



FAR SOUTH COAST BIRDWATCHERS Inc.

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022

FESTIVE GREETINGS TO ALL

As 2022 ends we look forward to a more 'normal' year of weather and birding in 2023 and wish you all a happy, healthy break.

This cheery male Scarlet Honeyeater, singing so hard we can see his tongue, was photographed at Panboola, Pambula in November by Michelle Richmond.

Easy walking there and always some surprises waiting for you round the next corner.



WHEEL COVE AND PENGUINS IN EDEN

Christopher Lloyd

Well it has been over two years since the pilot project to bring a penguin colony onshore at Eden kicked off with much community effort. The project came about because the community on the Eagle's Claw area of headland had raised money last century to try and fence the existing colony from feral predators. Eagle's Claw proved impractical so the adjacent sea gutter of Wheel Cove was chosen as a substitute site. After much community effort half a dozen specially designed burrows, a sound attraction system and camera traps were installed behind a brand new fence.

The research suggested it might take up to five years to attract the birds to nest but from the outset there were penguins in the bay and close to the site so we were very hopeful and it took a little over six weeks before our cameras picked up a bird on the site and tantalizingly close to an 'Eden' Burrow.

Then the gremlins set in with a seemingly endless round of problems with our sound system and the solar array used to power it. Well-meaning amateurs, such as your scribe, spent hours going up and down the gully with new batteries, plugs and multimeters, but to no avail and the system remained unreliable.

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The COVID pandemic also took its toll with restrictions on movement and therefore maintenance and monitoring over the next year. Fortunately, Wendy Noble and the volunteer local committee kept things moving as much as was possible and by late 2021 we again started capturing images of penguins exploring the site. By the end of the year our best estimate was that 8-9 individuals had done some real estate prospecting but none had bought into our prefabricated bungalows.

While things were slow at Wheel Cove the burrows which had been specifically designed for its conditions were going through some evolution of their own. The Fixit Sisters, who made the prototypes we installed, had begun to do some research and development and a bit of publicity which saw burrows installed on Lion Island in the Hawkesbury and Snapper Island in the Clyde River. The Lion burrows were ignored by the local colony but Snapper saw a breeding boom from the moment the burrows were installed in 2020. This has continued to this month with birds hatched in the 'Eden' burrows now returning to breed themselves. →

Having gained 'proof of concept' the 'Eden burrow' is heading for its fourth iteration with the Fixit Sisters now producing new more accurate moulds, replacing the plastic inspection tubes with concrete moulding and experimenting in 3D printing and engineered concrete formulations. We may not yet have penguins breeding in Wheel Cove but the project has produced significant success with a versatile artificial seabird burrow that may find many uses.

Back in Eden 2022 was a bit of a haphazard affair with power and sound unreliable until late in the season when Wendy found a local sparkie who was prepared to go the extra yards to get things happening. The landscape has not been kind with one burrow crushed in a large rockfall but in such a way as any chicks would have survived in the chamber. Leo Berzins braved the ropes to help replace this one and reposition the other burrows on the basis of our experience at Snapper. While down the gully we took the opportunity to start dealing with the blackberry infestation as well. It may all be a bit late for this season but 2023 should give us an uninterrupted attempt to attract the birds to breed at the site.

2022 Little Penguin breeding generally has been something of a mixed bag on the East Coast. The colonies at Snapper Island, Manly and Lion Island had a slowdown in breeding around September, but things now appear to be picking up. Snapper Island is on track for its best season in its three years of study.

Gabo Island breeding of Little Penguins in 2021 was reported at the Island Arc Conference at Phillip Island this year to have suffered a major collapse from the 7,000 pairs surveyed in 2012. This data has not been peer reviewed and further surveys are required to understand if the most recent data point is correct, or an anomaly caused by the timing of the most recent sample. Barunguba/Montague Island's penguins have been in ongoing decline, possibly due to fur seals, and are subject to a three year survey program to determine their status.

It is important to recall that the Wheel Cove project was a pilot exercise in building mainland colonies for seabirds generally and Little Penguins in particular. It has already produced a collateral result in the form of the 'Eden Burrow' which may find uses in the future. We have also learnt a lot about developing new and safe habitat for seabirds and this learning will be useful if we ever get the opportunity to develop larger sites on the Far South Coast to bring seabird breeding back to the mainland.

For those interested in following up Penguin and other seabird surveys a visit to Seabirds to Seascapes is worth a look: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/water/coasts/seabirds-to-seascapes#:~:text=Seabirds%20to%20Seascapes%20focuses%20on.habitat%20through%20restoring%20connected%20habitats>

STOP PRESS 29/11/22 We have a photo of the first penguins digging what looks like a new burrow in Wheel Cove. The little ***** built on their own instead of an Eden Burrow! **Chris Lloyd.**

Message from Roger Heffernan

Due to personal circumstances I have found it necessary to step down as President and away from birding activities for now. I'm OK but have matters requiring my attention. I apologise for finding myself in this position, ask for your understanding, and thank Vice-President David for taking the reins until the AGM.

Response from David Merrick, Vice President

Roger, all at FSCB thank you for your commitment to the club over the past years. We are sorry you find it necessary to stand down at this time but we completely understand. We will however miss your knowledge both of birds and local history. We look forward to the time when you can return to birding.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2022 to be presented to the AGM Dec 8, 2022

With the determination of the pandemic to establish itself as a routine part of the everyday, we have been forced to get on with life. Birdwatching activities have continued throughout the year with recommended safeguards being respected as best we could. Walks were planned across the shire along with Mallacoota, Cathcart and Bombala, with a few being affected by random inclement weather which has persisted through all four seasons. Usual attendance was twelve to twenty members with the occasional visitor. Sightings generally ranged around forty to sixty, lower on the less favourable days. Members assisted with the four seasonal bird surveys at Panboola.

The bi-monthly evening meetings featured guest speakers with stimulating subjects such as Christjan Petersen with his specialist tool to create artificial nesting hollows in trees - not exclusively for birds but other wildlife as well. Max Beukers and Katie Oxenham informed us about the proposal for a Fenced Feral Predator Free Area at Nungatta, south-west of Eden. Father and son Roger and Rohan Bilney gave us an insight into the identification, feeding and nesting habits of the endangered Glossy Black-Cockatoo.

We are appreciative of Alan Scrymgeour and the variety of his presentations that fascinated us throughout the year. Likewise, our gratitude goes to those who presented photos for our enjoyment at each evening meeting.

Our club once again supported the Bournda Bird Olympics organised by Doug Reckord and held at Potoroo. Contestants in the Bird Calling Competition received a copy of "Looking at Birds on the Far South Coast", giving the students a ready reference for birds that they may observe when out and about. Substantial donations have been made to Panboola, Wires (portable cages for rescued birds), and BirdLife Australia's Glossy Black-Cockatoo Project.

The publication of the 2023 Calendar has been increased to 300 copies due to its popularity. Thank you to all who presented photos for consideration and also to Hayden and the panel who took the time to choose the final collection.

My thanks to our committee members for their continuous support. The range of responsibilities is varied from secretarial and finance to setting up and cleaning the hall, taking care of the supper, welcoming people, selling raffle tickets and more.

We are continually grateful to Barbara Jones for producing a quality newsletter prior to each meeting. Barbara has committed more than a quarter of a century of devoted service to Far South Coast Birdwatchers which I expect is unlikely to be surpassed. Equally we thank those who have overseen the website, Facebook and Twitter for another year. Our appreciation goes to those who volunteered to lead walks and the landowners who welcomed us onto their property.

I apologise for not completing the year as president and seek your pardon.

Roger Heffernan

BIRD HAVEN FESTIVAL CONFERENCE AND BIGNET CONSERVATION MEETING – report by Gayle Partridge (FSCB Conservation Officer)

I attended the Bird Haven Festival Conference and BIGnet meeting in Shoalhaven 22-23 October 2022.

BIGnet

BIGnet (Bird Interest Group network) is a network of NSW birding groups, such as FSCB, that meets twice yearly and includes a meeting of conservation officers and a general meeting (any club members are always welcome to attend). The BIGnet Conservation Forum included a presentation on the BirdLife Australia Bird Conservation Strategy 2023-2032; a report from Birdlife Shoalhaven on bushfire recovery; a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) update; and an update on nature laws. The General Meeting including regular items such as minutes from the previous meeting, financial reports, as well as a "Twitchathon" report.

BirdLife Australia Bird Conservation Strategy 2023-2032 – the new plan to stop the extinction crisis and put native birds on the path to recovery.

Sarah Pearson, Conservation Strategy and Planning Co-ordinator, Birdlife Australia presented a summary of the draft strategy and sought input regarding birding group needs and concerns. The aim of the strategy is to inform and lead action to halt biodiversity loss and to restore ecosystems. One of the priorities is on sites – this includes monitoring Key Biodiversity Areas (the new name for the closely aligned Important bird and biodiversity areas (IBAs)). Slides from the presentation are available (contact Gayle: partridge.gayle@gmail.com).

BirdLife Shoalhaven bushfire recovery project

The report covered what has been learned about the recovery of birds since the 2019-20 black summer fires after two years of extensive bird surveys. Shoalhaven area was badly affected by the fires – with 60% of the region being damaged, including over 90% of national parks, state forests and crown land. Results so far have included:

- There was a marked difference between burnt sites and unburnt sites in both average species' richness and abundance (but not *between* high, medium and lightly burnt sites); and
- Within the fire footprint, across eight seasons from January 2020 to November 2021, across both burnt and unburnt sites, average species' richness and abundance increased.

Details of the report are available on the BirdLife Shoalhaven website.

KBA update

There are 47 KBA sites in NSW and ideally, there are “guardians” for each site, who keep an eye on the site and provide reports on its status. For the Nadgee to Mallacoota KBA (of most relevance to FSCB) a guardian is being sought.

Update on nature laws

The focus for this item was on Federal laws – the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, which is being reformed. BirdLife will be conducting webinars on how to approach local MPS and write submissions – see <https://www.actforbirds>

General Meeting

For regular items such as minutes of the last meeting and financial matters, the minutes are available (contact Gayle: partridge.gayle@gmail.com).

Of interest to members, was an item on “Twitchathon” events and how funds raised would be expended. The 2022 project is on Gang-Gangs and details can be found at <https://www.twitch24nsw.org/>. For 2023, the meeting sought volunteers to assess 2023 applications for funding – FSCB was nominated (along with other clubs) for this role.

Shoalhaven Bird Haven Festival Conference

The conference included many interesting speakers, including Dr Alex Maisey – Lyrebirds, 19/20 megafires ecosystem engineer; and Dr David Bain – Translocation of Eastern Bristlebirds and factors associated with a successful program.

Lyrebirds, 19/20 megafires ecosystem engineer

Alex presented some of his research on lyrebirds in the central highlands of Victoria. The research tested the effects of soil and litter turnover accomplished by lyrebirds from their foraging. He labelled them “ecosystem engineers” because they alter habitats for other organisms thereby having a significant impact on ecosystem function – also playing a part in conservation and ecological restoration.

Maintaining lyrebird population as a key facilitator of ecological function is now timely and critical following the 2019/20 fires which burned 12 million ha of forest including 30% of the geographic range of the Superb Lyrebird. (Note – It would be great to invite Alex to be a speaker at one of our FSCB meetings – I did mention this informally to Alex and got a very positive response).

Translocation of Eastern Bristlebirds and factors associated with a successful program

The bristlebird is an endangered species (and is the focus species of the Nadgee to Mallacoota KBA in our area). It is a small, cover dependent, semi flightless bird that is restricted to a few isolated populations over a large geographic range. It is threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation, inappropriate fire regimes and introduced predators. Reintroduction (translocation) was identified by the National Recovery Team as a potential management strategy for conservation. The main study areas were near Jervis Bay. Monitoring indicated that birds taken from the source population for translocation to the new area had no impact on that source population (they were replaced quite quickly). The reintroduction (translocation) to an area formerly occupied by bristlebirds has been a success, with bristlebirds surviving and reproducing in the new area.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a welcome to the following new members.

Joy and Bob Georgeson from Wallaga Lake
Meg Clery from Candelo
Celia Farquharson from Merimbula

Far South Coast Birdwatchers uses the nomenclature of birds as used by BirdLife Australia
They have released their **Working List of Australian Birds v4**

<https://birdlife.org.au/conservation/science/taxonomy>

Our FSCB Calendars are still available at meetings and walks or contact Hayden on hayden.k@bigpond.com or mobile 0417 227 467.



Or check website fscb.org.au for posting and payment details.

Art on Imlay at Seahorse Inn, Boydtown have some at club price too.

TRACKING ENDANGERED AUSTRALIAN PAINTED-SNIPE

by Australian Painted-Snipe Tracking Team

They're Australia's rarest breeding waterbird. They're listed as nationally and globally Endangered. They skulk in shallow wetlands among waterplants and mud. Sadly, the strikingly beautiful Australian Painted-Snipe is continuously relegated to the too hard basket for in-depth research.

With your help, for the first time ever, we will track the movements of these cryptic, near-mythical ghost birds, revealing their well-guarded secrets using the latest satellite and mobile phone tower technology.

The latest estimate puts the total population at just 340 individuals. Worse still, in recent years, many days have passed by where nobody on Earth could confidently go out and find an Australian Painted-Snipe anywhere. They're one of the world's most poorly known bird species. Even at key sites, they vanish for years at a time. The lack of basic information about their movements, strongholds and population dynamics restricts us from implementing the targeted conservation measures they so desperately need.



Image: Leo Berzins

The recent La Nina events have not produced the subsequent spike in records that many of us had hoped for. Optimistically, they will reappear and eventually bounce back at least a little, and we want to be ready to seize that moment, organised with the tracking equipment and permits ready to roll.

Our plan is to track at least 12 birds from traditional stronghold areas in the Murray-Darling Basin, helping provide the basis for future work on the species. Catching them shouldn't be difficult but finding them in the first place is a current challenge. We'll be relying on our networks to help us uncover sites, with catching teams ready to go.

We want to bring this bird – the “Night Parrot” of wetlands – into the spotlight, highlighting their plight and key wetland sites as they move through the landscape.

Please consider supporting the Australian Painted-Snipe. Every donation will help, from \$5 through to the opportunity to be one of our key donors or even a bronze, silver, gold or platinum sponsor.

<https://chuffed.org/project/paintedsnipe>

EVENING MEETING REPORT

Thursday October 13 2022

Jill Burrige

Roger Heffernan opened the meeting and welcomed twenty members and five visitors including Guest Speaker Roger Bilney.

Sightings:

Reports of Eastern Osprey, a Common Sandpiper at Disaster Bay, a Pacific Golden Plover, Swift Parrots in Merimbula and three in Narooma in the Southern Mahogany trees.

Emu at Nungatta and Burrigate and an Azure Kingfisher at Towamba Bridge.

Alan Scrymgeour

Inspired by the feathers on the ladies' hats at the Everest horse race Alan treated us to a display of a variety of feathers using a red light to enhance their features. Feathers first appeared 51-52 million years ago and are the defining feature of all birds. Each feather on a bird's body is a finely tuned structure that serves an important role in the bird's activities. Feathers allow birds to fly, but they also help them show off by improving their aerodynamic and or aquadynamic ability and an infinite variety of colours allow them to blend in and also attract mates. Specialized downy barbs help them to

stay warm, and keep dry. Their colour, shape and life span are all improved by constant preening which keep feathers clean and in good functional shape.

Rohan Bilney: Update on Glossy Black-Cockatoos on the South Coast

Rohan has worked with ecologist Meg Cleary from the Forestry Corporation surveying the post-fire forests for Glossy Black-Cockatoos.

Glossy Black-Cockatoos are long lived - up to 50 years - have low reproductive success, nest in hollow trees which are mostly dead and therefore more vulnerable to fire, and only eat the seed from the cones of Casuarina or Allocasuarina (She-oaks).

The 2019/2020 fires burnt 34% of the species in their known area of occupancy.

A map of the SE area showed the spread of ecological data for Glossy Black-Cockatoos. There are 2500 records for Glossy Black-Cockatoos. In records from the State Forests south of Sydney there are 1850 feed trees and in the Eden area 1100 feed trees. Satellite images show a very high % of fire damage in the Eden Region and 82% of known feed trees have been impacted by high severity fire.

There is now a focus on Glossy Black-Cockatoos in day to day activities. From more than 2500 records north of Ulladulla there were only four nests. At dusk Glossy Black-Cockatoos leave the nest to drink and return to the nest immediately. Sound recordings were deployed for a couple of hours at dusk and detected four nests in the forest, two in Broulee and two in Nelligen. Photos showed breeding nests in many different types of trees dead and alive, some a significant distance from feed trees (Casuarina).

There is hope for the future with Allocasuarina flowering early after so much rain and so fruit is available earlier than expected. Next year it is hoped to concentrate more on Glossy Black-Cockatoos and detect and monitor birds during their critical breeding time which can start in March.

Roger Bilney: Establishing the age of Glossy Black-Cockatoos by examining their feathers

Photographs and observations of Glossy Black-Cockatoos (GBC) in NSW have shown the barring on the tail feathers can indicate the age of the bird. All ages of Glossy Black-Cockatoos have bars on the red section of their tails.

Juvenile birds also have a yellow wash on the edge of their tail feathers. Mature males lose all barring resulting in two red blotches.

Female Glossy Black-Cockatoos may also have some yellow feathers on the head but this is not indicative of their sex.

Indication of the aging sequence can be - 6 bars - 5 bars then bars thinning at 12 -13 years of age and finally all bars disappear in old age. *Missing bars are an aging characteristic.*

Juvenile GBCs have small yellow dots on breast, shoulder and head and these are the last of the immature features to disappear.



Image courtesy of Roger Bilney

Roger then showed photos of GBCs from “The Pines” Frankston, Kangaroo Valley and Lake Cargelligo. There was some diversity within this group but with close examination it was possible to estimate the age of the birds.

In captivity birds produce different results, therefore one cannot always make a correct diagnosis.

In the forest a ratio of three females to one male is equivalent to a healthy breeding group and indicates the importance of correct identification of the sexes and their age.

Roger emphasised the role of high-quality photography in future research for this endangered species and is happy to receive any photos showing GBC tail feathers.

Thank you, Roger, for this interesting insight and demonstrating the importance of tail feathers in Glossy Black-Cockatoo research.

For more information see <https://glossyblack.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Glossy-Black-Fact-Sheet-4.pdf>

A surprising video of Gang-gang Cockatoos enthusiastically eating spittfire caterpillars reminded us of the importance of every creature in the food chain.

Two native plants were won in the raffle. Roger Heffernan thanked our three speakers and invited everyone for supper.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

NUMBUGGA

Saturday 8 October, 2022

CANCELLED due to rain

PANBOOLA SPRING SURVEY

Wednesday 12 October, 2022

Robyn Kesby

Fortunately, it wasn't raining when nine of us met at 7:30am for this quarterly survey. Gumboots were the order of the day, but raincoats and umbrellas were not needed. The five Dusky Moorhens on Watsons Billabong outnumbered the single Eurasian Coot. Purple Swampheens hid in the reeds and at the end of the survey two small chicks made a brief appearance. Spring breeding was going well with a juvenile Golden-headed Cisticola sighting, Australian Magpie carrying food near the Saltmarsh Bridge and a Grey Fantail on a nest along the river.

The racecourse provided some real delights with White-fronted Chats feeding three juveniles and four Pacific Golden Plovers in the extensive ponds inside the track. This is the first time they have been recorded during a survey and first recording here since October 2014.

Mike Healey spotted two Hardheads with six chicks emerging from the reeds in Tips Billabong towards the end of the survey. We finished feeling very happy with the 58 species recorded.

Notably, no raptors were seen on this day. Also the Bell Miners usually heard in the forest to the west of the racecourse were not present. Maybe it's too wet for them!

BIRD OLYMPICS AT POTOROO PALACE

Tuesday 18 October, 2022

Doug Reckord

After a Covid-19 break in 2021, the Bournda Bird Olympics had a triumphant return for National Bird Week 2022! A plucky contingent of twitchy students from six local schools flocked to Potoroo Palace to crow about their bird knowledge and calling skills.

No illegale behaviour was tolerated by the judges, Bird Calling Champions of yesteryear, Bruce Chapman and Marg Liston, supported by Rob Whiter.

Wolumla Public School turned in an excellent team effort to secure the coveted **Jack Lynch Memorial Trophy** with the highest combined team score.

Alisha Saye of Bega Valley Public School held aloft the **Lisa Freedman Perpetual Trophy for The Champion Bird Caller** for her convincing Australian King-Parrot call, with Isaac Donne of Pambula PS (Australian Raven) and Tai Bexterman of Tathra PS (Laughing Kookaburra) a very close second.

The winners received family and individual passes to Potoroo Palace.

The students were delighted with the "Looking at Birds" books, generously donated by **Far South Coast Birdwatchers**, and they all received a certificate of participation.

Bournda EEC gratefully acknowledges the support of the Merimbula Museum, ABC South-East NSW, FSCB Inc, Potoroo Palace and participating schools.

The event generated quite a response online and on the radio with coverage by ABC Sydney, ABC Victoria, ABC Adelaide and Radio New Zealand.

After the interview on Radio NZ there has been speculation about a Trans-Tasman competition! We are tentatively calling it the Feathersloe Cup!

ABC South East website

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-10-19/bird-call-competition-revival-in-the-bega-valley/101550188>

Radio NZ <https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/checkpoint/audio/2018863526/nsw-schoolkids-pick-up-lost-art-of-bird-calling>

Video featured on ABC Landline – 55k views as of 26/10/22

<https://www.facebook.com/LandlineABC/videos/419334533718037>

Doug Reckord, Principal. Bournda Environmental Centre.

GOODENIA RAINFOREST
Sunday 23 October, 2022
Barbara Jones

The rain actually stopped! Apparently no one believed it as only three members attended the walk. Surprisingly the road was in good condition except for a few sloshy bits, but sadly the birds were lacking. Another try early next year will be scheduled into the programme.

MALLACOOTA
Wednesday 2 November, 2022
Jenny Morrison

A cold wind greeted us as we stepped out of the cars at the Genoa Park. A row of Bottlebrush along the pathway to the bridge was popular with Little Wattlebirds, Red Wattlebirds and Superb Fairy-wrens. The more open areas were occupied by Magpies and Willie Wagtails, but higher up a Golden Whistler, Rufous Whistler and Spotted Pardalote were added to the list.

It was no surprise that the ground everywhere was very wet but at Double Arm Creek the walk through the rainforest presented no problem; it is a lovely short walk. At the car park and on the track Superb Lyrebird, Shining Bronze-Cuckoo, Eastern Yellow Robin and Lewin's Honeyeater were seen and heard and for variety a Red-bellied Black Snake. No Koalas.

We were joined by FSCB member Kieran Martin, a knowledgeable local from Mallacoota, who took us to the Sewerage Treatment Works. This area had changed dramatically since our last visit as the plantation around the sewerage ponds had been felled and was being cleared. For us it meant there was no protection from the wind as we walked up to and around the ponds, and my binoculars shook. However there was plenty to hold our attention: three Latham's Snipe zigzagged low over the shrubby regrowth; a Swamp Harrier made repeated dives from its hovering position over the edge of the pond; a pair of Black Swans shepherded their five cygnets while over 100 Chestnut Teal bobbed on the water. They were joined by Hardheads, Australasian Shovelers and Australian Shelducks. As we walked back to the cars Masked Lapwings retreated across the paddock and Willie Wagtails plus nest were seen.

As it was still windy, some of the group chose to eat lunch in town and others found a sheltered spot at Buckland's Jetty before we all went a short way along the Narrows walk. Overhead flew six Cattle Egrets and near the edge of the water, a Sacred Kingfisher.

At the furthest end of the Foreshore Caravan Park Leo had his scope set up as two large flocks of birds flew over the water so was able to identify Fairy Terns which Kieran said were unusual for that area. With the scope we had a good view of a Red-necked Stint on the opposite stretch of sand.

No binoculars were needed to see a large Koala in a nearby tree with her well grown joey which was demanding her attention and causing her to shuffle out of its reach.

Last stop was Bastion Point and a Black-faced Cormorant obligingly sitting on the rocks.

Mallacoota is always a pleasure to visit and though the wind was cold, Kieran's welcome was warm. Thank you for your local knowledge, Kieran, and thank you Barbara for organising the trip.

10 group members managed to record 61 species.

PANBOOLA 20TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
Sunday 6 November, 2022
Hayden Kingston

FSC Birdwatchers set up a display to help Panboola celebrate their 20th anniversary of Incorporation anniversary on November 6. Panboola is one of our most popular birdwatching locations and many of our members have been involved as volunteers and in the quarterly bird surveys since it was first established.

It was a lovely day and a great opportunity to catch up with old and new friends from the bird club and Panboola. We sold calendars and books and had plenty of interest from many potential new members including one who signed up on the day.



Image: Hayden Kingston

GREEN CAPE

Saturday 12 November, 2022

Leo Berzins

An overcast morning with traces of drizzle saw seventeen members and one visitor assemble at the start of Edrom Road. The recent closure of a large section of Green Cape Road meant a change of route via Duckhole Road to Saltwater Creek for our first stop. Here we were greeted by a cacophony of Pied Currawongs and Rainbow Lorikeets. A short walk to the beach was rewarded with good views of the resident Hooded Plover pair. These birds had hatched three chicks earlier in the week but naturally kept them well hidden while we were present. In the campground environs, Olive-backed Oriole, Noisy Friarbird and Channel-billed Cuckoo were the highlights.

After a break for morning tea, we set off for Pulpit Rock. We stopped for a walk through the heathland where the Light to Light walk crosses the much improved access road. Hopes were high for some of the elusive birds of this region but sadly no ground parrots or emu-wrens were seen. Tawny-crowned Honeyeater and a distant pair of White-bellied Sea-Eagles were probably the highlights. At Pulpit Rock we were welcomed by swallows and the occasional Great Cormorant passing by over the water.

On to Green Cape where light winds and a mild temperature made for an enjoyable lunch break in a magnificent setting near the lighthouse. Superb Fairy-wren, Brown Thornbill and Australasian Pipit were some of the birds seen but the highlight was nine Sooty Oystercatchers on the rocks below.

A good day out at a great location with a modest species count of 36.

BEMBOKA

Sunday 27 November, 2022

Elizabeth Simkus

Fourteen members met at Colombo Park and we got off to a good start with 17 species recorded as we walked to the far end of the football ground, including a Shining Bronze-cuckoo, White-throated Gerygone and Australian Reed-warblers calling. After a quick look at Green's Crossing and Green's Dam, we stopped further along Yankees Gap Road to see Gang-gang Cockatoos (with a determined young Josh hunting them down) and Australian King-Parrots. We saw two colonies of Fairy Martins swooping above culverts, where they would be building bottle-shaped mud nests, along the way. Rufous Whistlers were present at nearly all our stops.

As we approached the school bus turnaround a Superb Lyrebird ran across the road and during a morning tea stop we heard Eastern Whipbirds and Grey Shrike-thrushes as storm clouds gathered. We then headed back to Yankees Gap Fire Trail but several cars missed the turnoff and headed back towards town. They were soon rounded up and Leo led them to Noel's property. It's 18 months since our visit after the bushfires and now the bush is looking lush and green with many flowering plants and ferns along the track. On arrival, Barbara heard a Cicadabird and a Leaden Flycatcher. As we walked around a loop track, John found a Brown Gerygone nest hanging from a low branch and we could hear Fan-tailed Cuckoos calling. We added Golden Whistlers and Red-browed Finches to the list, bringing the list total to 46 species, before a sudden downpour ended the outing and we cancelled our picnic lunch in favour of heading home. Thanks to Noel for letting us enjoy a wonderful venue and to David for keeping the bird list.

FSCB GOOGLE GROUP and FACEBOOK

Go to the welcome page at <http://groups.google.com/group/fscb?hl=en> and follow the instructions. If you have trouble contact David on dpadams@gmail.com or Barbara. In the set-up process you will be asked to give your email address and a password which will be yours just for the chat line (not your personal email password).

You won't be inundated with email. Maybe one or two a day, then nothing for a week/weeks, but the more people use the service the more useful it will become. Try it and see.

Have you seen our FACEBOOK page, maintained by Mike Healey? Please like the page and share the link with your friends! Or you can view without signing up, by going to <https://www.facebook.com/Farsouthcoastbirdwatchers>.

We are also on Twitter: [@FSCBirds](https://twitter.com/FSCBirds)

Deadline for December Newsletter: **26 January, 2023** Articles and reports to be sent to seromane@hotmail.com

A SELECTION of SIGHTINGS from October/November 2022

Please report your sightings, especially threatened species

Threatened Species

18/10/2022	Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	2 y hatched	Mogareeka	L Berzins	
22/10/2022	Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	6	Merimbula Boardwalk	L Allen	
22/10/2022	Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	4 + chick	Mogareeka	J Plumb	
23/10/2022	Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	2	Mogareeka	L Allen	
22/11/2022	Curlew Sandpiper	2	Jellat wetlands, Bird Route No 1	L McPherson	photos
12/10/2022	Eastern Osprey	1	Merimbula	G Holden	photo on mast

17/10/2022	Eastern Osprey	2	Merimbula	G Holden	both on mast of boat
27/11/2022	Gang-gang Cockatoo	1	Bemboka, Yankees Gap Rd	FSCB outing	
18/10/2022	Gang-gang Cockatoo	3	Bega, Reedy Swamp Rd	T Williams	always around
16/10/2022	Gang-gang Cockatoo	4	Wallagoot, 'Watery Fowls'	S Mihara	in flight
27/11/2022	Gang-gang Cockatoo	5	Bemboka, Yankees Gap Rd	FSCB outing	
11/11/2022	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	2	Pambula Tower Hill	R and T Jennings	feeding
27/11/2022	Hooded Plover	1	Nelsons Lagoon	J Plumb	
20/10/2022	Hooded Plover	2	Tura Beach	L Allen	
8/10/2022	Hooded Plover	2	Bournda Lagoon	Wallis and Mihara	
9/11/2022	Hooded Plover	3	Wallagoot, 'Watery Fowls'	Wallis and Mihara	
12/11/2022	Hooded Plover	2	Saltwater Creek	FSCB outing	3 chicks during week
24/11/2022	Lesser Sand-Plover	2	Panboola	Kesby/Richmond/Jones	photo
22/10/2022	Little Tern	1	Mogareeka	J Plumb	
13/11/2022	Little Tern	8	Mitchies Jetty	G Holden	
18/10/2022	Little Tern	2	Mogareeka	L Berzins	heard a couple
2/11/2022	Powerful Owl	1	Wolumla, Frogs Hollow	S Middleton	eating Raven
3/10/2022	Sooty Oystercatcher	present	Wallagoot Beach	Wallis and Mihara	seen often
12/11/2022	Sooty Oystercatcher	9	Green Cape Lighthouse	FSCB outing	
20/10/2022	Square-tailed Kite	2	Tura Beach	L Allen	
1/10/2022	Swift Parrot	1	Merimbula, Benandra Place	R Bilney	and again on 9th
17/11/2022	Australasian Darter	1	Bird Route No 1, 1st bridge	Lyell/Sutcliffe	
30/10/2022	Australasian Figbird	12	Tathra, Pacific St	J Plumb	
13/11/2022	Australasian Figbird	1	Merimbula, Main St	G Holden	all week
12/11/2022	Australasian Pipit	1	Green Cape Lighthouse	FSCB outing	
24/11/2022	Australian Hobby	1	Candelo, Quoll Lane	J Plumb	
16/10/2022	Australian Hobby	1	Yurammie	R Heffernan	
27/11/2022	Australian Reed-Warbler	2+	Bemboka Rec Ground	FSCB outing	
12/10/2022	Australian Reed-Warbler	2+	Panboola	FSCB Survey	
2/11/2022	Australian Shelduck	4	Mallacoota STW	FSCB outing	
17/11/2022	Australian Shelduck	8	Bird Route No 1	Lyell/Sutcliffe	
12/10/2022	Azure Kingfisher	1	Towamba Bridge	R Heffernan	
2/11/2022	Black-faced Cormorant	1	Mallacoota, Bastion Point	FSCB outing	
8/10/2022	Black-faced Monarch	2	Gillards/Cowdreys track	J Plumb	
13/10/2022	Black-faced Monarch	1	Tura, Red Hill Rd	Sa Romane	
20/10/2022	Black-faced Monarch	2	Mogilla, Filmer Williams Rd	J Plumb	
30/10/2022	Black-faced Monarch	2	Bournda Nature Reserve	J Plumb	Moncks Creek
9/11/2022	Black-faced Monarch	1	Panboola, nr parking area	M Richmond	
15/11/2022	Black-faced Monarch	1	Kangarutha Track	Wallis/Lehwald	
5/11/2022	Black-fronted Dotterel	2	Wallagoot, 'Watery Fowls'	Wallis and Mihara	
20/11/2022	Black-shouldered Kite	1	Panboola	M Richmond	south of track and shed
12/10/2022	Black-shouldered Kite	2	Bega-Tathra Rd	J Plumb	
22/10/2022	Brown Cuckoo-Dove	3	Nethercote	B Jones	
27/11/2022	Brown Gerygone	2 + nest	Bemboka, Yankees Gap Rd	FSCB outing	
18/10/2022	Brown Quail	5	Bega, Reedy Swamp Rd	T Williams	a covey beside road
23/10/2022	Brush Cuckoo	1	Nethercote	B Jones	1st this year 5:30 am.
27/11/2022	Brush Cuckoo	1	Bemboka, Yankees Gap Rd,	FSCB outing	
18/10/2022	Buff-banded Rail	1	Bermagui Golf Course	B Virtue	
19/10/2022	Buff-banded Rail	5 (3 chicks)	Eden, Curalo Lake	L Allen	
2/11/2022	Buff-banded Rail	1	Wallagoot, 'Watery Fowls'	Wallis and Mihara	
17/11/2022	Caspian Tern	1	Bird Route No 1	Lyell/Sutcliffe/Jones	
12/10/2022	Cattle Egret	7	Towamba	R Heffernan	
12/10/2022	Cattle Egret	25+	Bega/Tathra Rd, nr Hospital	D Waldon	
4/11/2022	Channel-billed Cuckoo	1 & 2	Bega, Merimbula, Wolumla, Saltwater Creek, Eden, Pambula		
23/11/2022	Channel-billed Cuckoo	4	Nethercote	B Jones	family feud in gums
25/11/2022	Cicadabird	1	Nethercote	B Jones	
27/11/2022	Cicadabird	1	Bemboka, Yankees Gap Rd	FSCB outing	
17/11/2022	Common Myna	2	Eden, near Cemetery	J Plumb	on grass, sth of cemetery
20/10/2022	Common Myna	1	Towridge Lane	J Plumb	on fence nr cattle yards
17/11/2022	Crescent Honeyeater	1	Berrambool garden	M Sutcliffe	
19/10/2022	Dollarbird	1	Sth Bermagui	D Adams	1st for season
11/10/2022	Dollarbird	1	Candelo, Quoll Lane	J Plumb	
11/10/2022	Dollarbird	1	Bega, Tarraganda	T Jarman	
12/10/2022	Dusky Moorhen	7	Panboola	FSCB Survey	
2/10/2022	Dusky Woodswallow	2	Wallagoot, 'Watery Fowls'	Wallis and Mihara	
3/10/2022	Dusky Woodswallow	4	Nethercote	B Jones	
12/11/2022	Dusky Woodswallow	1	Green Cape Lighthouse	FSCB outing	
12/10/2022	Eastern Great Egret	8	Panboola	FSCB Survey	
22/10/2022	Eastern Koel	well spread	Bega, Sth Pambula, Tura, Nethercote, Eden, Berrambool, Yurammie		
17/11/2022	Eastern Reef-Egret	1	Mogareeka	G Holden	
27/11/2022	Eastern Rosella	25+	Candelo, Kameruka Lane	B Jones	

18/10/2022	Eastern Rosella	nesting	Bega, Reedy Swamp Rd	T Williams	nesting in a pine tree
22/10/2022	Eastern Shrike-tit	1	Nethercote	B Jones	
5/10/2022	Emu	1	Burrigoot	H Kingston	on way to Towamba
2/10/2022	European Goldfinch	2	Wallagoot, 'Watery Fowls'	Wallis and Mihara	
17/11/2022	European Goldfinch	few	Wolumla, Frogs Hollow Lane	M Sutcliffe	
12/10/2022	European Goldfinch	7	Panboola	FSCB Survey	
27/11/2022	Fairy Martin	1	Bemboka, cnr Yankees/Pollock	FSCB outing	
27/11/2022	Fairy Martin	4	Bemboka, Greens Crossing	FSCB outing	
2/11/2022	Fairy Tern	many flying	Mallacoota, Foreshore Camp	FSCB outing	Leo + telescope
30/11/2022	Giant Petrel	1	Bermagui, Beares Beach	M Smith	view from house
12/10/2022	Golden-headed Cisticola	5+ & 1 juv	Panboola	FSCB Survey	
20/10/2022	Grey Currawong	1	Mogilla, Filmer Williams Rd	J Plumb	
12/10/2022	Grey Fantail	11 +nest	Panboola	FSCB Survey	
19/11/2022	Grey Goshawk	1	Nethercote	B Jones	near house, next day too
12/10/2022	Grey Teal	2	Panboola	FSCB Survey	
12/10/2022	Hardhead	2 + 6 chicks	Panboola	FSCB Survey	
16/11/2022	Indian Peacock	1	Top of Brown Mtn	Wallis and Mihara	truck coupling bay
2/11/2022	Latham's Snipe	3	Mallacoota STW	FSCB outing	
27/11/2022	Laughing Kookaburra	2	Bemboka Rec Ground	FSCB outing	
27/11/2022	Laughing Kookaburra	family fledged	Nethercote	B Jones	nested very close
23/11/2022	Leaden Flycatcher	1	Nethercote	B Jones	in garden daily
27/11/2022	Leaden Flycatcher	1	Bemboka, Yankees Gap Rd	FSCB outing	
7/10/2022	Leaden Flycatcher	pair	Nethercote	B Jones	
12/10/2022	Little Corella	52	Panboola	FSCB Survey	
12/10/2022	Little Grassbird	2	Panboola	FSCB Survey	
16/10/2022	Little Grassbird	1	Wallagoot, 'Watery Fowls'	Wallis and Mihara	new for site
29/11/2022	Little Penguin	2	Eden Wheel Cove	C Lloyd	photo of them digging
22/11/2022	Marsh Sandpiper	2	Jellat, Bird Route No 1	L McPherson	photos
24/11/2022	Masked Lapwing	50	Panboola	Kesby/Richmond	centre of racetrack
17/11/2022	Musk Duck	2	Bird Route No 1, 1st bridge	Lyell/Sutcliffe/Jones	
27/11/2022	Nankeen Kestrel	1	Bemboka, cnr Yankees/Pollock	FSCB outing	
12/11/2022	Noisy Friarbird	1	Saltwater Creek	FSCB outing	
19/10/2022	Noisy Friarbird	1	Sth Bermagui	D Adams	1st for season
27/11/2022	Noisy Miner	5 fy	Bemboka, Greens Dam, Yankees	Gap Rd	FSCB outing
12/11/2022	Olive-backed Oriole	4	Saltwater Creek	FSCB outing	feeding together
22/11/2022	Pacific Golden Plover	2	Jellat, Bird Route No 1	L McPherson	photos
12/10/2022	Pacific Golden Plover	4	Panboola	FSCB Survey	
17/11/2022	Pallid Cuckoo	1	Wolumla, Frogs Hollow	B Jones	
22/11/2022	Pectoral Sandpiper	4	Jellat, Bird Route No 1	L McPherson	photos
12/10/2022	Purple Swamphen	15 + 2 chicks	Panboola	FSCB Survey	
12/10/2022	Rainbow Lorikeet	6	Panboola	FSCB Survey	
20/10/2022	Rainbow Lorikeet	present	Tura Beach	L Allen	
12/11/2022	Rainbow Lorikeet	lots	Saltwater Creek	FSCB outing	
20/10/2022	Red-capped Plover	2	Tura Beach	L Allen	
23/10/2022	Red-capped Plover	12 nesting	Mogareeka	L Allen	
22/10/2022	Red-capped Plover	7 + chicks	Mogareeka	J Plumb	
18/11/2022	Red-necked Stint	1	Pambula, Oaklands	M Burrows	behind chocolate factory
22/11/2022	Red-necked Stint	multiple	Jellat wetlands, Bird Route No 1	L McPherson	photos
2/11/2022	Red-necked Stint	1	Mallacoota, Bastion Point	FSCB outing	
27/11/2022	Restless Flycatcher	1	Bemboka, Yankees Gap Rd	FSCB outing	
12/10/2022	Restless Flycatcher	1	Panboola	FSCB Survey	
30/10/2022	Rose Robin	1	Bournda Nature Res.	J Plumb	Moncks Creek
12/10/2022	Royal Spoonbill	12	Merimbula Lake	Sa Romane	
23/10/2022	Royal Spoonbill	15	Mogareeka	L Allen	
17/11/2022	Royal Spoonbill	25	Bird Route No 1	Lyell/Sutcliffe/Jones	
17/11/2022	Rufous Fantail	1	Wolumla, Frogs Hollow	S Middleton	
13/11/2022	Rufous Fantail	1	Wallagoot, 'Watery Fowls'	Wallis and Mihara	
4/10/2022	Sacred Kingfisher	1	Wallagoot, 'Watery Fowls'	Wallis and Mihara	
18/10/2022	Sacred Kingfisher	1	Bermagui, Nth River Rd	B Virtue	
18/10/2022	Sacred Kingfisher	1	Merimbula, Top Lake	F Brook	
20/10/2022	Sacred Kingfisher	1	Kalaru	S Sass	
27/10/2022	Sacred Kingfisher	1	Nethercote	B Jones	
9/11/2022	Sanderling	1	Wallagoot Beach	Wallis/Mihara/L Berzins	
22/10/2022	Scarlet Honeyeater	2	Merimbula Boardwalk	L Allen	
12/10/2022	Scarlet Honeyeater	heard	Panboola	FSCB Survey	
5/10/2022	shearwater migration	millions	Tura Headland	D Merrick	
5/10/2022	shearwater migration	millions	Merimbula coastline	G Holden	
12/11/2022	Southern Emu-wren	3	Wallagoot, 'Watery Fowls'	Wallis and Mihara	
24/11/2022	Southern Emu-wren	1	Panboola	Kesby/Richmond	behind Robs Shed
12/10/2022	Southern Emu-wren	2 males	Panboola	FSCB Survey	
17/11/2022	Spotless Crake	1	Panboola	M Richmond	
28/11/2022	Spotted Quail-thrush	1	Nethercote Hill,	B Jones	first seen since fires

30/11/2022	Striated Heron	1	Mogareeka shoreline	L Berzins	
22/10/2022	Superb Lyrebird	1	Nethercote	B Jones	Aussie Bird Count week
23/10/2022	Superb Lyrebird	1	Goodenia Rainforest	FSCB outing	
2/11/2022	Superb Lyrebird	1	Mallacoota Double Creek	FSCB outing	
27/11/2022	Superb Lyrebird	1	Bemboka, Yankees Gap Rd, School bus turn		FSCB outing
12/11/2022	Superb Lyrebird	1	Saltwater Creek area	FSCB outing	
2/11/2022	Swamp Harrier	1	Mallacoota STW	FSCB outing	
13/10/2022	Swamp Harrier	1	Yurammie, Heffernan	R Heffernan	
15/10/2022	Swamp Harrier	1	Wallagoot, 'Watery Fowls'	Wallis and Mihara	
11/10/2022	Swamp Harrier	2	cnr Frogs Hollow Lane/Highway	J Plumb	
29/10/2022	Tawny Frogmouth	1 heard	Tathra, Pacific St	J Plumb	
12/11/2022	Tawny-crowned H'earer	4	Green Cape, Light walk off Pulpit Rock		FSCB outing
17/11/2022	Varied Sittella	nesting group	Wolumla, Frogs Hollow	S Middleton	
2/10/2022	White-fronted Chat	2+	Wallagoot, 'Watery Fowls'	Wallis and Mihara	seen regularly
12/10/2022	White-fronted Chat	6 3juv being fed	Panboola	FSCB Survey	
27/11/2022	White-throated Gerygone	1	Bemboka Rec Ground, Colombo Park		FSCB outing
29/10/2022	White-throated Needletail	50	Sth Pambula, Summer Hill Rd	H Kingston	
20/11/2022	White-throated Needletail	6	Sth Pambula, Summer Hill Rd	H Kingston	
30/10/2022	White-throated Needletail	10	Sth Pambula, Summer Hill Rd	H Kingston	
7/11/2022	White-throated Nightjar	1	Nethercote, Peters	C Peters	hawking around house
30/10/2022	White-throated Nightjar	1	Sth Pambula, Summer Hill Rd	H Kingston	
15/10/2022	White-throated Nightjar	1	Sth Pambula, Summer Hill Rd	H Kingston	regular each season
3/11/2022	White-winged Black Tern	1	Mogareeka	L Berzins	photo
22/11/2022	White-winged Black Tern	1	Jellat, Bird Route No 1	L McPherson	photos
17/11/2022	White-winged Triller	1	Wolumla, Frogs Hollow	B Jones	

COMING EVENTS

*Held on second Saturday and fourth Sunday of each month and odd weekdays.
Evening Meetings on second Thursday of February, April, June, August, October and December.
Information about outings or help with transport contact anyone on committee (see FSCB Directory page 9)*

Thursday 8 December, 2022

EVENING MEETING and ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Meet 7.00 for 7:30 pm in Merimbula Uniting Church for Members Night with bits and pieces, reports and photos from trips and of course the AGM with hopefully some new faces putting up their hands. Members contribute with a small plate of supper.

Saturday 10 December, 2022

BROGO DAM

Meet at 9:00 am at the Brogo Fire Shed, about 1 km along Warrigal Range Rd. (About 20 km north of Bega turn left on to Warrigal Range Rd, the Brogo Dam Road.) Can car pool at Fire Shed if desired, otherwise we'll go to the top car park on the left beyond the manager's cottage at Brogo Dam. Bring all you need for a good day of birds and friendship.

Wednesday 11 January, 2023

PANBOOLA SURVEY

Meet Robyn Kesby (0414 864 873) at 7:30 am at the Panboola Centre, next to Idlewild Motel in Bullara St, Pambula for the summer survey. Wear sturdy shoes. Carry snack and drink, hat and insect repellent. Takes about 3 hours.

Monday 16 January, 2023

COMMITTEE MEETING

Sunday 22 January, 2023

START UP THE YEAR

A chance to catch up and start the new year. Meet at Panboola from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm (home for tennis or cricket) at Watsons Waterhole, next to the Idlewild Motel in Bullara St with BYO refreshments or an early tea. Plenty of parking here and tables and seats tucked away beside the billabong. Explore the Highway track if you haven't already done so and there might be a surprise adventure.

Thursday 9 February, 2023

EVENING MEETING

Meet 7.00 for 7:30 pm in Merimbula Uniting Church, Henwood St, Merimbula. Guest Speaker will be Ross Crates talking about his work with Regent Honeyeaters. Plus member sightings, photos projected to the screen, and supper.

Saturday 11 February, 2023

THE PINNACLES AND HAYCOCK POINT

Meet Leo (6495 2189) at 8:45 am just 100m into Haycock Rd (signposted by NPWS) off the Princes Highway between Pambula and Eden. Once assembled we'll convoy, to the new Pinnacles circuit then to Haycock Point car park. Here we have beach, headland, bush and scrub for a good variety of species. Bring a snack, lunch, drink and a chair. Lunch near cars.

Leo Berzins' Striated Heron at Mogareeka, 30/11/2022



This is my last newsletter. Keep sending me your sightings though. Barbara Jones.