



Image by Linda Denning

In this issue ...



Landcare and Bird Conservation ... [page 7](#)

This article is a compilation of three related items about Landcare and Bird Conservation in the Shoalhaven - the first written by Barbara Liddle, President of Shoalhaven Landcare Association, the second by Peter Mair, leader of the Bengalee Landcare group, and the third by Rob Dunn, President of BirdLife Shoalhaven.



Conservation Curiosities - by Chris Grounds ... [page 14](#)

Chris comments on a number of "Conservation Curiosities" that have popped up in the Shoalhaven in recent months, including Freckled Ducks at Twin Waters Estate, Ospreys fishing in Currambene Creek, additions of birds to the Bherwerre Wetland species list and megaflocks of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos.



Interview with Frances Bray ... [page 17](#)

Frances is the driving force behind the Lake Wollumboola Protection Association which has been relentless in its opposition to the forces bent on destroying Lake Wollumboola - a 648 hectare coastal lake in the Shoalhaven which now forms part of Jervis Bay National Park. The lake has been identified by BirdLife International as an Important Bird Area (IBA) because it often supports over 1% of the world population of Black Swans and Chestnut Teals, and is equally as important to a number of migratory bird species.



A Birdy SeeChange - by Chris Grounds ... [page 23](#)

SeeChange 2019, the first of the annual Festivals for Jervis Bay & Basin Arts, produced another major element of "bird art" across many exhibitions, media and artists.

This season's front cover image depicting Glossy Black Cockatoos is part of a painting by SeeChange artist Linda Denning. See the Chris Grounds article "A Birdy SeeChange" on page 23 for more details.

Also ...

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Presidential Musings | page 3 |
| Conservation Officer Report | page 11 |
| Web Watch | page 26 |
| NAIDOC Week | page 29 |
| Calendar | page 30 |

Presidential Musings

- by Rob Dunn

National recognition for Frances Bray

I was delighted to present Frances Bray the Birdlife Australia Distinguished Service Award (DSA) at a BLS event on 23 June at Culburra Beach - "A Celebration of Lake Wollumboola".

Over 130 people were at the celebration, including representatives from the three levels of government - Fiona Phillips MP, Member for Gilmore, Penny Sharpe MLC, NSW Shadow Minister of the Environment and Heritage, and Councillors Annette Aldrick, Kaye Gartner and John Levett.

For almost three decades Frances has advocated for birdlife conservation. The lake is a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) for Black Swan and Chestnut Teal, an East Asian Australasian Flyway (EAAF) migratory shorebird site and Little Tern and Pied Oystercatcher nesting site.

Frances is the KBA Guardian, a long-term contributor to Shorebird 2020 surveys and the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) South Coast Shorebird Recovery Program.

In 1993, Frances and friends established what became the Lake Wollumboola Protection Association Inc. (LWPA), which was successful in 2000 in preventing major urban development in the lake catchment. In 2002 the LWPA welcomed the lake's inclusion in Jervis Bay National Park.

They also successfully opposed further urban expansion, with the NSW Independent Planning Commission (NSW IPC) refusing two major developments in 2018. As the public face of these campaigns, it was Frances who had to take the brunt of acrimonious opposition from many in the local community. The interview with Frances in this magazine will expand on her story. Frances has effectively helped save a KBA and an EAAF site - local action of global significance. Frances is a most worthy recipient of this major national conservation award.

Frances expressed her appreciation saying "I am honoured to receive such a prestigious award for doing what I love most - that is spending time at Lake Wollumboola, observing the subtle changes in the lake's physical and ecological character, particularly its birdlife."

Congratulations also to the other DSA recipient this year, Colin Kohlhagen, for his many years of volunteering for our neighbours BirdLife Southern Highlands.

Lake Wollumboola must be protected!

I might have been well-versed about the lake's significance, as a KBA and EAAF site, and was personally exposed to those demanding development, rather than conservation, at the ugly public meeting before the NSW IPC, but the event at Culburra opened my eyes even further.

The fragility of the lake came across so clearly from coastal estuaries expert Kerryn Stephens in her talk on "How much do you know about Lake Wollumboola?".



Kerryn's explanation about what makes the lake "tick" ecologically, showed that it all starts with hydrology and water quality. If that is "stuffed up", the lake will never survive in its current form.



How can anyone truly think that major development at West Culburra and elsewhere around the lake will not compromise the lake's viability in the future?

Earlier we were also privileged to hear from Jerrinja elder, Delia Lowe. Her moving welcome to country and explanation of the cultural significance of the lake and its surrounding spiritual landscape to the Jerrinja people was profound. These perspectives seem to go unacknowledged far too often. I suspect many people know more about the cultural significance of Uluru and Kakadu, than what is in our own backyard.



The end-game for the battle to save Lake Wollumboola must be to have both the lake and its catchment included in Jervis Bay National Park and the listing of the lake as a Wetland of International Significance under the Ramsar Convention. Thanks to Kerry and Delia 130 more people now have extra ammunition to support the LWPA, BLS and Frances to fight to make that all happen.

Acknowledging the support from Council & NPWS staff

My own presentation in Culburra gave me the opportunity to acknowledge the staff in Council's environment team and at NSW NPWS. We all know that politics often means they have to react to budget cuts and changes to organisation structures, while still keeping the "wheels turning". Those "wheels" at NPWS include the South Coast Shorebirds Recovery Program and winning funding from the Save our Species program for projects at the Lake and Shoalhaven Heads.



At Council it includes supporting Bushcare groups and one-off projects - like the new bird platform at the lake. Also, our submissions to Council inevitably put extra pressure on staff time. This often goes unacknowledged. I said I spoke for everyone in the Shoalhaven environment network in thanking them for their on-going support to the community and the environment. The immediate applause showed that I was speaking for everyone in the room.



A successful Environmental Expo

A big thank you to everyone who helped out at the very successful Environmental Expo in Nowra last month. Two take-home messages for me. Firstly, a number of our supporters are keen to volunteer to promote BLS's work and educate folk about birds and we only need to ask. Secondly, two of the volunteers on the day said we should think about having a continuous slideshow of bird pictures at these type of events and get our own poster of Shoalhaven's birds. Coincidentally the interest in a bird poster was also raised by a community group in Cambewarra. Both ideas were discussed at our recent BLS Committee meeting and everyone was in agreement. So, watch this space.

Vale Su Garside-Brown

Tragically in May, Su Garside-Brown passed away after a long fight with cancer.

Su was a member of Shoalhaven Birders for over ten years, enjoying the birds and the company on the bird walks and organising many walks too.

She took part in the Shorebirds 2020 counts each year at the Shoalhaven River and was an active volunteer with the NPWS Shorebirds Recovery Program.

She would have walked along Bherwerre Beach in Booderee National Park on numerous occasions over the years, happily counting the birds and always collecting the plastic rubbish along the way.

Su will be fondly remembered by her many friends in the Shoalhaven birding family.

A mystery solved

In my last President's Report, I commented on the great bird banners that I had seen on the scaffolding near the NSW Law Courts in Sydney.

I have since discovered that these amazing artworks were created by Camila De Gregorio and her partner Chris Macaluso.

(continued next column)

Camila and Chris are both members of Birding NSW and have a company called Eggpicnic - <https://eggpicnic.com>

The City of Sydney has taken on a number of artists to provide murals for buildings under construction, including Eggpicnic, who donate some of the proceeds of their bird artworks to BirdLife Australia. So, we owe them special recognition!



Yupela likim lukim long pisin?

For those that do not understand Pidgin English, I asked a group of kids while birding in West New Britain in Papua New Guinea in June, if they would like to look at the birds.

There was great excitement when they focused on the Eclectus Parrots we had been looking at. Whether these kids will be PNG's birders of the future is uncertain, but it just shows how birds can open up new conversations across cultural divides.



100% of the audience at our fledgling Festival said they'd come again this year



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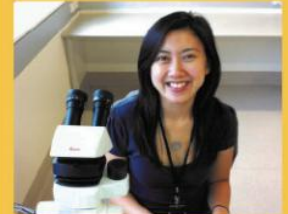
Headline speakers



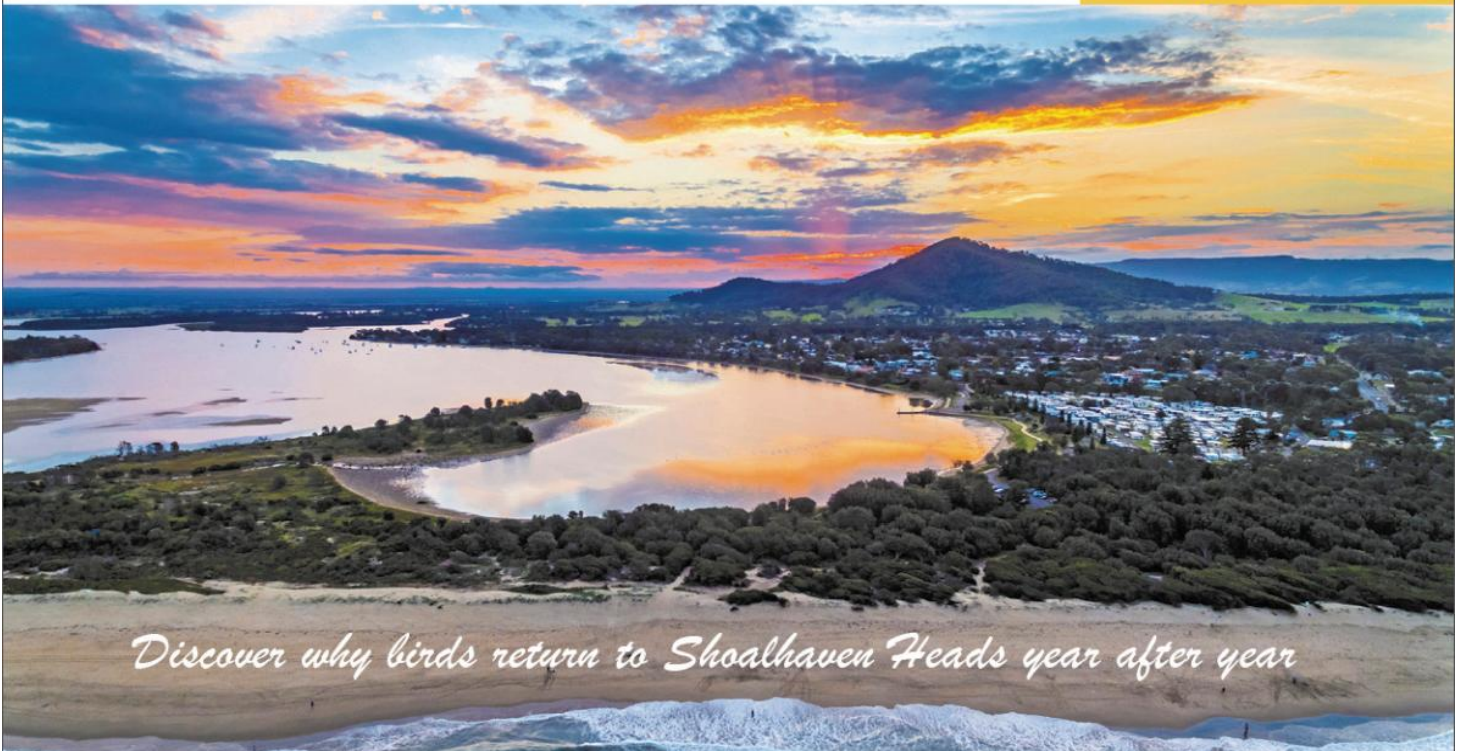
Biologist and author,
Dr Tim Low



Australia's biggest bird nerd,
Sean Dooley



Avian Palaeontologist,
Dr Jacqui Nguyen



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Landcare and Bird Conservation

This article is a compilation of three related items about Landcare and Bird Conservation in the Shoalhaven - the first written by Barbara Liddle, President of Shoalhaven Landcare Association, the second by Peter Mair, leader of the Bengalee Landcare group, and the third by Rob Dunn, President of BirdLife Shoalhaven.

Landcare in the Shoalhaven

- by Barbara Liddle



The Landcare movement was established in Australia in 1986 when the Australian Conservation Foundation and the National Farmers Federation came together to call for action to tackle the challenges confronting our land, water, wildlife and farmland.

This unlikely alliance received support from Prime Minister Bob Hawke, setting an aim to form 300 Landcare groups by the end of the decade. Instead it went past 2,000 and today there are more than 6,000 groups across Australia, operating under guidance from State and regional bodies. The Shoalhaven Landcare Association (SLA) is one of these.

SLA has a membership of 20 Landcare groups and works closely with Council's Bushcare program. The Landcare groups range in size from just a few people to many, all with a shared passion in caring for the land, waterways and coastlines, and the biodiversity it supports.

SLA provides support to its members through training, education, communications and project funding with liaison by the Landcare Coordinator, Marien Stark. The groups carry out a wide range of projects.

Currently these include a fox baiting program from Berry to south of the Shoalhaven River, bank restoration work on rivers and creeks, a feral goat control program, a major Berry Corridor project and Lantana control projects.

Projects can involve a single group or several groups working together. They can be on small properties or large properties, on life-style and hobby farms or on substantial farming enterprises. But they all draw upon the wide range of skills and lessons learnt in their own and other groups. And they all involve many hours of sustained effort by a group of committed volunteers focussed on sustainable land management and improving the natural environment where they live.

The Bengalee Lantana Clearing Project

- Peter Mair

The Bengalee Landcare Group (BLG) is one of the members of SLA and is made up of approximately 30 landholders with around one third active.

In early 2018, after receiving funding approval, they established the Bengalee Lantana Clearing Project to rehabilitate 20 acres of land severely infested by Lantana (*Lantana camera*) across three neighbouring properties at Tapitallee.





The aim of the project is to remove Lantana, which had taken over after past logging and clearing for agriculture on the properties. Research indicates more than 1,400 native species are negatively affected by Lantana, including many threatened species.

Lantana is a woody shrub that has thin, combustible canes, and its presence can also create hotter bushfires, altering native vegetation communities and pastures.

A single plant can produce up to 12,000 seeds in a year. Most seeds are spread by birds and animals that eat the fruit, which is more likely to germinate if it has been through the gut of a bird or mammal. Seeds are also spread by water, in soil, on machinery and garden waste.

Lantana can also release chemicals into the surrounding soil which prevent germination and competition from some other plant species.

The final goal of the project is to regenerate the area with native plant species to rebuild the corridor along the escarpment and provide food and habitat for birds and other native animals. The project will link up properties to the north and south where similar successful work has been done over the past 30 years.

Plant selection took into account the soil conditions, existing native species, bird attracting plants to provide food year around, differing microclimates and species capable of restoring the tree canopy to provide shade and inhibit the regrowth of lantana.

The plants that were selected include a variety of 30 native species suitable for temperate rainforest and dry sclerophyll forest.



The birds and other species expected to take advantage of the new corridor include 80 bird species already recorded on the properties, as well the hope to encourage species such as the Wompoo Fruit-Dove, which was once a resident in the Illawarra, and Regent Honeyeaters that have recently visited the region.

Funding of \$19,000 was received from South East Local Land Services and SLA for the implementation phase. This was used for the procurement of plants, tree guards and star pickets, as well as meeting the costs for an external contractor with mechanised equipment to cut access pathways through the infestations and slash dead lantana. Use was also made of equipment from BLG and SLA.

Like all long-term Landcare projects, the project involved a number of phases and required careful planning and many hours of effort:



- estimating the cost of track making, slashing, spraying, mechanical mulching, plants, aviary mesh for tree guards and star pickets to secure and stabilise the tree guards
- organising working bees to start clearing and treating Lantana from April 2018
- using equipment to cut access pathways through the Lantana on very steep hill-sides
- poisoning of the thickets with proprietary herbicides, using SLA's 600 litre capacity spray trailer

- moving materials and plants to the regeneration zones
- making tree guards and placing them in positions so as to achieve the required densities - the tree guards are about 1.8m. high and wired to the star pickets to protect plants from wombats, wallabies and deer



- follow-up spraying using back-pack, splatter gun equipment, then hand-cutting and pasting of isolated Lantana regrowth
- mechanical slashing once the major areas initially sprayed had died back
- hand-clearing in areas that were not accessible to equipment

- commencing planting in December 2018, which will continue until September 2019 with monthly working bees - to date 740 individual plants have been planted with only 12 dying
- labelling of each plant to help with identification and monitoring of growth
- supplementary watering between December 2018 and June 2019 with water filled milk cartons positioned at each plant



- making preparations for planting - the 966 suitable species of indigenous native plants which were procured including some donated plants

Once the initial phase has been completed in September 2019, the project moves to the 5-year maintenance phase, involving watering, weeding, repair of cages, replacement of dead plants and the treatment of any Lantana regrowth. Planting will also continue as the corridor matures and links with adjoining properties.



Two successful open days have already been held and a third is scheduled for the end of September. During the afternoon attendees will walk through two of the properties on steep terrain to look at some of the planting sites and the day will end with a BBQ and video presentation. Expect to see some birds too!

Budding partnerships for bird conservation

- by Rob Dunn

All Landcare projects support our birds and the wider environment, regardless if their primary focus is sustainable farming practices or biodiversity. For example, many of these projects help build corridors which allow birds to move to find new refuges and healthier habitat, which is especially vital in the Shoalhaven with the expansion of development.

BLS and SLA is a symbiotic and developing partnership. Many of its landowners are BLS members and supporters and know a lot about birds. Many BLS members have gone to help out at Landcare plantings and point out some birds at the same time. BLS intends to build upon what is already happening through more case studies in the BLS Magazine and letting you know about future planting days and events.

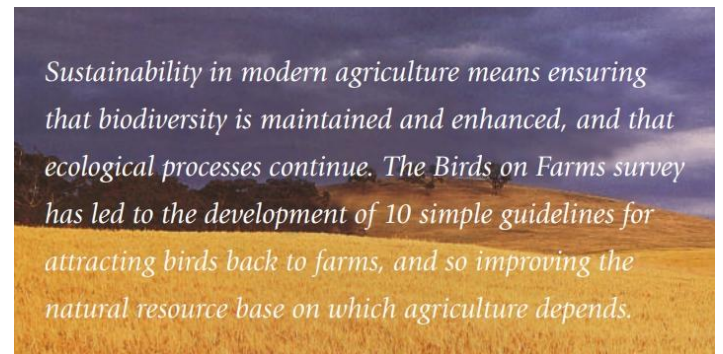
One of the best things we can do for bird conservation is to provide more habitat and reduce weed and pest pressure. SLA are the experts and are doing just that throughout the Shoalhaven. The more help we can give them the better it will be for our birds.

Go to www.shoalhavenlandcare.org.au.

BirdLife Australia prepared a report called "Birds in Farms" in 2000. A follow-up project is currently underway. The report can be found here - [Birds on Farms](#)

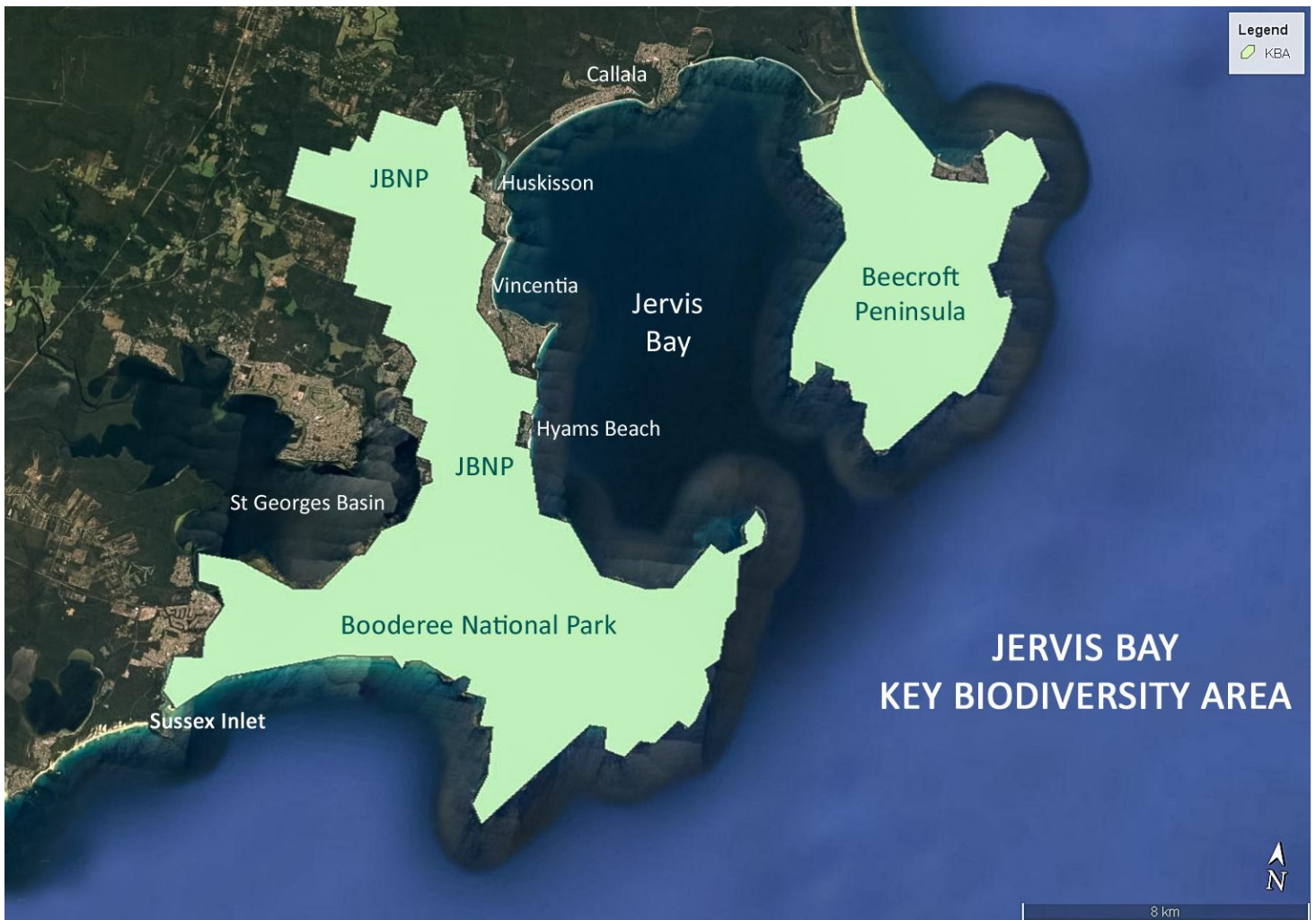


This will be a great opportunity to see what has been achieved to date with this exciting project. Numbers for this event will be very limited and will only be open to BLS members. More information will be sent out in a few weeks.



Conservation Officer Report

- by Chris Grounds



My conundrum with this Cool season report has been where to start this particular conservation story.

Given the key interest of BirdLife Australia [BLA] and thus ourselves - BirdLife Shoalhaven [BLS] - in Key Biodiversity Areas [KBAs] it might be best to start there and specifically with the Jervis Bay Key Biodiversity Area [JB-KBA].

The BLS Treasurer, Karen Davis, is the BLA Guardian for this KBA.

(Note: Only a section of Jervis Bay National Park is included and it is not continuous within the KBA)

However, the story also starts at the interface between tourism and environment, as represented in the JB-KBA, the Jervis Bay National Park [JBNP] south precinct and Booderee National Park.

The saga also embraces one of the highest profile tourism conflict sites in the Shoalhaven, the village of Hyams Beach and attempts to manage peak visitation and traffic.

This mix became potentially volatile with an initial notion that an off-site tourism carpark on an "old tip site" on Jerrinja land on the Naval College Road would "fit the bill".

That was followed by another "brainstorm" that a site in the adjacent JBNP could also provide such a car park.

The "old tip site", well known to so many locals for decades as a "take anything" tip had been closed by state government order of the Pollution Control Commission and the Department of Public Health in 1986.



JB-KBA and JBNP Heathland

Both sites fit squarely within the JB-KBA, both are zoned to National Park Environment Conservation 1 status despite their different tenure and thus subject to the strictures of the NPW Act and the highest level of constraints, caveats and anticipated consequences.

The management package containing the suggestion of these two sites was passed unanimously through both council committee and full council.

The decisions were alarming enough and my discovery of them left me just shaking my head, especially as the particular area involved is virtually my birding "backyard".

As I was to discover, it was a very widely shared reaction once the decision was known.

It was soon apparent that there had not been any information, advice or sites background to the decisions.

Neither had there been any discussion or debate at either passage of the proposal.

It was also very apparent that the proposal represented a very serious threat to that part of the JB-KBA.

The immediate area has an Australian Atlas database record of 139 bird species of which 8 are Threatened Species and this includes the iconic species, the Eastern Bristlebird and the Eastern Ground Parrot.



The Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, emblem of the Shoalhaven but surely not of the Council's Tourism department

The Shoalhaven has two exclusive KBAs, Jervis Bay and Lake Wollumboola, both part of the Jervis Bay National Park [JBNP]. Both have been, and continue to be, subject of and to the most serious planning controversy.

Both represent that fact that JBNP, in both its discreet north and south personas, is still a national park that is in the process of being established.

The Shoalhaven embraces parts of other KBAs such as Ulladulla Coastland and Barren Grounds.

Jervis Bay KBA has the Eastern Bristlebird as a "trigger species" whilst Lake Wollumboola was declared a KBA because of numbers of Black Swan and Chestnut Teal.

The Jervis Bay KBA embraces areas that typify the threat to a properly integrated national park and to the biodiversity of Booderee National Park itself.

The Heritage Estate is perhaps the best known and has been the subject of a major conservation battle since the early 1990s. The other areas all adjoin the Heritage Estate and the Eastern Bristlebird is keystone conservation species for the area.



What car park? Naaah - not here - sorry!

The Heritage Estate Network coordinated a shared submission from a coalition of Shoalhaven conservation groups comprising BirdLife Shoalhaven, National Parks Association, Australian Conservation Foundation and Jervis Bay Regional Alliance to protest and object to the use of the JBNP.

The Heritage Estate Network dealt with the Jerrinja land and "old tip site" and provided an extensive submission on that proposal, sharing it with both the Jerrinja community and Hyams Beach Villagers Association.

Contacts and consultation with the NSW Minister, NPWS, Jerrinja Local Land Council and the Hyams Beach Villagers Association helped produce a case for the decision to return to council through a recission motion.

When that occurred with a deputation from yours truly representing all five conservation groups, the motion produced no discussion, debate or dissent and was passed unanimously, totally ruling out the consideration of the two sites as car parks and the potential intrusion and damage to the JB-KBA.

It was not dissimilar in conclusion to the Cudmirrah Beach campaign of 2018, which was also won with a unanimous reversal of a prior decision.

The successful campaign was even reported in the latest BirdLife Australia KBA Newsletter - see next page ...

Ground Zero for Ground Parrots



Ground Parrot (C) Chris Grounds

Jervis Bay KBA is globally recognised for its Eastern Bristlebird population and is home to the NSW vulnerable Eastern Ground Parrot. It also is a major tourist attraction in the Shoalhaven.

Despite the area's global importance, Shoalhaven council had earmarked two sites within the KBA located on Jerrinja Local Aboriginal Lands Council and the National Parks and Wildlife Service for overflow tourist car parks.

A coalition of conservation groups spearheaded by the Heritage Estate Network (HEST) and including and BirdLife Shoalhaven was not going to let the enjoyment of nature get in the way of nature itself. Their submission presented a clear, community conservation position and sound and scientific information.

The council identified that the decision to investigate these sites as car park locations was taken in a vacuum created by a failure to report appropriate detail to councillors.

As a result, council unanimously rejected the plans to build the overflow car parks at these sites. A great outcome for nature and tourists.

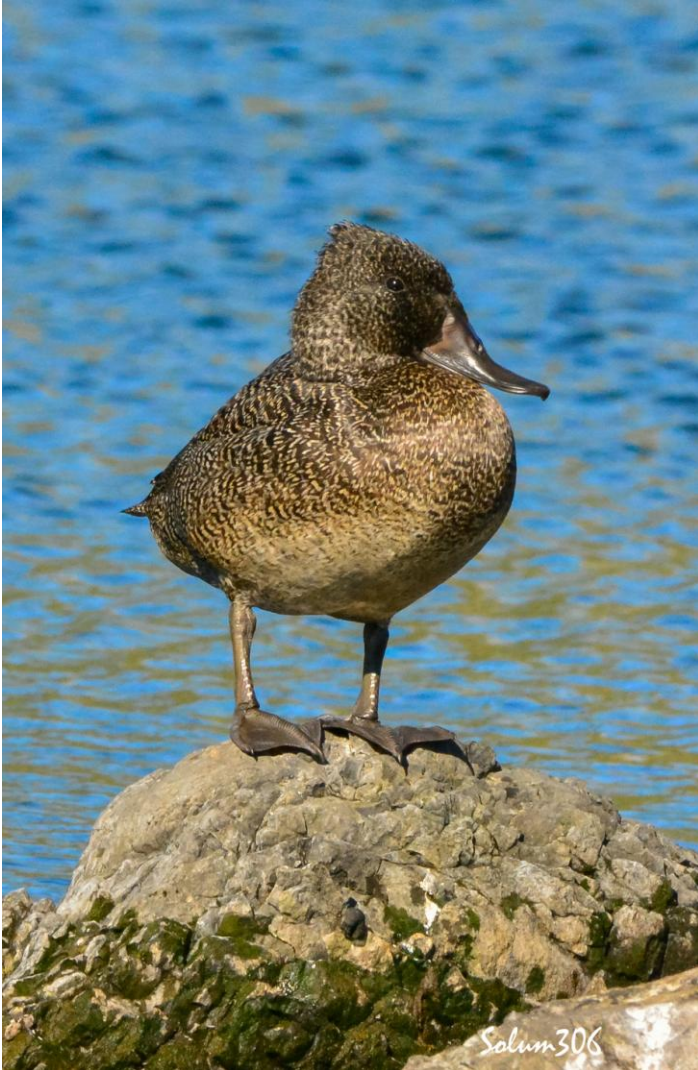
If you would like to know more about this successful campaign please contact Chris Grounds from HEST and Conservation Officer for BirdLife Shoalhaven at solum306@gmail.com - or the Jervis Bay KBA Guardian Karen Davis at karen@brettdavis.com.au

Conservation Curiosities

- by Chris Grounds

Freckled Ducks

Kim Touzel, BLS Secretary and super keen birder and photographer turned up an interesting duck on a visit to an urban lake in Nowra East at Twin Waters Estate. Kim saw 43 Freckled Ducks (*Stictonetta naevosa*). These interesting ducks are occasional visitors to the Shoalhaven from inland areas where they breed. The Freckled Duck is a "Vulnerable" Threatened Species in NSW.



Myola Spit

The Myola Spit on Currumbene Creek at Huskisson has been on the BLS interest list for some years now. BLS were successful in having the consulting ecologist's bird list for the site totally revised when the Creek Dredging was proposed in 2014. The site is Zoned Environment Conservation 1 and is "Dog Prohibited". It is one of the most important depositional bird resting sites within Jervis Bay. An ongoing problem at the site, which has been a relentless disturbance to the birds, has been both on and off-leash dogs, especially in the tourist season.

The sand spit is a favourite resting site for a range of birds but, as the photo from July 17 reveals, it is a good place to rest for Pied Oystercatchers. Sooty Oystercatchers can often be seen there and a small number of Eastern Curlews will be seen in the Warm season.



Ospreys

An early morning stroll on the mangrove at the Maritime Museum in May was very quiet until two Eastern Osprey were sighted fishing Currumbene Creek. There was some successful hunting to observe on the low tide. The curious part was the use by both birds of yacht masts to rest or return with a fish to eat; just the kind of roost the Osprey prefer. Subsequent checks indicated the birds had moved on but as always it was a delight to see this "Vulnerable" threatened species.



Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos

It was just a quiet drive home along Naval College Road from a heathland walk until one of those Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo mega-flocks arrived from the Jervis Bay N.P. heathland to cross the road heading west, still in JBNP, in huge numbers. The crossing continued for some minutes before some stragglers joined the exodus. Initial attempts to count got to 70 but birds just continued to appear from the bush adding groups of 6 or so on a number of occasions.



Sooty Oystercatchers

Sooty Oystercatchers, a Vulnerable threatened species in NSW, can often be seen on the reefs in Booderee N.P. A group of nine birds were on the Hole In The Wall reef in late May, which in itself was interesting enough, though it was their antics that allowed for some curious entertainment. There was vigorous and sometimes aggressive and sustained chasing and bullying happening prior to the group heading to Scottish Rocks. They are included in the NPWS Shorebird Recovery Program but do not figure in observations as much as the other species.



Pied Oystercatchers

The Pied Oystercatchers, an Endangered threatened species in NSW, are a focus of monitoring in Booderee National Park in the warm seasons but one pair has nested inside Jervis Bay in the park, successfully producing a fledgling last season prior to departing the site. This was on the extended shoreline focused on sands and reefs at Hole In The Wall so when this pair turned up at the site for just a day in mid-May it set curious minds racing. These were not tagged birds so the identified Yellow YW bird from breeding had perhaps returned to his origins close to Wilsons Promontory in Victoria. Their sustained bowing, hunched posture was curious.



Bherwerre Wetland

The conservation of the Bherwerre Wetland is very strongly related to the development of bird catalogue and supporting photography. It is never a task quite finished and one of the new species added recently was the White-naped Honeyeater, shown below. Further very recent additions have been the Fuscous and Brown-headed Honeyeater and a Straw-necked Ibis. A very dry wetland has been replenished in recent weeks with good rains but the standout feature this winter has been the absolutely profuse and sustained flowering of the signature tree of the wetland, the Swamp Mahogany (*Euc. robusta*).



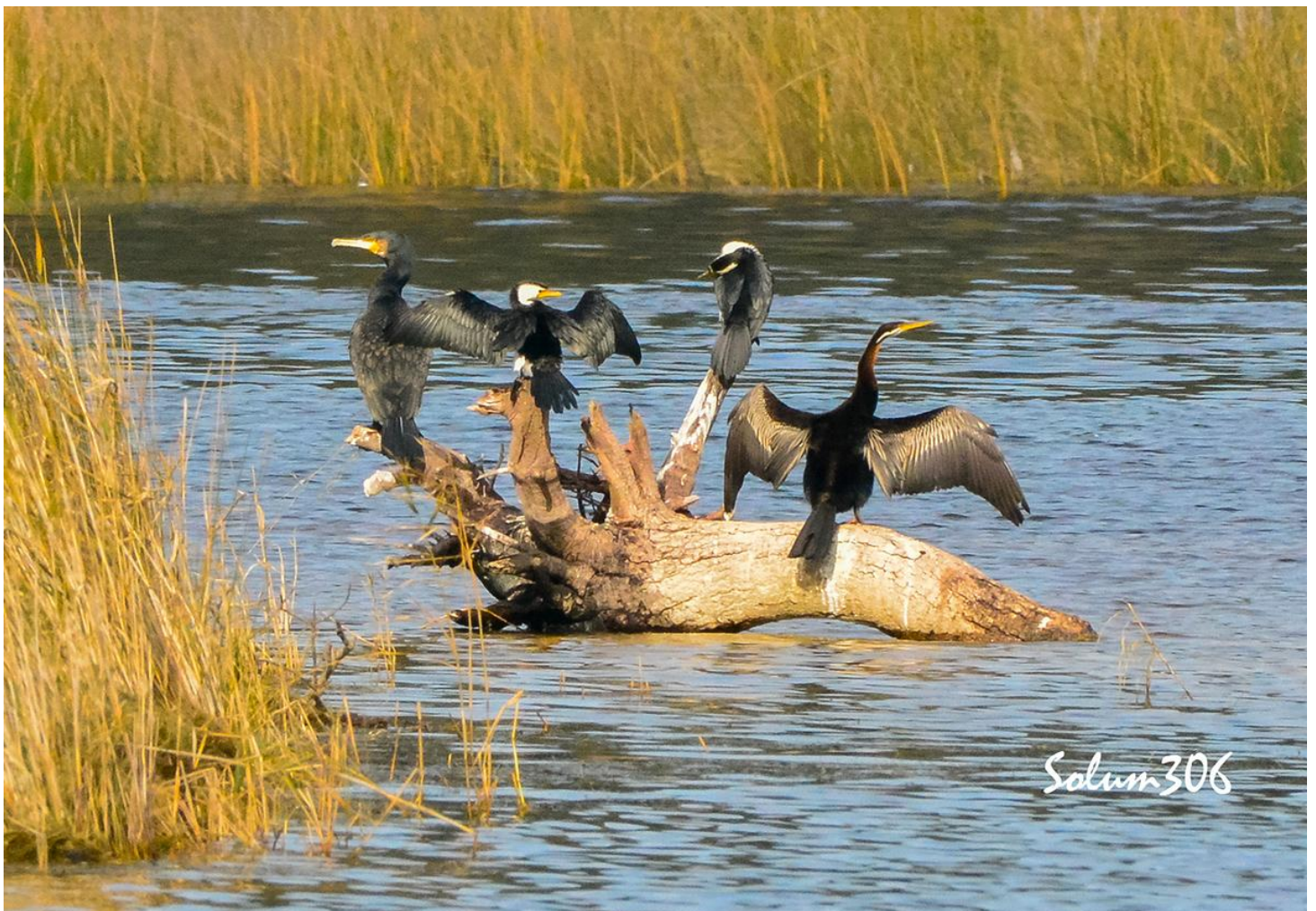
Milfords Lane Wetland

The Milfords Lane wetland on Burrill Lake was the site of a great outing prior to the BLS AGM. It is a site that would suit Ibis and the Australian White Ibis was on show there just recently. A number of the birds were displaying the showy red under-wing red skin colour associated with breeding.



Meroo Lake

Meroo Lake in the Meroo National Park is one of the great places to visit on the Shoalhaven Coast for both birds and landscape. It has the added advantage of being a low visitation area. As an ICOLL the water level varies but the recent good rains have replenished the lake and the usual range of waterbirds are back in habitat with the Eurasian Coot (shown below) present in big numbers, as well as cormorants and darters (shown in the image at the bottom of the page).



An Interview with Frances Bray

- with Brett Davis

Frances Bray's early life and career in the public service have made her the perfect champion for Lake Wollumboola, a lake in the Shoalhaven of international conservation significance. Frances is the public face of the Lake Wollumboola Protection Association (LWPA) which has been relentless in its opposition to the seemingly equally relentless forces bent on destroying the Lake and its catchment.

BLS: Let's start at the beginning ...

FB: Okay, I was born in Melbourne - at St Georges Hospital in Kew, but I grew up in Deepdene.

BLS: So did you follow an AFL team?

FB: Of course I did - Collingwood!

BLS: The Magpies! I figured you would follow one of the five bird teams - Magpies, Swans, Hawks, Eagles, Crows!

FB: I went to Deepdene State School and then to what has become Canterbury Girls Secondary College. My father was a very keen environmentalist - and fisherman! He was also interested in birds and contributed to the first Atlas of Australian Birds 1984. My parents owned a block of land at Mornington and we often stayed there in school holidays in the caravan that my father built.

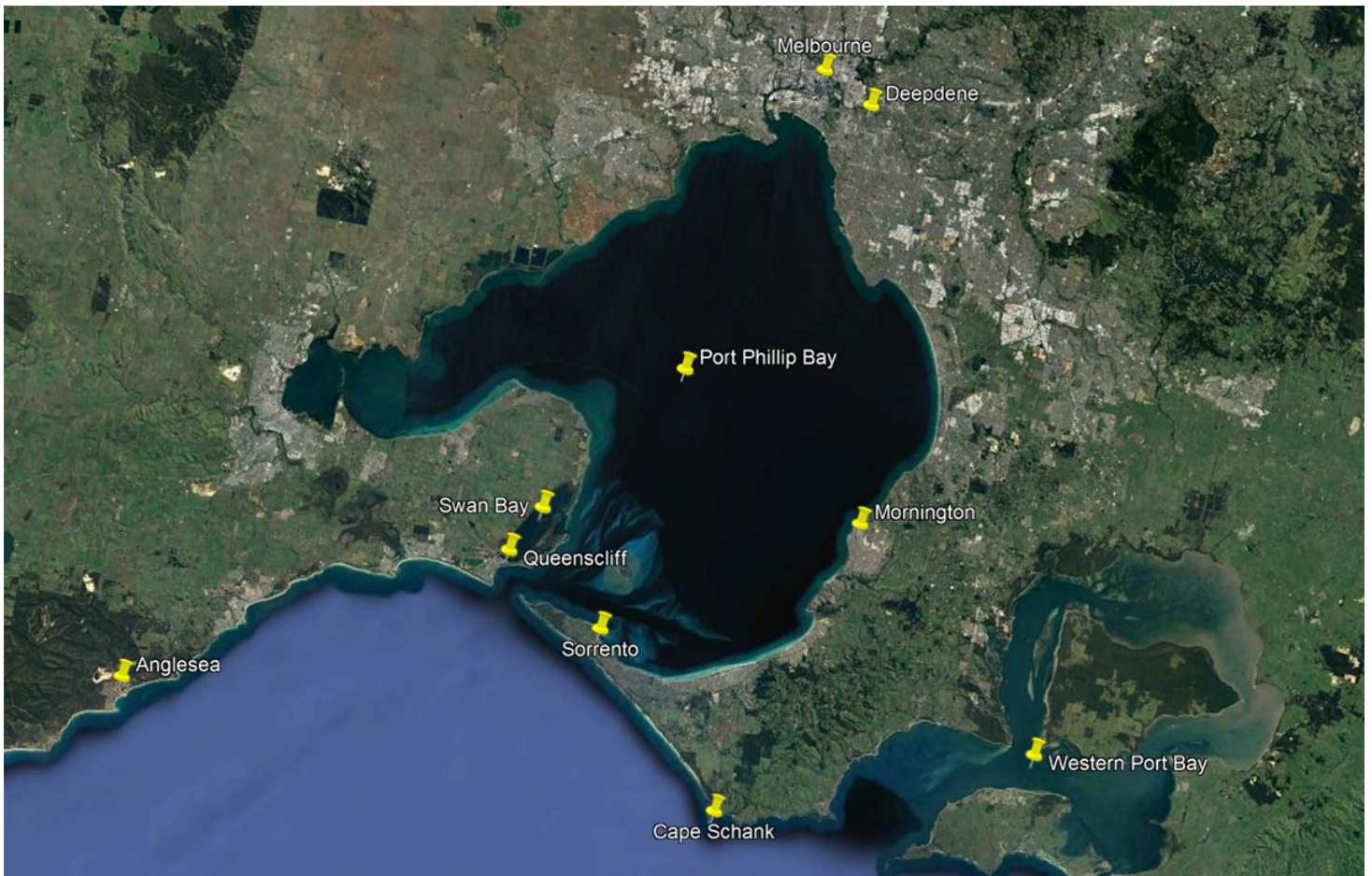
One year we even took the caravan all the way to Merimbula Lake! And we used to take the ferry from Sorrento to Queenscliff to see Swans and migratory birds at Swan Bay. I remember also going to a vantage point near Cape Schank and watching clouds of Fairy Terns, which was just an amazing experience.

As a child I was a Gould League of Bird Lovers member. Geography was my main passion at high school, and I graduated from Melbourne University in Geography and History. I completed a Diploma in Education and went on to teach Geography in Victorian high schools for three years.

Another of the themes of my childhood that I have sustained right through to my later adult years is a passion and concern for the rights of Aboriginal people and their cultural heritage.

Wiradjuri elder and activist Bill Onus lived in a street on my way home from high school and I used to chat to him over the fence, about his naming of Melbourne's Moomba Festival and Aboriginal issues.

I went on to teach at Geelong spending time at Anglesea, enjoying the coastal environment particularly Anglesea and its river, a much smaller version of intermittently closing and opening estuaries along the NSW coast.



Bill Onus (15 November 1906 – 10 January 1968) was an Aboriginal Australian political activist. He suggested the name for the Moomba festival in Melbourne. At the first Moomba carnival in 1955, the Governor of Victoria declared that "Moomba" is an Aboriginal word meaning "Let's get together and have fun".

According to Wikipedia, however, the meaning is very different. In many Aboriginal languages, "ba" is a suffix that roughly means "at the place of", and "mum" (which rhymes with "room" – means "bum").

So Moomba might actually mean "up your bum"! Onus, a trade unionist, was supposedly getting back at the city council for deliberately upstaging the traditional Labour Day march with a popular carnival.

FB: In 1965, I travelled to Europe, particularly Greece and the United Kingdom and taught in London and in Scotland. In Scotland, at that time children in their last year of primary school attended camp schools for 2-4 weeks in what had previously been army camps, featuring a mixed curriculum of outdoor environmental education as well as classroom education - a great experience.

I returned to Melbourne in 1968. I was offered a position with the then Commonwealth Department of Education and Science and was appointed to implement the first national Aboriginal student assistance programs, the Aboriginal Study Grants and Secondary Grants Scheme in Victoria and became very involved with Aboriginal community members.

In 1977 I moved to Canberra to take on a position as policy adviser and Executive Officer to the National Aboriginal Education Committee, which advised the Minister for Education. The members were all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and I was their support worker.

As a result, I was privileged to enjoy professional relationships and friendships with many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, many of whom continue to be at the forefront of the national campaign for acceptance by the Federal Government of the Uluru Statement from the heart.

The 1970s and 1980s were foundational in terms of what's happening today.

FB: In 1984 I decided to create an opportunity for an Aboriginal person to be appointed by a career move. I was fortunate to participate in an Executive Development program and to be appointed to the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission in Sydney. I worked there for eleven years, developing the national OH&S training program and national OH&S standards.

In 1996 I was awarded a Public Service Medal in the Australia Day honours for my contribution to National OHS standards including my work in coordinating development of the National Certification Standard for Users and Operators of industrial equipment! However, the change of Government resulted in absorption of the Commission into a department in Canberra, and as a consequence I decided in August 1997 to retire from the public service.

In 1989, my partner Keith Campbell and I visited Lake Wollumboola. We had a picnic lunch at Lakeside Park near the Lake and were astounded at the thousands of Swans!



All my geography teaching and coastal experiences came back to me and I realized that I was looking at something really significant. Keith was recovering from surgery and that afternoon we found a fibro cottage with a view of the lake and put a deposit on it. It is part of my home today.

We established strong links with the Jerrinja community particularly with Delia Lowe and family, due in part to Keith's research into early contact history and our joint involvement in efforts to protect Lake Wollumboola and its catchment from impacts of development expansion.

BLS: The battle to protect Lake Wollumboola and its catchment has been a protracted affair for over 25 years. It has involved a complex plethora of "studies, recommendations, strategies, policies, commissions, inquiries, reviews, consultations, engagements, decisions, initiatives, proposals and submissions" that would defeat anyone not well-versed in the workings of government.

Here is a brief summary. Arguably Shoalhaven's largest landowner/developer and Shoalhaven City Council (SCC) have tried since the 1980s to have urban development approved in the Lake catchment. For many environmental reasons, the National Parks & Wildlife Service, Lake Wollumboola Protection Association Inc and other environmental groups have opposed these development applications. Whenever the State Government stepped in, the decisions have invariably been in favour of protecting the Lake and catchment environment. The developers and the SCC continue to seek development. Frances and her colleagues understand how it all works and oppose all efforts likely to cause serious environmental impacts.

FB: In 1993 I first heard about the development proposals for the Lake catchment. I read an ad in the local paper calling for comment on the draft Estuary Management Plan for Lake Wollumboola and obtained a copy and based on my geography background made a submission.

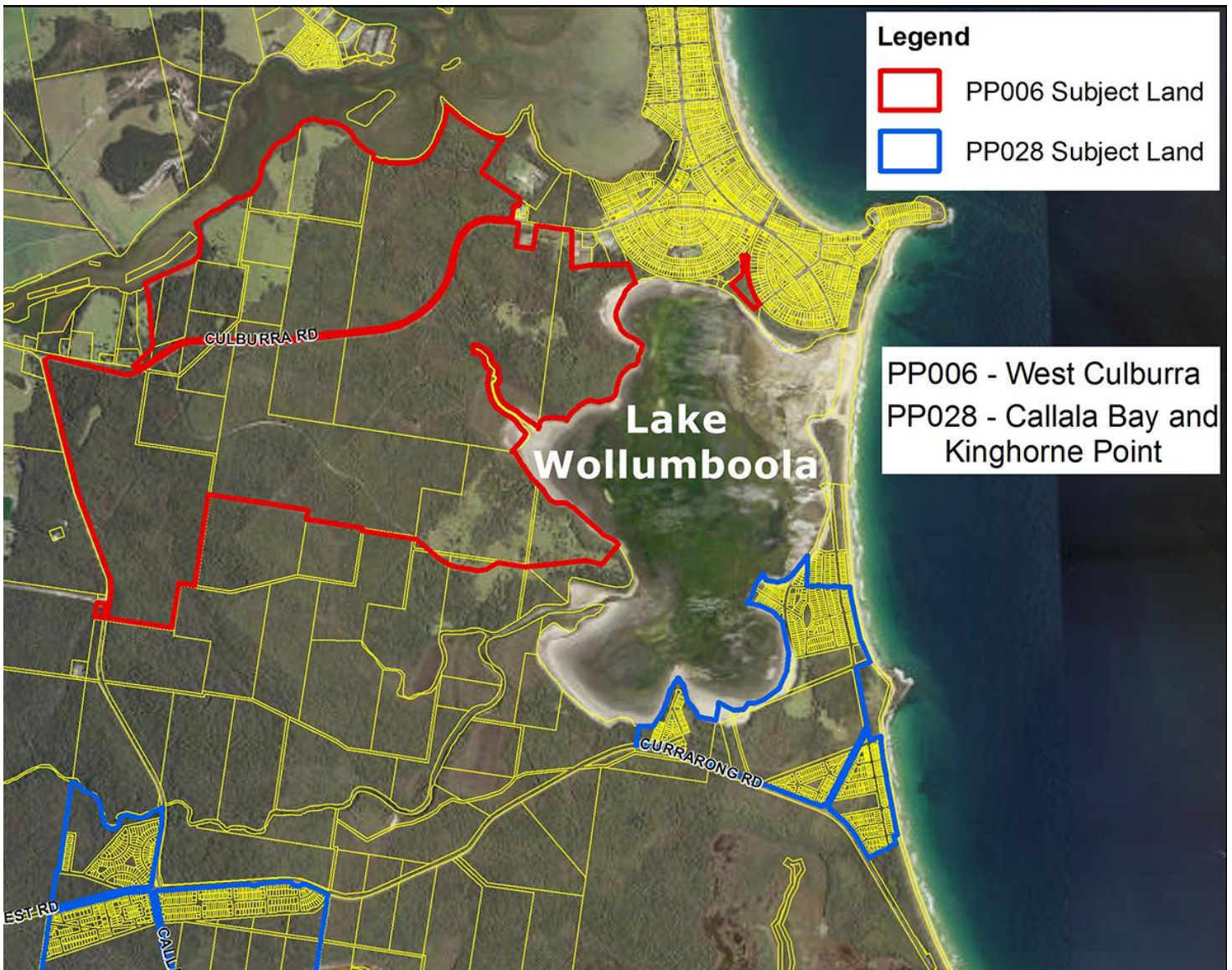
I was horrified to find plans for 3,000 houses of which 837 were proposed for Long Bow Point in the north-west catchment of the Lake. I talked to neighbours and others, finding that nobody knew about the plans or were advised that in 1992, Council had rezoned the land for urban development. That was when, with a group of neighbours and friends, I started the unincorporated Lake Wollumboola Support Group. We contacted local Councillors and NSW politicians lobbying to have decisions about the Long Bow Point subdivision taken out of Shoalhaven Council's hands.

In August 1995 the NSW Minister for Planning called in the subdivision application and established the Long Bow Point Commission of Inquiry to advise the new Labor Government. The application was refused in June 2000.

The Commission of Inquiry brought a lot of people together, including my friendship and collaboration with Narelle Wright.



We obtained a grant from the then NSW Legal Aid Commission to engage expert advice for our case to the Long Bow Point Commission of Inquiry.



Joy Pegler and Chris Chafer became our expert advisers on lake ecology and particularly its birdlife. Joy Pegler was already involved in lake bird counts and surveys from 1993. Subsequently Narelle Wright and I assisted her, learning more about the lake's birdlife. Joy was the Key Biodiversity Guardian for Lake Wollumboola from 1999 until 2017 when I assumed the role.

I also met Gary Daly through the Commission of Inquiry. He was employed by the proponents of the development. During the first stage of the Inquiry the Commissioner asked Gary whether or not there would be a significant impact on threatened species, mainly the birds, from the proposal and he said, "Yes, there would," and he was immediately dismissed by his employer! Since that time, I have learned a lot from Gary and enjoy his support!

[BLS: Gary is pictured in the Landcare article on page 7 of this magazine - clearing lantana!]

FB: In 1998 the south-west lake catchment was included in the Jervis Bay National Park. In 2002 after the Coastal Lakes Inquiry the Lake bed and sandbar were also included in the Jervis Bay National Park with NPWS managing Lake Wollumboola not Council. However, Council was still responsible for development and planning decisions affecting the catchment.

BLS: Can you tell me about some of the actions of people in the community opposed to your conservation work?

FB: Many community members were upset for several reasons, including losing the capacity to interfere with and open the Lake, or they supported development. People still claim that sandbags laid on the sand bar by the NPWS to protect shorebirds stopped the Lake from opening.

So-called community groups were set up to oppose us, and in 2002 one of these assumed the name of our group - the Lake Wollumboola Support Group - and had it incorporated! This appeared to be a deliberate attempt to thwart efforts by us and National Parks, including the South Coast Shorebird Recovery Program which had only been going for a couple of years (it started in 1999).

Eventually we chose a new name - the Lake Wollumboola Protection Association - and became incorporated, something we should have done much earlier!

All this agitation occurred prior to the 2003 State election and after, with attempts to have the gazettal of Lake Wollumboola as National Park revoked, attempts which were subsequently unsuccessful.

It was a difficult time, with vandalism of our house and cars, destruction of the electric fences set up to protect nesting Little Terns, graffiti on signage, defamatory public statements and threats of violence. Other group members were also targeted.

We needed to refocus and not long after several members who were teachers took on development of our original website including an interactive resource for children called "Understanding Lake Wollumboola" which was used in regional primary and high schools.

We developed a new website in 2016, featuring Narelle's exceptional photos of lake bird life and with valuable assistance from Judit Szukacs and Kerryn Stephens. Kerryn is an expert in coastal estuaries and a previous member of Office of Environment and Heritage.

Kerryn gave expert advice regarding the lake to various enquiries and trained Narelle and our group to collect water quality samples around the Lake, analysis of which led to improved knowledge of the distinctive water chemistry of the lake.

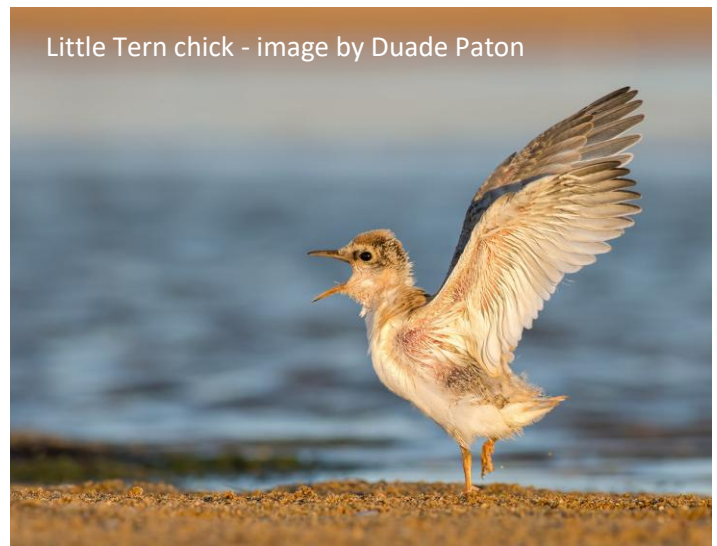
OEH research 2013 indicated that increases in phosphorus levels in lake waters from runoff from a golf course or urban development would upset the chemical balance of the lake, causing micro algae blooms that would smother natural algae and sea grass causing major impacts on its fauna and threatened species, and potentially causing collapse of the lake ecosystem.

BLS: Can you tell me about the Little Terns?

FB: I became more involved in shorebird conservation activities in 2002 when I moved to Culburra Beach permanently. That was the year we found our first Little Tern nest at the northern end of the Lake on the sandbar, surrounded by beach umbrellas! This pair of nesting Little Terns managed to last for the whole season and one of their two chicks fledged!

The Little Tern program results have always been variable here, in part because of the variability of the Lake itself.

Recently the main impact has been from high numbers of prawners, crabbers, and other people which has made it impossible for the Little Terns to nest on the sandbar.



Little Tern chick - image by Duade Paton

The last successful season for Little Terns here was in 2013/14 when we had 46 fledglings. The next season we had only 7 fledglings, from 166 nests with most losses due to avian predation.



Avian predation is natural - but it's heartbreaking when you see how much effort the Little Tern adults put in, protecting eggs and chicks from all sorts of threats. We put up electric fences, but once the chicks hatch, they move out of the fenced areas where they are vulnerable to additional predation by foxes and cats.

BLS: Is there light at the end of the tunnel?

FB: The Halloran Planning Proposal should be decided by February 2021. However, that depends on the outcomes of the study of groundwater presence in the northern lake catchment conducted by independent consultants under Council's auspices. This will determine the extent to which groundwater is a significant component of the Lake's water chemistry and therefore the appropriate zoning.

I will just keep going until everything is resolved!

BLS: Do you ever take breaks from all this work?

FB: Yes I do, but infrequently. I went to Christmas and Cocos Islands in 2015 and wrote an article for the BirdLife Shoalhaven magazine - Spring 2015 - and I go back to Victoria to visit friends.

BLS: Can we talk about some of the awards that you have received for your conservation work?

FB: I feel a bit embarrassed talking about them ... and for being rewarded for something I love doing!

BLS: But they recognize all your hard work for the Lake!

FB: Thank you. I am grateful to receive such a prestigious award as the Birdlife Australia Distinguished Service award and others. I acknowledge the personal recognition, but also acknowledge the significance of the award in raising public and political awareness of the importance of Lake Wollumboola, resulting in secure protection of both lake and catchment as part of Jervis Bay National Park.

I also want to acknowledge the contribution of all LWPA Inc members - our achievements are a group effort.

Thanks to Rob Dunn (pictured with Frances on next page) and Birdlife Shoalhaven for organizing such a wonderful Lake Wollumboola celebration and recognizing the people who care for the lake and its birds, that is LWPA and other community members, Jerrinja and NPWS Staff.



Frances receiving Lifetime Achievement Award from the NSW Nature Conservation Council

BLS: Have you done much birdwatching around Australia?

FB: I travelled around Australia a lot when I was working with Aboriginal education, but I don't have a "life list" of birds and I don't go twitching!



Frances leading a BirdLife Shoalhaven birdwatching walk



Here I have the international migratory birds, and the amazing lives of the Black Swans and Chestnut Teal, and the waterbirds like Avocets and Sacred Ibis and whatever else turns up here.

I went down to the Lake this morning and I saw two Bar-tailed Godwits, and one was in non-breeding plumage as you would expect at this time of year (mid Winter in Australia) and the other was in breeding plumage! How do you explain that - halfway through July?

I hope that the data from the monthly Shorebird 2020 counts that I do and the annual Key Biodiversity Area assessments contribute to greater understanding and survival of all these species.



BLS: If Lake Wollumboola and its catchment had been safely enclosed within the JB National Park in the early 1990s, how do you picture your life would have changed?

FB: I would have maintained and possibly taken some of my LWPA /environment activities in a different direction e.g. shorebird volunteering, bird counts, bushcare, and community engagement re Lake Wollumboola.



I would like to research Little Terns, to establish the migration of the NSW south coast colonies and document their courtship behavior and constant chatter, as well as impacts on survival of the species such as sea level rise.

I would also like to continue with developing interpretive signage and educational resources regarding the complex character of Lake Wollumboola, as well as its Aboriginal cultural heritage in consultation with the Jerrinja community and friends.

I hope to continue membership with the NPWS South Coast Regional Advisory Committee, ongoing engagement with the NSW Nature Conservation Council, and with the SCC Bushcare Representative Group and of course with Birdlife Shoalhaven.

More personally, I would have liked to spend more time than I currently do in nurturing my native garden, and keeping in touch with friends and family.

Unfortunately, I never have time to act on my wish list!

List of Awards

2000 Australian Conservation Council Award to Frances Bray and Keith Campbell for saving Lake Wollumboola

2014 annual NSW Coastal Management award - Ruth Readford Award for Lifetime Achievement

2017 NSW Nature Conservation Council - Allan Strom Hall of Fame award

2019 Birdlife Australia Distinguished Service Award

A Birdy SeeChange

- by Chris Grounds

Readers might recall a feature in our Winter 2018 newsletter on the amazing extent of "bird art" in the SeeChange Arts Festival of 2018.

Well, SeeChange 2019, the first of the annual Festivals for Jervis Bay & Basin Arts, produced another major element of "bird art" across many exhibitions, media and artists.

As in 2018, this was not a conscious, planned or directed development but rather a spontaneous reaction and speaks to the artistic stimulus that resides in birds as a subject.

As usual, there was quite a variety of media used by artists to create a really stimulating and alternative perspective on birds.

"The Haven" showpiece exhibition at the SeeChange Festival Hub included a Highly Commended festival award for Linda Dening for a very special work on the Glossy Black Cockatoo.

A cropped version of the image is shown on our cover with the full version shown below.



Birds are a special interest for Linda and feature in a lot of her art work.

Indeed, the threatened species Glossy Black Cockatoo, featured in at least three exhibition pieces and the Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo at another.

A "Reading The Land - Vital Wetlands Reading Bherwerre" shared exhibition by a group of artists who had participated in a series of wetland walks produced a range of bird works. The artists shared a walk on the wetland with visitors to open their exhibition, and whilst it was quiet bird-wise, it did produce a verified sighting of a pair of Eastern Ospreys.

Helen Nugent's take on the very popular Superb Fairy Wren was delightful and eye-catching - the grooviest Superb Fairy Wren "guy" I have ever seen!



Just a few samples of the bird work involving collages, watercolours and ceramics that featured in that exhibition are shown.



Concerned cormorants put their bodies on the line to stop urban sprawl

Painting by Kerry Laws



Sea-eagle by Susan Curran



Nest by Indie (student)



Ceramic by Vicki Robinson

A very different and intriguing exhibition was the bush sculpture installation on the Akira Kamada-Kerry Laws property at Tomerong.

A stroll through the Eucalypt forest was a doorway to a range of sculptures by both student and senior artists with many developed on a bird theme.



Lyrebirds by Jan & Alex Reid



Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos by Jan & Alex Reid

It was no surprise that the Bay and Basin Camera Club's exhibition at the Bay and Bush Cottages included bird photography as part of a relatively extensive display of the work of club members.

Bird photography is an established and challenging part of the art of photography and a number of club members are clearly given to the challenge.

The results can be eye-catching and sometimes very "arty" photos.



Image by Colin Talbot



Image by Peter Noakes



Image by Colin Talbot



Image by Colin Talbot



Image by Peter Noakes

The works shown on this page are testimony to the photographers' challenge of deploying specialist equipment with skill in the right situation - and occasionally just a little luck with live and active subjects.

Author Note:

If you are inclined to see some amazing bird art and follow a fascinating story then check out William Cooper at: www.williamtcooper.com.au

Web Watch

- by Chris Grounds

Use native plants to fight animal extinction



<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-07-06/gardeners-using-native-plants-to-fight-animal-extinction/11284982>

Alan Smith and Christine De Chambord begin every day by taking in the sights and sounds of their Alice Springs garden. It is a busy place: throughout the day they see babblers, native doves, honeyeaters, galahs, finches, parrots, butcherbirds and kingfishers.

"We planted native plants, but we realised that with local native plants came an added bonus: local native birdlife" that began to visit the couple's garden regularly. "You learn their habits, you learn what they do," said Ms De Chambord. "When you observe over time, you understand them better."

"There's increasing scientific evidence that these pockets of habitat in urban areas, particularly if they're close together, or right next to each other, create important links for animals to move through the environment."

Baby bird fed cigarette butt



<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-07-03/baby-bird-photographed-holding-cigarette-butt-in-its-beak/11273876>

A photo of a baby bird clutching a cigarette butt is being held up as the latest example of the problem of plastic pollution in our oceans.

The photo of the skimmer chick was taken by birdwatcher Karen Mason on a Florida beach. In a second shot, an adult skimmer bird can be seen passing the rubbish to the chick. Ms Mason said the birds "feed by skimming along the water with their beaks open". She said the adult bird probably picked up the butt in shallow water and then shared it with the chick. Trillions of cigarettes are manufactured every year and most of them have filters, which are made from a form of plastic.

Shearwaters getting lost in Hobart



<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-05-10/record-number-of-mutton-birds-taken-into-care/11100436>

The short-tailed shearwater can fly from remote Tasmanian waters to the Arctic Circle in a matter of weeks, but at the moment it's having trouble navigating its way out of Hobart.

A record number of shearwaters (Tasmanian mutton birds) have been taken into care after becoming disorientated and stranded around the city. They can fly more than a million kilometres over their lifetime; every year juvenile birds leave their island burrows to fly north, and many become lost after taking a wrong turn.

Members of the public have reported seeing them dead on the busy Tasman Bridge or stranded on roads and footpaths around Hobart. Birdlife Tasmania's Eric Woehler said they should be heading north-east on their journey to the Northern Hemisphere.

"We've seen an unexpected and novel event occurring this autumn, with young short-tailed shearwaters heading inland rather than heading out to sea and north to the Pacific," he said.

Galapagos finches losing love song



<https://theconversation.com/a-parasite-attack-on-darwins-finches-means-theyre-losing-their-lovesong-118586>

A parasite known to infect beaks in some iconic Darwin finches on the Galapagos Islands is changing the mating song of male birds.

Our research, published in Proceedings of the Royal Society B, reveals how the parasite deforms the beak. This has the effect of weakening the male bird's mating call, and making it no longer clearly distinguishable from that of other closely related species.

A changed song can have an important effect on the male finch's ability to find a mate.

It's another factor that could contribute to declining numbers of these already threatened birds on the Pacific archipelago, about 1,000km off the coast of South America.

Seabird safety could see more imported fish



<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2019-07-02/rule-change-threatens-australian-fishery/11195836>

A new rule designed to protect seabirds could drastically reduce the supply of Australia's fresh fish and hit the industry hard, trawl fishers say. As of July 1, trawlers operating south of the 39th parallel in Bass Strait between Tasmania and Victoria have been banned from processing their catch on deck and throwing the remains overboard while their fishing gear is in the water. From September the ban will extend to trawlers south of Lakes Entrance in Victoria.

Simon Boag, the chief executive of the South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association (SETFIA), said the new measure could reduce productivity by as much as 40 per cent.

Seabirds are among the most threatened of all bird groups worldwide, according to Dr Barry Baker, Chair of the Australasian Seabird Group, Birdlife Australia. They can become entangled in fishing gear while attempting to feed on the offal that comes from processing the fish on board, and Dr Baker said the waters off Victoria and Tasmania are high-risk areas for birds such as albatrosses.

Why Australia needs to kill cats



<https://theconversation.com/why-australia-needs-to-kill-cats-116654>

Introduced cats are a key threat to 123 of Australia's threatened species.

The management of cats is challenging and divisive; many options such as re-homing, trap-neuter-release and euthanasia have been used around the world with varying success. Australia's recent commitment to killing 2 million feral cats to protect its native wildlife has attracted international attention and some have considered the project harsh.

Non-lethal methods are not enough to stem the environmental havoc cats cause. Australia urgently needs well-targeted cat culls.

Feral cats key to Night Parrot survival?



<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-13/scientists-using-feral-cats-to-protect-rare-night-parrot/11203566>

"All of the evidence points to there being only a handful of birds in a couple of locations scattered across the country," University of Queensland ecologist Dr Steve Murphy said.

Feral cats have been a relentless predator of the bird in the past and conservation efforts had included trying to eradicate them. "Feral cats are out in that landscape, we know that for sure and we expect that night parrots are very susceptible to feral cat predation," Dr Murphy said.

"When you're dealing with only a handful of birds, you don't need many cats around for it to be a really serious problem." The team is now rethinking previous strategies to catch and kill the feral cats. Instead, they are planning to catch and release the cats to learn more about their patterns.

Dr Murphy said the information gathered through tracking the cats would allow future trapping and shooting programs in the region to be more accurate.



Australian gulls carry antibiotic-resistant superbugs



<http://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/jul/10/australian-gulls-found-to-carry-antibiotic-resistant-superbugs>

Australian gulls are carrying superbugs resistant to antibiotics, raising fears that disease-causing bacteria may spread from the birds to humans, livestock and pets. A team of scientists led by researchers at Perth's Murdoch University found more than 20% of silver gulls nationwide were carrying pathogenic bacteria, such as E coli, that are resistant to drugs. E coli can cause urinary tract infections, life-threatening sepsis and meningitis. Dr Sam Abraham, a lecturer in veterinary and medical infectious diseases at the university, said the "eye-opening" study should be a wake-up call for Australian governments.

Twitchers causing headaches for rangers



<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-29/aboriginal-rangers-on-frontline-of-desert-discoveries/11262586>

Discoveries of rare and endangered animals - such as the Princess Parrot (shown above) and the Night Parrot - in Australia's remote deserts have prompted mini tourism booms, but they are also causing some headaches for local Aboriginal rangers and their conservation efforts.

NAIDOC Week Ceremony at Wreck Bay

- by Chris Grounds

One feature of the Opening Ceremony for 2019 NAIDOC Week at the Wreck Bay Community celebrations was a set of dances by the "Doonooch Dancers".

One of their dances was named the "Black Cockatoo" although there was no doubting from the dance that it was the languid and rhythmic flying of the Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos that was featured.

As we all know, Nowra is the aboriginal word for the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, and it is promoted by the Shoalhaven City Council local government on the NSW south coast as the region's bird.

This bird is a regular sighting in Booderee National Park, owned by the Wreck Bay Community.



BirdLife Shoalhaven Calendar for 2019

| Date | Event / Location / Group* | Details - meeting time and place, leaders etc. |
|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aug 2nd (Fri) | Garrads Lane | Back of Harry Higgs Room or 8:10am in Garrads Lane Milton. For safety, park clear of the corner of Matron Porter Drive. Leaders: Marg Hamon & Maggie Mance 4457-1129 |
| Aug 16th (Fri) | Private Property Egans Lane | 8am: Back of Harry Higgs Room. Leader: Charles Dove 0417 422 302 |
| Aug 18th (Sun) | Fitzroy Falls | 8:30am at Kangaroo Valley Showground |
| Aug 30th (Fri) | Granite Falls | 8am: Back of Harry Higgs Room. Leader: Bob Rusk 4480-7012 |
| Sep 13th (Fri) | North Fishermans Paradise | 8 am: Back of Harry Higgs Room, or at 8:15am: Murrays Rd Turnoff. Leader: Chris Shinton 0423 352 718 |
| Sep 14 / 15 | BigNet | Canberra |
| Sep 15th (Sun) | Booderee Botanical Gardens | 8:30am at the Booderee Visitors Centre car park |
| Sep 27th (Fri) | Conjola | 8am: At Conjola Fire Station. Leader: Mike Jefferis 4455- 5162 |
| Oct 6th (Sun) | Bangalee Reserve | 8am at Bangalee. Leader: Kim Touzel 0418 655 311 |
| Oct 11th (Fri) | Eurobodalla Day Out | A full day outing to Bateman's Bay Botanic Gardens and Moruya area with a picnic lunch stop. Meet: 8 am: Lions Park Burrill Lake (by toilets) for car pooling. Leader: Chris Shinton 0423 352 718 |
| Oct 18 -20 | Bird Haven Festival | See page 24 for details |
| Oct 26th (Sat) | Bomaderry Creek | 7:30am at the Bomaderry Creek Picnic Area in Narang Road. Leaders Brett Davis 0497 868 471 and Karen Davis 0487 208 437 |
| Nov 1st (Fri) | BLS Committee Meeting | 2pm - 4 pm with venue to be decided |

- * 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

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.

Acknowledgements - thank you to this season's contributors - Charles Dove, Samantha Jonscher, Karen Mason, Eric Woehler, Katharina J Peters, Simon Boag, Mark Marathon, Daniel Pockett, Peter Struik, Peter Noakes, Colin Talbot, Kim Touzel, Dan Crowley, Chris Grounds and Rob Dunn. Apologies to contributors who have not been acknowledged. Images and text from the following websites have been used in this magazine - www.abc.net.au, theconversation.com, www.theguardian.com. If you find any typographical or factual errors in this magazine, please let the editor know.

- * Unless otherwise stated, most activities go for 2 to 3 hours.
- * We recommend you bring your own tea / coffee / cake to all morning outings!

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 shoalhaven@birdlife.org.au

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 (BLS) and BirdLife Australia (BLA) accept no responsibility for any of the errors, inaccuracies or exaggerations in this magazine.

The views expressed in this magazine are those of the contributors and may not be the views of BLS and BLA.

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