is one of the more sobering explanations of the much discussed extinction crisis in our country. Just copy and paste each web address into your browser to follow a story in full.

<https://theconversation.com/for-whom-the-bell-tolls-cats-kill-more-than-a-million-australian-birds-every-day-85084>



Cats kill more than a million birds every day across Australia, according to our new estimate - the first robust attempt to quantify the problem on a nationwide scale.

By combining data on the cat population, hunting rates and spatial distribution, we calculate that they kill 377 million birds a year. Rates are highest in Australia's dry interior, suggesting that feral cats pose a serious and largely unseen threat to native bird species.

To provide a first national assessment of the toll taken by cats on Australian birds, we have compiled almost 100 studies detailing the diets of Australia's feral cats. The results show that the average feral cat eats about two birds every five days.

We then combined these statistics with [information about the population density of feral cats](#), to create a map of the estimated rates of birds killed by cats throughout Australia.

We [conclude](#) that, on average, feral cats in Australia's largely natural landscapes kill 272 million birds per year. Bird-kill rates are highest in arid Australia (up to 330 birds per square km per year) and on islands, where rates can vary greatly depending on size.

We also estimate (albeit with fewer data) that feral cats in human-modified landscapes, such as the areas surrounding cities, kill a further 44 million birds each year. Pet cats, meanwhile, kill about 61 million birds per year.

Overall, this amounts to more than 377 million birds killed by cats per year in Australia - more than a million every day.

Two Cats per Household

<https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/wildlife/2019/09/two-cats-per-household-council-in-south-australia-brings-in-cat-laws/>



Two cats per household, compulsory registration, and confinement are just some of the new by-laws passed by a South Australian council this week. Mount Barker District Council says the new rules are aimed at reducing the impact cats have on our environment and keeping the pets safer.

According to a survey conducted by the council in 2017, 76 per cent of people supported cat registration, 68 per cent supported a limit to two cats per property and 71 per cent supported a cat curfew.

Another 73 per cent said they supported the council addressing cat nuisance and behaviour, including defecating on lawns, spraying on doors, fighting with each other, and killing wildlife.



They say there is some leniency in regards to this, but that cat owners will have to submit an application to the council to keep more than two cats at their property. Applicants will also have to seek consent from their neighbours and landlords.

The cat curfew will be from 8pm to 7am, which the council say will be a huge step in reducing the impact cats have on native wildlife, and also reduce the risk of cats getting lost, hit by a car or fighting with other cats.

River Red Gum Mystery

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-09/angered-river-red-gum-mystery/11465340>



Nature lovers in the New South Wales Hunter Valley have been trying to solve the mystery of what is damaging the region's endangered river red gums, after almost 100 of the trees fell victim to an "attack".

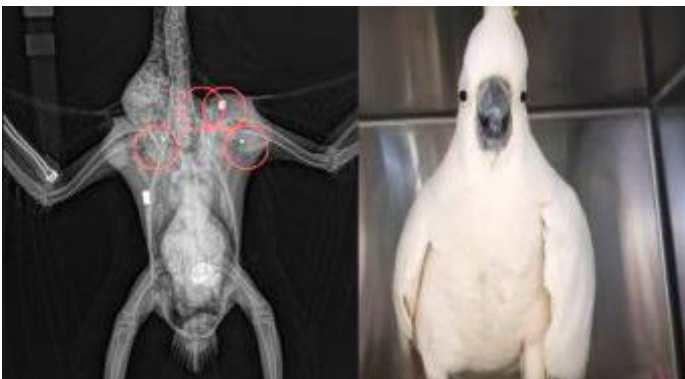
Property owner John Taylor was puzzled when he noticed his river red gums had been stripped of timber. He suspected black cockatoos might have been responsible. BirdLife Australia has confirmed that Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos hack into the gums to feast on witchetty grubs.

On an isolated and untouched parcel of land near Scone, you'll find the Hunter's largest stand of river red gums.

Mr Taylor recently noticed something had been getting into the gums, he suspected, in search of food. Mr Taylor suspected black cockatoos might have been the culprits. Mr Taylor's theory was confirmed by BirdLife Australia's Mick Roderick. "The yellow-tailed cockatoo will get their way into the centre of these gum trees to get at the witchetty grubs - a great food source."

Cocky shot 4 times

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-10-09/cockatoo-recovering-after-being-shot-four-times/11586456?>



Being shot four times - and surviving - might sound like something out of a James Bond film, but this lucky cockatoo will live to fly another day.

The Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, named Mr Cocky, was found in a Sydney backyard last month and taken to the Avian Reptile and Exotic Pet Hospital in Camden.

Two pellets from bullets were found in the cockatoo's chest, while others were embedded in its shoulder and near its left eye.

Late Short-tailed Shearwaters

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-10-05/mutton-birds-delayed-migratory-vic-arrival-alarms-birdwatchers/11572220?>



Birdwatchers fear for the fate of thousands of short-tailed shearwaters, also known as mutton birds, which failed to arrive in south-west Victoria at the usual time after their annual migration from the northern hemisphere.

For the past 30 years, short-tailed shearwaters, known as mutton birds, have arrived at an island near Port Fairy, Victoria, in late September. So far, only a handful of the migratory birds have turned up, out of a usual colony of 40,000. Climate variability or food availability in the northern hemisphere may have delayed the birds' arrival

Each year, hundreds of thousands of short-tailed shearwaters descend on Victoria's coastline to breed following a mammoth journey which takes two months to complete. The birds spend the northern summer around Alaska, before travelling 15,000 kilometres to Australia where they arrive with precision.

Bird Photographers leading conservation

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-10-25/bird-photography-wildlife-conservation-animals-lake-cargelligo/11632652>



A farming couple are using their newfound knowledge as amateur bird photographers as an entree into environmental conservation for some of Lake Cargelligo's threatened bird species.

Amateur bird photographers Rebecca and Sandy Van Dyk have set out on a mission to document every species at Lake Cargelligo, NSW. They run a Facebook page where they encourage locals to get in on identifying bird life in the hopes of raising awareness of the local species. They hope greater knowledge of the threatened species will help protect them and plan on turning their property into a bird sanctuary

Rebecca Van Dyk first noticed a huge variety of beautiful birds flying by her waterside window in Lake Cargelligo in far-west New South Wales two years ago.

Ms Van Dyk and her husband Sandy then began photographing the birds and sharing them on social media, with the goal of documenting every single species.

A Noticer of Birds

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/oct/24/i-used-to-call-myself-a-birdo-since-then-i-have-coined-a-new-term-a-noticer-of-birds>



Erin Lennox lives in Melbourne. She is doing a PhD on urban birds. "I spent the first three decades of my life not even knowing that I was routinely walking right past birds I had never even seen before.

"When I first started to notice birds, I thought bird-watching would be a happy little pastime. I thought it might make me seem a bit quirky and announce me to my people. But it's none of these things. Birding, actually, is a perfectly good way to ruin a nice walk.

"This is because, although birds are everywhere, they are total jerks about it. Their favourite thing to do is to come and sit in a tree sort of near you and call loudly for the exact amount of time it takes you to get your binoculars up to your eyes and focused. And, at that moment, what they like best is to fly behind some leaves. They like to do this over and over. Between you and the sun."

Gull Cull

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/shortcuts/2019/oct/25/gull-cull-should-nuisance-birds-really-be-shot>



Officials in Worcester say the city is overrun with gulls, and that the only solution is a sanctioned shoot. But experts suggest there could be better answers

Experts argue that gull culls are not only ineffective, but can perpetuate the problem.

Tony Whitehead, a spokesman for the RSPB, says non-lethal tactics such as properly enforced by-laws to stop people feeding seagulls and preventing organic waste from being left in the street are more proportionate ways of dealing with the problem.

"That would reduce a lot of the interactions that lead to calls for them to be killed, which feels a little bit over the top," he says.

"We need to deal with the conflict without demonising the birds."

Expensive Roaming Eagles

[http.net.au/news/2019-10-26/roaming-russian-eagles-leave-scientists-broke/11642780](http://net.au/news/2019-10-26/roaming-russian-eagles-leave-scientists-broke/11642780)



Russian scientists tracking migrating eagles were forced to start a crowdfunding campaign after their birds wandered into Iran and foreign text messages from their tracking devices depleted the project's budget.

Scientists rang the alarm earlier this month when several endangered steppe eagles transmitting coordinates via Russian mobile numbers wandered into the roaming zone after spending the summer in an area without mobile coverage.

"These beasts were out of range in Kazakhstan all summer and now once they reached the super-expensive Iran and Pakistan, they are spewing out hundreds of text messages with their locations," wrote Igor Karyakin of the Russian Raptors Research and Conservation Network.

Scientists this week launched a campaign called "Top up the eagle's mobile" to keep the research going with the public's help after taking out a loan to pay for the text messages, which are costing 49 rubles each (\$1.12) instead of the usual price of 2 to 15 rubles.

Killer Bird has softer side

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/oct/30/you-are-right-to-be-scared-of-cassowaries-but-theres-a-softer-side-to-this-terrifying-bird>

There are many reasons why we should really just leave these shy, possibly anxious, introverts alone.



Rumour has it that everything in Australia can kill you. Cassowaries don't do much to dispel those rumours. Not only do they look terrifyingly similar to the velociraptors in the Jurassic Park franchise with their three-pronged claws, but the bulging, fleshy casque that sits above their beak makes them seem even more intimidating.

This hellish reputation is not helped by the news, which situates cassowaries as beastly killers, and the softer side of this large bird is, unjustifiably, ignored.

An article by Richard Flanagan

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/nov/01/birds-are-liberation-that-never-ends-but-enjoying-their-company-is-also-to-know-an-inconsolable-sadness>



I am not a twitcher's binocular strap, but I adore birds. I watch birds for hours. Their freedom and joy move me. Something in their play and way suggest minds far different than ours.

A man I once met who kept cockatoos told me that you have to be careful because they fuck with your head. And they do. Birds are an education to watch, and a liberation that never ends.

We live in the twilight of things, granted one last glorious vision.

Native Birds are Disappearing

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/oct/29/australias-beloved-native-birds-are-disappearing-and-the-cause-is-clear?>

Australia's beloved native birds are disappearing - and the cause is clear. Even species we see every day are sliding towards endangerment due to habitat loss (duh!).



Our study shows many species have lost lots of habitat in certain parts of Australia. We know habitat loss is a major driver of population declines and freefalling numbers of animals globally.

In Australia, the trend is no different. Populations of our threatened birds declined by an average of 52% between 1985 and 2015. Alarming, populations for many common Australian birds are also trending downwards, and habitat loss is a major cause.

Along Australia's heavily populated east coast, population declines have been noted for many common species including rainbow bee-eater, double-barred finch, and pale-headed rosella.

This is a major problem for ecosystem health. Common species tend to be more numerous and so perform many roles that we depend on. Our parrots, pigeons, honeyeaters, robins, and many others help pollinate flowers, spread seeds, and keep pest insects in check.

In both Europe and Australia, declines in common species have been linked to a reduction in the provision of these vital ecosystem services.

Rising tide

<https://www.themonthly.com.au/issue/2019/october/15/69374459/bronwyn-adcock/rising-tide>

Around 10 years ago, upon retirement, Dr Brett Stevenson started spending less time in Sydney and more in a house he owned in a town 200 kilometres south - the beginnings of the classic Australian sea change.

The region he came to is called the Shoalhaven, the kind of place where if someone says they live a stone's throw from the coast they're probably not exaggerating. Nearly every town there starts adjacent to a beach or clings to the edge of an estuary - evidence of the Australian ethos that the closer we live to the coast, the better.

Stevenson wanted to contribute to his new community, so he volunteered to sit on some of the local council's natural resources and coastal management committees.

Like every other local government around the Australian coastline, Shoalhaven City Council has spent much of the past decade trying to figure out what to do about that wickedest of problems: 85 per cent of us live in proximity to the coast, and as the climate warms and sea levels rise, bringing bigger tides and more frequent storms, the ocean is coming for many of our homes. Local councils - being the ones that decide where and how we build - are the first responders to this critical challenge.

In 2015, Shoalhaven councillors solved the problem by voting to plan for a future in which sea-level rise will not be so bad after all: an alternative reality, where Shoalhaven remains unscathed from the worst impacts of climate change.

"It was horrifying," says Stevenson. "I mean, it was just crap policy."



When it came to a vote, the majority of councillors voted to set a benchmark of a 0.23 metre rise by 2050 and a 0.35 metre rise by 2100.

Since the essay above went to press, the latest IPCC report released in September 2019 confirmed that global mean sea level is rising and accelerating. The most likely range of sea-level rise is now projected to be between 0.61m and 1.10m by 2100.

Conservation Curiosities

- by Chris Grounds

Pied Oystercatcher Firsts - and Hoodie Survival

The shorebird breeding season 2019 - 2020, or at least the one that I am involved with monitoring in the Bay and Basin zone as one of a volunteer team, is throwing up some very interesting developments.

This has included a number of "firsts", not the least of which has been the "first" Pied Oystercatcher (POC) nesting at Moona Spit at the mouth of Moona Moona Creek between Huskisson and Vincentia.

The area is a haunt for Oystercatchers, both Pied and Sooty, Eastern Curlew and Crested Terns, mostly as a resting area, but as I am led to understand, this is the first time it has been used as a nest site.

A special bagging operation to build the nest onto a sand platform to avoid very high tides, just two days before hatching, proved a good move.



Another "first" was a POC nest on Cave Beach to a known pair from Bherwerre Beach in Booderee National Park.

Unfortunately, the nest lost one of the two eggs, and then the second close to term and the adults have now left the beach.



The other POC first of a different kind, was the second nesting by the "YW pair" - familiar from Booderee National Park nesting and the successful rearing and fledging of a chick last summer.

This pair had a three egg nest on the sand spit at Captains Lagoon in HMAS Creswell to commence their breeding season, which has happened previously, but this nest was lost near the end of the incubation. This is one of the PFAS contamination sites.

The pair of POCs moved on and with some surprise, nested again on a minimal beach exposure at Hole In The Wall, adjacent to the small lagoon where their two egg nest continues successfully.

This is a first time nesting at the site.



The other nest of similar interest - which I am informed continues - is the POC nest at Summercloud Bay, another PFAS contamination site! This is also reported as a first time POC nest at the site.

What does it all mean?

In the case of the Moona situation, quite a bit, especially as the adults are successfully raising the now advanced pair of chicks, despite the challenges of visitors and dogs. It's a dog-prohibited site, but that is another conversation!



POC nest sites are being reported from other known nesting sites on Bherwerre Beach and the St Georges Basin islands but without a great deal of success, which is a mark of their Threatened Species - Endangered status.

That C7 Hooded Plover Gal

One of the most absorbing stories of the season has been that of the Hooded Plover known as C7 from her leg flag.

Her story goes back quite a way with many chapters as a well know breeding Booderee Hoodie.

This bird was in fact one of the C7-E6 pair which produced two fledglings off Cave Beach in the 2018-2019 season, the northernmost successful breeding in this part of Australia for the season.

She had previously produced chicks with another partner, M9, on Cave Beach, but none fledged and quite a few nests were lost. Keep in mind that E6 had also been a previous partner prior to M9!

In the early Warm Season she was discovered in Booderee with a badly injured leg and foot, resulting from an accident with the leg band.



It took four days of tracking and associated attempts to trap C7 on Bherwerre Beach, with shorebird volunteers involved with state NPWS and Seabird rescue volunteers.



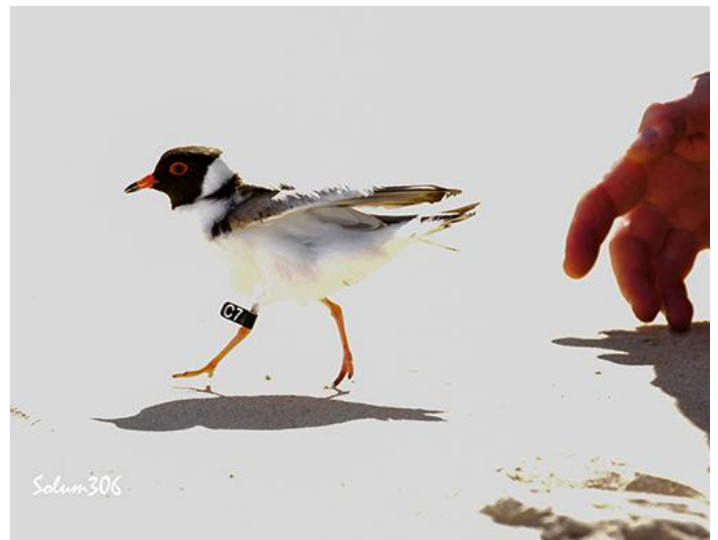
C7 was eventually captured and successfully attended to by veterinarians, with infection and removal of a diseased toe the major part of the operation. C7 was then able to be repatriated back onto Bherwerre Beach.



C7 is sighted every now and again by Bherwerre Beach volunteers to confirm her survival, but it is clear that her last mate, E6, had moved on to breeding endeavours with an unflagged mate, leaving C7 to her own devices.

Monitoring on Cave Beach on November 1 revealed two surprises. E6 and his mate had produced two chicks from their three egg nest.

On the beach at the very same time but in another location was C7 with an "unflagged partner" looking like they were very keen to nest. C7 was back - and with company! All this despite the continuing less-than-perfect condition of one of her legs.



C7 will now be monitored for any attempt to nest, and it will be truly remarkable if she produces any fledglings after the trauma of injury, capture, treatment, release, the desertion of her partner and finding someone new!

Talk about days of their lives!

"Birds of the Shoalhaven" posters

Visitors to the Bird Haven Festival at Shoalhaven Heads in late October would have noticed the new "Birds of the Shoalhaven" posters that were displayed at the talks on the Friday night and Saturday, and in the BirdLife Shoalhaven tent on the Sunday.

There were six posters in total with most posters showing around 30 birds, as seen in the image below.



Each poster displays a different group of birds -

- Birds in Backyards
- Beach - Lake - Wetlands
- Bush and Forest
- Raptors in the Sky
- Rare and Elusive
- Threatened Species

Almost all of the bird photos were taken by Charles Dove, with only one or two exceptions. Charles also did the graphic design, with input from Karen Davis who liaised with the BirdLife Australia head office to ensure the new posters aligned with the BirdLife Australia "brand". Karen also did the proof-reading to ensure that all of the bird names and sizes were correct.

The posters were produced in two sizes - A1 on corflute backing (590mm x 841mm) and A3 (297mm x 420mm) on quality paper.

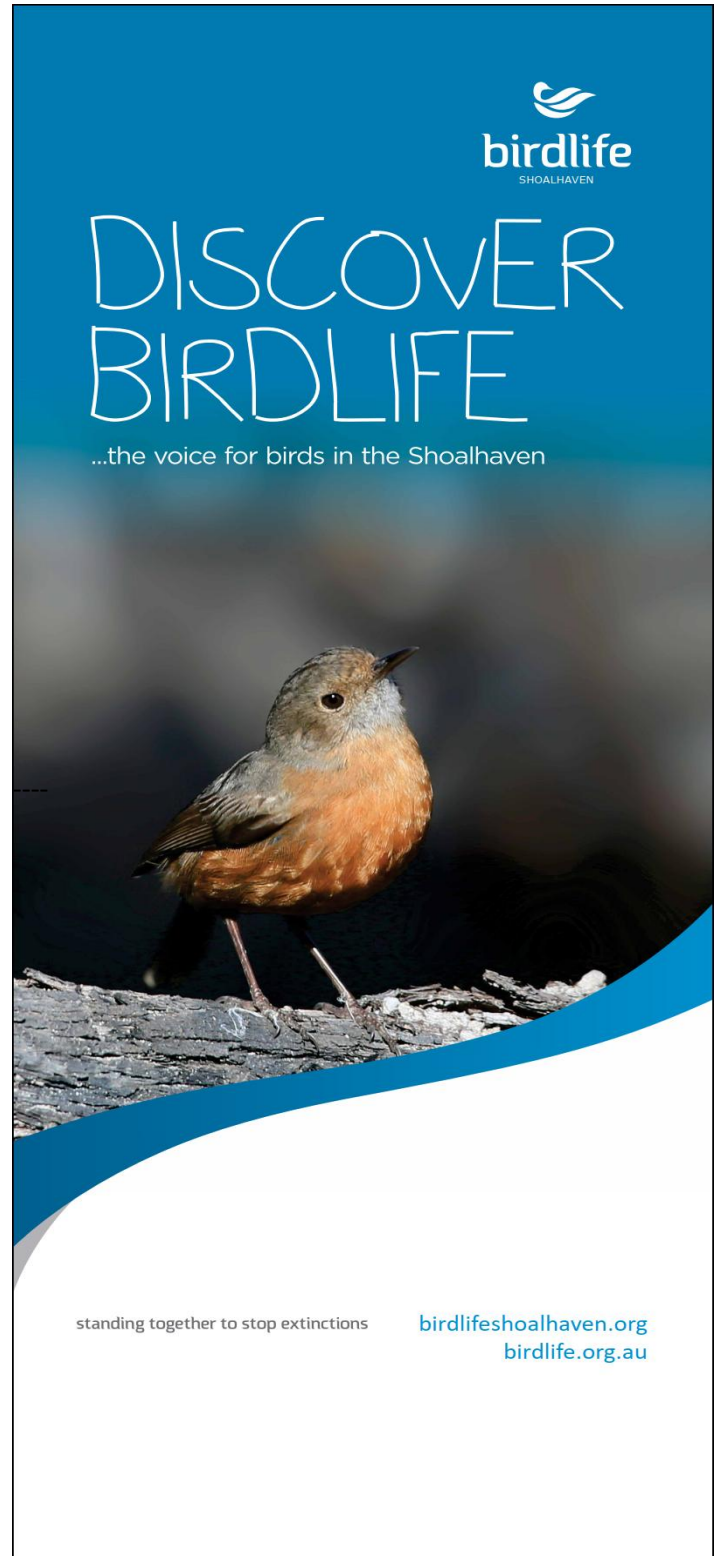
The posters are shown on the following six pages.

Please contact Karen at treasurer@birdlifeshoalhaven.org if you would like to purchase any A3 posters (\$5) or to enquire about the A1 posters (a lot more expensive).



In addition, Charles and Karen also produced a pull-up banner featuring a bird found almost exclusively in the Shoalhaven as well as being the only fully endemic bird in New South Wales - the Rock Warbler.

The artwork for the pull-up banner is shown below and the banner can be seen in the photo (below left) next to Tim Low during his Bird Haven Festival presentation.



BIRDS OF THE SHOALHAVEN

BIRDS IN BACKYARDS



Galah
33cm - 36cm



Red Wattlebird
34cm - 36cm



Crimson Rosella
32cm - 36cm



Rainbow Lorikeet
28cm - 32cm



Common Bronzewing
female: 30cm - 36cm



Laughing Kookaburra
40cm - 45cm



Little Wattlebird
26cm - 30cm



Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
32cm - 34cm



Magpie-lark
female: 26cm - 30cm



Eastern Whipbird
26cm - 30cm



Australian King-Parrot
male: 41cm - 43cm



Satin Bowerbird
male: 27cm - 33cm



Willie Wagtail
18cm - 22cm



Grey Butcherbird
24cm - 30cm



Superb Fairy-wren
male: 13cm - 14cm



Grey Shrike-thrush
22cm - 25cm



Australian Magpie
37cm - 43cm



Pied Currawong
44cm - 51cm



Eastern Yellow Robin
15cm - 17cm



Grey Fantail
14cm - 16cm



Eastern Spinebill
15cm - 16cm



Yellow-faced Honeyeater
16cm - 17cm



New Holland Honeyeater
16cm - 18cm



Masked Lapwing
33cm - 36cm



Brown Thornbill
9cm - 10cm



Silvereye
10cm - 12cm



Spotted Pardalote
male: 8cm - 10cm



Red-browed Finch
10cm - 12cm

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BIRDS OF THE SHOALHAVEN

BEACH - LAKE - WETLANDS



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BUSH AND FOREST



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BIRDS OF THE SHOALHAVEN

RAPTORS IN THE SKY



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BIRDS OF THE SHOALHAVEN

RARE AND ELUSIVE



Fairy Tern
23cm - 25cm

Gull-billed Tern
33cm - 42cm

Northern
Giant Petrel
80cm - 116cm

Eastern
Reef Egret
57cm - 66cm

Latham's Snipe
29cm - 33cm

Chestnut-rumped
Heathwren
13cm - 16cm

Australian Shelduck
female: 68cm - 70cm

Olive Whistler
male: 18cm - 20cm

Banded Stilt
45cm - 53cm

White-rumped
Sandpiper
15cm - 18cm

Lewin's Rail
20cm - 27cm

Australian Logrunner
18cm - 21cm

Red-browed
Treecreeper
13cm - 18cm

Banded Lapwing
25cm - 29cm

Yellow-billed
Spoonbill
76cm - 81cm

White-throated
Needletail
15cm - 18cm

Noisy Pitta
19cm - 21cm

Inland Dotterel
19cm - 23cm

Spotted Quail-thrush
24cm - 30cm

Grey Plover
27cm - 31cm

Musk Duck
female: 47cm - 55cm

Hudsonian Godwit
36cm - 42cm

Australian
Spotted
Crake
19cm - 23cm

Paradise Shelduck
63cm - 71cm

Australian
Painted Snipe
female: 24cm - 30cm

Common
Greenshank
30cm - 35cm

Australian
Spotted
Crake
19cm - 23cm

...the voice for birds in the Shoalhaven



BIRDS OF THE SHOALHAVEN

THREATENED SPECIES



Glossy Black-Cockatoo
male: 41cm - 44cm



Gang-gang Cockatoo
male: 34cm - 35cm



Little Lorikeet
16cm - 18cm



Little Tern
20cm - 26cm



Freckled Duck
50cm - 60cm



Eastern Bristlebird
18cm - 21cm



Dusky Woodswallow
17cm - 18cm



Black Bittern
54cm - 56cm



Eastern Ground Parrot
28cm - 32cm



Powerful Owl
53cm - 57cm



Curlew Sandpiper
18cm - 23cm



Bar-tailed Godwit
37cm - 45cm



Black-tailed Godwit
37cm - 45cm



Swift Parrot
22cm - 26cm



Regent Honeyeater
20cm - 23cm



Great Knot
26cm - 28cm



Pied Oystercatcher
48cm - 51cm



Greater Sand-plover
22cm - 25cm



Square-tailed Kite
50cm - 56cm



Red Knot
23cm - 26cm



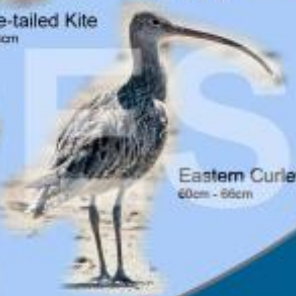
Hooded Plover
18cm - 23cm



Lesser Sand-plover
18cm - 21cm



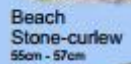
White-fronted Chat
female: 11cm - 13cm



Eastern Curlew
60cm - 66cm



Sanderling
18cm - 20cm



Beach Stone-curlew
55cm - 57cm

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BirdLife Shoalhaven Calendar for 2019 / 2020

Date	Event / Location / Group*	Details - meeting time and place, leaders etc.
Nov 8th (Fri)	Dolphin Point (southwards)	8am at parking area just south of Seaside Parade / Bonito Ave intersection. Charles Dove 0417 422 302.
Nov 8th (Fri)	BLS Committee Meeting	2pm - 4 pm at the home of Rob Dunn
Nov 17th (Sun)	Lake Wollumboola	8:30am at lake entrance car park. Stan Brown 0438 952 136.
Nov 22nd (Fri)	Milton Rainforest	8am Milton swimming pool carpark. Chris Shinton 0423 352 718.
Dec 6th (Fri)	Burrill Lake (also Xmas Picnic)	8am at Lions Park, Burrill Lake. Mike Jefferis 0412 480 371.
Dec 15th (Sun)	Coomonderry Swamp	8:30am at Apex Park, Berry. Bring Xmas lunch and something to share for Xmas Lunch at Berry Beach. Stan Brown 0438 952 136.
Jan 3rd (Fri)	Wilfords Lane Wetlands	8am at the back of Harry Higgs Room. Bob Rusk 02 4480 7012.
Jan 11th (Sat)	Murray's Beach Circuit	7:30am at Hyams Beach turnoff to pool cars for national park entry. A 6km circuit from the Murray's Beach car park. Brett 0497 868 471 and Karen Davis 0487 208 437.
Jan 17th (Fri)	ANU Kioloa Campus	8am at ANU Campus. Marg Hamon & Maggie Mance 4457 1129.
Feb 16th (Sun)	Shoalhaven Heads	8:30am at carpark at end of River Rd. Stan Brown 0438 952 136.

- * BirdLife Shoalhaven (BLS) activities are shown in black
- * Milton Ulladulla Birders (MUD) activities are shown in blue
- * Shoalhaven Birders (SB) activities are shown in green

* Unless otherwise stated, most activities go for 2 to 3 hours.
 * We recommend you bring morning tea to all morning outings!

BLS members can attend all activities. SB contact is Stan Brown 4443-4828 and 0438 952 136. MUD contacts are Marg Hamon 4457-1129 and Chris Shinton 4454-5584 or you can email mubirdclub@gmail.com.

Contributions - any bird photographs, articles, conservation issues, birding experiences, anecdotes or sightings that you would like to share with fellow members, please send to the editor (Brett Davis) at communications@birdlifeshoalhaven.org

General Disclaimer - the information in articles in this magazine is accepted in good faith and although the editor has endeavoured to verify the accuracy of all information, BirdLife Shoalhaven and BirdLife Australia accept no responsibility for any errors, inaccuracies or exaggerations in this magazine.

Errors - if you find any errors in this magazine, please inform the editor by emailing communications@birdlifeshoalhaven.org

Views expressed in this magazine are those of the contributors and may not be the views of either BirdLife Shoalhaven or BirdLife Australia.

Acknowledgements - thank you to this season's contributors - Lilli Morrison, Esther Beaton, Vincent Mourik, Charlotte Brady, Georgina Steytler, Allan Benson, the Department of Defence, Karen Davis, Charles Dove, Kim Touzel, Chris Grounds and Rob Dunn.

Sources - images and text from the following websites may have been used in this magazine - australiangeographic.com.au, themonthly.com, theconversation.com, theguardian.com, and abc.net.au. If you like the content from those websites, we urge you to visit those websites and subscribe to their content.

Apologies to contributors and sources who have inadvertently not been acknowledged. Please let us know of our oversight and we will issue a formal apology in the next magazine.

Australia's voice for birds since 1901

BirdLife Australia is dedicated to achieving outstanding conservation results for our native birds and their habitats.

With our specialised knowledge and the commitment of an Australia-wide network of volunteers and supporters, we are creating a bright future for Australia's birds.

birdlife.org.au

Add your voice



Join us

Enjoy the rewards of membership, making a real difference for our native birds



Volunteer

Contributing your time is one of the most effective ways to help



Donate

Help us create positive outcomes for birds and their habitats