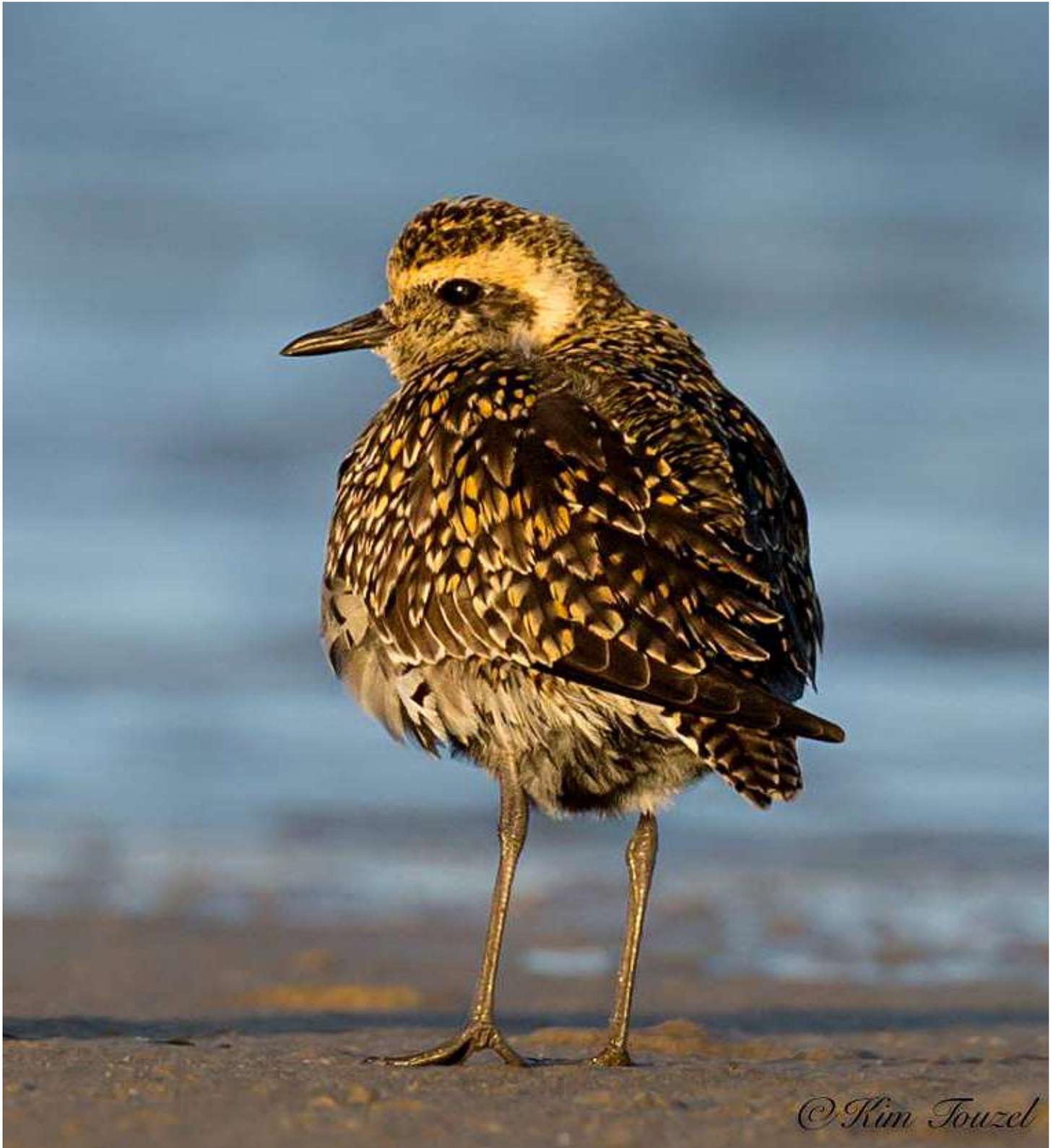


BirdLife Shoalhaven Magazine

Autumn 2018



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Cover Photo

This season's cover photo - a Pacific Golden Plover (PGP) - was taken by BLS Secretary Kim Touzel (pictured above). PGPs, like a lot of other migratory shorebirds, are now putting on weight and breeding colouration to prepare for their long journeys north up the flyway.

Contributions

If you have any information about conservation issues, or if you would like to share some of your birding experiences, travel stories or anecdotes with fellow members, please send them with any related photos, drawings or maps to brett@brettdavis.com.au

In addition, if you have any bird photographs you would like to share, please send them in as well.

Contributions of articles, images, suggestions, criticisms, feedback and corrections are always welcome.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to all the BirdLife Shoalhaven members and friends who contributed articles and photos for this magazine. These include - Rob Dunn, Chris Grounds, Kim Touzel, Brett Davis, Charles Dove and Frances Bray.

In addition, images and text from the following websites have been used in this magazine - peterwaleart.com, kategorringesmith.com.au, juliecunninghamcreative.com, theconversation.com, smh.com.au, theguardian.com, australiangeographic.com.au, abc.net.au, birdlife.org.au and Kim Touzel's Facebook page.

Apologies to those contributors whose text or images may not have been acknowledged. If you have not been acknowledged please let the editor know, and the error will be rectified in the next magazine.

General Disclaimer

The information in articles submitted for publication in this magazine is accepted in good faith and although the editor has endeavoured to verify the accuracy of all information, BirdLife Shoalhaven and BirdLife Australia accept no responsibility for any of the errors, inaccuracies or exaggerations that may be contained within articles in this magazine.

Also, the views expressed in this magazine are those of the editor, individual contributors and branch members. They may not be the views of BirdLife Shoalhaven or BirdLife Australia.

Errors

The beauty of an electronic magazine is that it can be amended after publication, so if you find any errors - typographical or factual - in this magazine, please let the editor know.

President's Report

- by Rob Dunn

Our AGM

In February we held our AGM at the Vincentia Golf Club with a good turnout of 33. The draft minutes of the meeting can be found on the members section of our web-site.

It was great that Charles and Janina Dove could be there on the night, so I could publicly acknowledge Charles' generous contribution of his photographs, which played a key part in the success of our Bird Walk brochure. Getting all the photos from one photographer at no cost and only needing one photo credit made life a lot easier!

I am delighted that all of the existing Committee members were re-elected, namely -

Conservation Officer - Chris Grounds

Secretary – Kim Touzel

Treasurer - Karen Davis

Media Officer - Yolande Cozijn

Webmaster & Social Media - Brett Davis

General Committee - Mike Jefferis

I made a point of thanking each of them for their time and energy in 2017 and I am looking forward to working with them in the year ahead, as I continue in my role as President. I also acknowledged the contributions of the two key Committee members we lost last year with the departure of Barry Virtue, who has moved to Bermagui, and Matt Jones for health reasons.

Having finished the AGM business, Brett Davis took over the rest of the evening running his annual bird trivia quiz. Needless to say, we all learned a lot of new facts, many of which we did not need to know, challenged a number of the answers and had friendly arguments and fun along the way. For those of you who were not there you did not miss out, because the quiz and answers can be found later in the magazine (see pages 34 and 36).

Time well-spent at the dentist

We are always seeking volunteers to help promote bird conservation by taking the lead or helping out on one-off or on-going activities. The article on the ABBC (Australian Backyard Bird Count - see page 29) goes into more detail on the help we will need to support this Australia-wide program in October.

One of the ideas I had last year was to leave old copies of the Australian BirdLife magazine in receptions at dentists, doctors and company offices to raise the awareness of bird conservation and attract new members. I know some of you have already been doing this as well.

Well it works!

I discovered that one of our newest members learnt all about us when she picked up a magazine at the Chris Dunton Vincentia Dental Practice and was inspired to go on-line soon afterwards to join BirdLife Australia! A new member, with I am sure healthy teeth, all thanks to a visit to the dentist!

So please dig out your old magazines and find a reception area where you can leave them!

Lots of bird talks and events for your diaries

Since the publication of the last BLS magazine there have been some really interesting bird talks for members and the public, with more scheduled in the near future.

At the Jervis Bay Maritime Museum (JBMM), our own Chris Grounds spoke about the birds of Shoalhaven Heads. Shoalhaven Landcare arranged for Dr Nicholas Carlile to speak on the project to eradicate the rats on Lord Howe Island - which has now been delayed due to bureaucratic bungling (see article and link in Web Watch on page 27). Peter Wale will give a talk about his art exhibition, and at a BLS evening talk Dr Beth Mott will give amazing insights into the Powerful Owl.

And although it was not about birds, NPA Milton lined up Dr John Turnbull, from the University of NSW to talk about our marine environment.

There are still more dates to put into your diary. Back at the JBMM, on 5 June, Frances Bray and Narelle Wright from the Lake Wollumboola Protection Association will talk on the need to protect the Lake, and on 26 May Kate Gorringer-Smith will talk about "The Flyway Print Exchange" exhibition currently being held.

We have also just heard that Plastic Pollution Solutions hope to be able to show a film "Albatross" later in the year about the impact on plastics on Laysan Albatross chicks on Midway island in the North Pacific - more information to follow on that.



Many thanks to all these different groups working with us to promote bird conservation. We will try to keep you informed of all future events, but apologize in advance for too many emails or cross-postings.

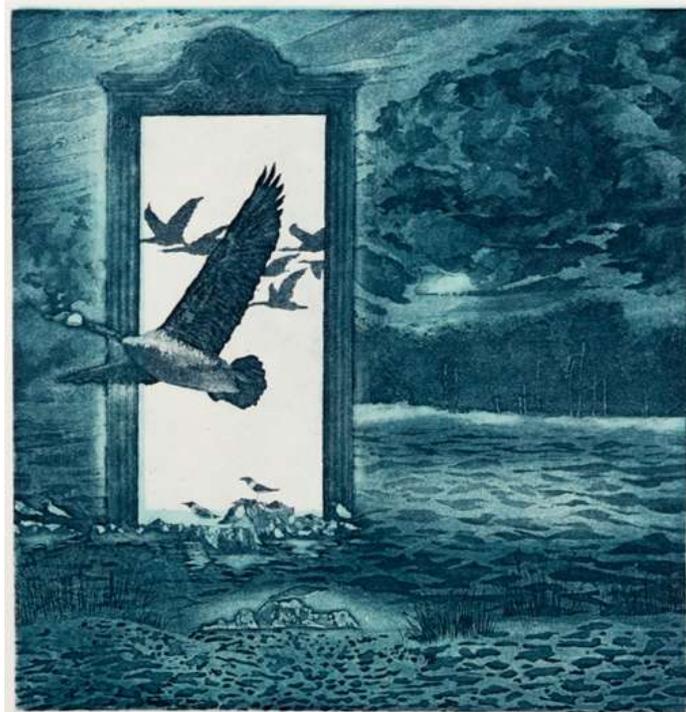
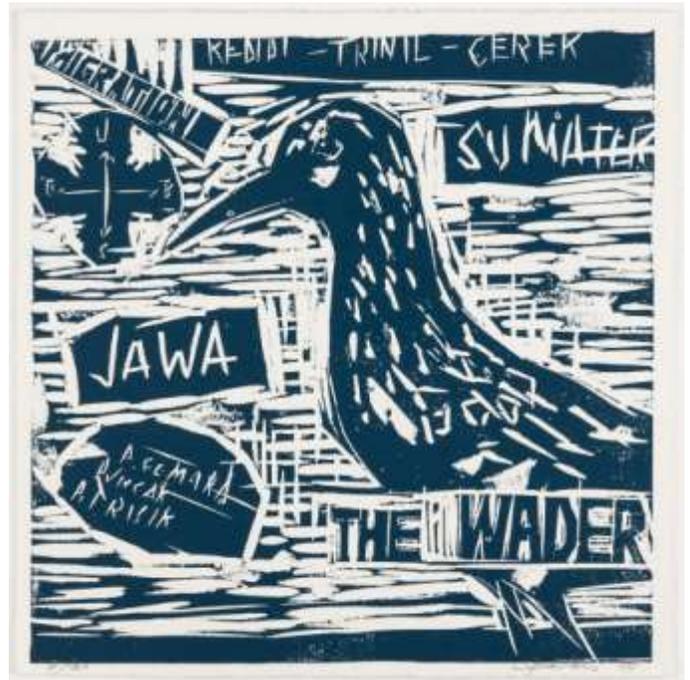
Flyway Prints for Sale

Purchase an original artwork and support shorebirds conservation in the Shoalhaven!

Some of the original prints on display in "The Flyway Print Exchange" exhibition at the Jervis Bay Maritime Museum are still available for sale for **\$200 each**.

These artworks use a range of print techniques, such as linocuts, etchings and stencils. They are by artists from Australia, China, South Korea, India and Singapore.

Proceeds from all sales will help support a shorebirds conservation project in the Shoalhaven.



The four prints shown on this page are all in the Flyway Print Exchange exhibition at the JBMM and may still be available for sale.

From top-left clockwise they are -

1. Tham Pui San (Singapore) - Ruddy Turnstones, Handcoloured linocut
2. Violet Hammer (Australia) - Ruddy Turnstone A-wirriyuruyuru, Linocut with ochre
3. Syahrizal Pahlevi (Indonesia) - The Wader, Woodcut
4. Feng Jianming (China) - Bird (symbol), etching

Shoalhaven tourism - the bird has flown

- Conservation Officer report by Chris Grounds

Tourism has such a clear and important connection to the natural environment and thus birdlife and habitat that it is a force to be taken seriously with the conservation task that is the BirdLife commitment.

To care for birdlife and habitats is to care about the impact of tourism, both the contemporary impact and the future impact, which could be immense.

If we are to believe the "tourism pundits", Shoalhaven tourism is on a major growth trajectory that will take us from 3 million visitors in 2015-16 to 4 million in 2020.

The new model of tourism being developed would have us believe it is about sustainability - but that is entirely debatable.

The latest hollow boast of Shoalhaven Tourism occurred when 2ST news reported in February this year that *"the Shoalhaven has grown to become the most popular Tourist Destination in New South Wales besides Sydney and has overtaken the North Coast including Byron Bay. As such there are four vacancies on the Shoalhaven Tourism Advisory Group which will be tasked with further promoting tourism to our region. Council's Tourism Manager Coralie Bell says over 3 million people visit the Shoalhaven annually and it's big business."*

Throw in the anticipated Shoalhaven population growth figures of nearly 20% by 2036 and the projected growth of 2.1 million in Sydney BY 2036 and a significant environment problem looms large on all time scales.

There seems to be agreement across the spectrum that the warm seasons 2016-17 and 2017-18 reached and exceeded thresholds of tourism tolerance, especially at a local community level.



Importantly, tourism has an enormously strong coastal zone focus.

If we were to adopt Wollongong Council's sea level rise standard for 2100 then the regression of our shoreline in the Shoalhaven has been underestimated by an average 30 metres.

Of the many challenges this poses right across the spectrum, shorebirds in particular face an enhanced threat especially given that the impact of storm events is not factored into this scenario.

There are some exemplar case studies which support concern with the impact of tourism.

The tourism mantra has many anti-birdlife guises but it is the "Unspoilt" and "Pet Friendly" tourism flags that are particularly dangerous to birdlife.

The "Unspoilt" notion is a totally contemporary thought bubble that takes no account of the environmental changes in coming decades to known reference points in 2030, 2050 and 2100.

Climate change, sea level rise, shoreline regression, coastal hazards and higher intensity weather systems are all producing new coastal dynamics right now but seem irrelevant to tourism thinking.

Whilst both tourist promotions pose a serious threat to birdlife, the "Pet Friendly" mantra has been and continues to be particularly dangerous.

Dogs in shorebird nesting and habitat areas across the Shoalhaven continue to be a critical issue.

One reason of course is that the flagrant and willful breaching of dog control regulations is rampant and mostly uncontrolled. Any check by a concerned individual, often a community shorebird recovery volunteer, invites abuse and threats by people who might otherwise imagine themselves as good citizens.



Sooty and Pied Oystercatchers chased from resting by off-leash dog in a "Dog Prohibited" E1 zone at Huskisson

BirdLife Australia points to accommodation venues tagging to the "Pet Friendly" promo as one of the worst culprits in this problem not just in the Shoalhaven but other parts of Australia.

Provision of more council rangers is no more important than the deployment of these rangers in higher risk localities, a point well made in a number of instances from BLS member experiences.

In this circumstance the NPWS Shorebird Recovery project, built on dozens of volunteers across the Shoalhaven, battles on warm season after warm season supporting the Hooded Plover, Critically Endangered in NSW, the Pied Oystercatcher and Little Tern, both Endangered in NSW.

Disturbance by people in increasingly larger numbers and people with dogs are a threat in specific bird habitats, especially when dogs are not kept on a leash.

Then there is the harping, which seeks even more off-leash areas for dogs on beaches, even when they are advised these are shorebird breeding zones.

A Shoalhaven Council March 2016 booklet, "Dog Off-Leash Guide" has information and advice on nesting sites on the Shoalhaven Coast, which notes "disturbance to these birds can be lethal."



Perhaps "Cats On / Off leash" will be the next intrusion - check this photo from Shoalhaven Heads on March 16.



There is an element of the **coastal real estate** scene, which has also involved threats to bird habitat in a context of broader environmental threats.

The holiday home and holiday residence rental market, an economically valuable element of the tourism market, is limpet-like in its attachment to having or providing "a view" in particular locations.

The long-running **Collingwood Beach** conflict over vandalism of dune Banksia vegetation for such "views" has been an archetype of community conflict related to willful destruction of dune trees on land vested in community ownership and council management.

The value for birdlife of this thin but extended stretch of dune vegetation as a corridor would normally be enhanced by the beach being "dog prohibited". BLS has argued in submissions that this corridor is important, particularly with its connections to national park and further shoreline corridor on Jervis Bay.





East Coast Low storm events pose a serious threat of dune erosion on Collingwood Beach

Lake Wollumboola is a birdlife gem in both the National Parks and Key Biodiversity Area profile of the Shoalhaven.

Lake Wollumboola in the warm season of 2015-2016 was under siege from tourist visitors, hyped on the local news media and social media message of prawns in the lake.

This was a deliberate tourism message that went out, supported by local news and social media that attracted these visitors - and that was irresponsible.

In that season and in subsequent warm seasons tourists and local residents have besieged Lake Wollumboola, fishing for blue swimmer crabs by day and prawns by night and camping around the shores.

It attracted all manner of crab and shellfish gathering, often well in excess of the legal species and bag limits. NSW Fisheries and the NPWS intervened and successful court actions were successfully prosecuted.



Let's hope we don't see scenes like this at Lake Wollumboola!

The influx of visitors moved constantly around the shores and over sandbanks in the lake, ignored Shorebird nesting signs and fencing without any care. This intrusive behavior can be very disruptive of birdlife on the lake.

Frances Bray and the group of Shorebird Volunteers are concerned that the constant disturbance of nesting, roosting and feeding birds and their habitat, is already impacting on nesting success, the presence of migratory shorebirds and bird numbers generally.



Feeding and Resting in a stress free habitat is important

This all testifies to the impact that the basic intrusion of people will make on birdlife, especially in key habitat areas where stress free resting and feeding are important, especially for migratory birds looking to build up their reserves before flying north.

A further grade one exhibit is the thinking arising in the management debate about solutions to the Hyams Beach tourism drama that dominated in yet another high tourism season of 2017-2018.

Hyams Beach village is surrounded by Jervis Bay National Park, Jervis Bay Marine Park or former Crown Land now owned by the Jerrinja Lands Council and is but a short hop to Booderee National Park.

The bushland is all zoned as E1 or Environment Conservation 1 in the Shoalhaven Local Environment Plan, the top grading of Environment Conservation that usually applies to National Parks and Nature Reserves. This zoning carried the highest restrictions.

These areas are all in **the Jervis Bay Key Biodiversity Area** which boasts the Eastern Bristlebird, rated as Endangered under federal legislation and one of only eight species targeted for specific conservation. Current assessment of the population is that it is healthy.

The Eastern Ground Parrot, one of only three species of the *Pezoporus* genus in Australia, is present in the heathland around Hyams Beach and "Endangered" under federal legislation and "Vulnerable" in state legislation.

Monitoring in the heathland by NPWS, supported by BirdLife Shoalhaven volunteers, suggests a healthy population that is vital to the survival of the species.



Eastern Ground Parrot - a 2018 resident in the vicinity of the proposed tourist car park

This area is now formally monitored for the BirdLife database as part of the Jervis Bay KBA and boasts an amazing range of species across the seasons and years including more threatened species such as the Spotted Harrier, Square-tailed Kite and Dusky Woodswallow and special rare species like the Southern Emu-wren.

So how does the idea of an unpaved, large, "off site-overflow" carpark in such habitat get so much mileage in the first place?

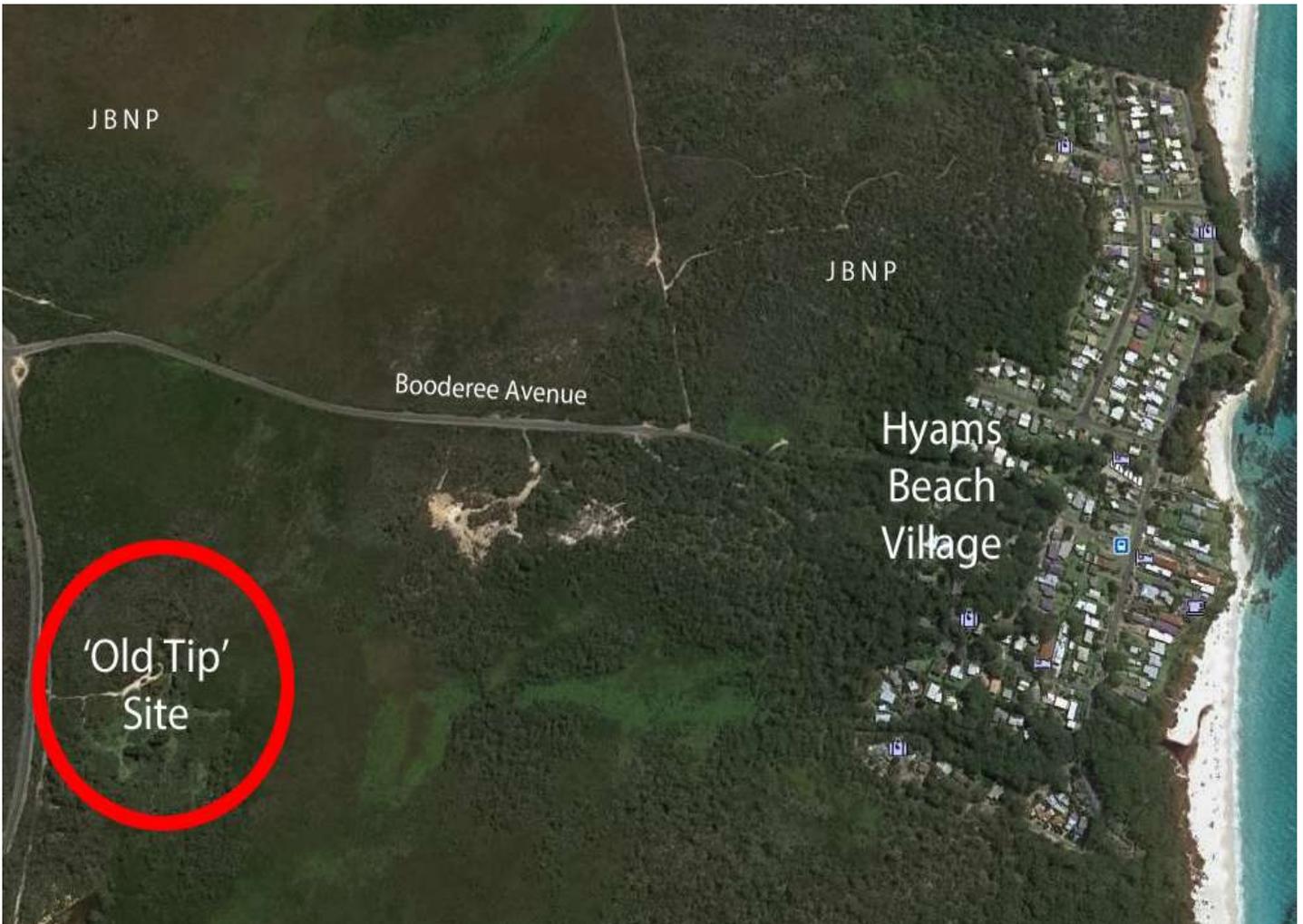
Joni Mitchell suggested many years ago that they would "*pave paradise and put up a parking lot*"- though sealing is not part of the local equation.

The site is immediately adjacent to areas of important conservation victories such as the Heritage Estate, Erowal Bay Estates and TAFE block. It is part of the fragile and vital Booderee habitat corridor. It is too important to be left as a possible solution to a tourism problem.

The site proposed is actually a 1970s-1980s "old tip" closed because of leaching and other environmental concerns. Woops!

A February 8 article by Adam Morton in the Guardian noted that according to the Climate Council, "Tourism is Australia's most vulnerable and least prepared industry to deal with climate change despite the fact it is already feeling its effects ..."

Just perhaps, the challenge is far more complicated than parking solutions.



The Darter of the Opera

- by Rob Dunn

Earlier this year, while my wife and I were enjoying an ice cream at Circular Quay before going to a play at the Opera House, birding was the last thing on my mind. That all changed when suddenly an Australasian Darter flew up out of the water onto one of the ferry wharves a couple of metres away.



The darter got immediate attention from some tourists, and perched there for five minutes before it continued foraging underneath the ferries and terminals. I have entered this sighting in Birddata. It is the first at the Quay - clearly a piece of "quay darter"!

This reminded me of a visit to the Japanese Gardens in Cowra many years ago, where a very healthy darter was standing at the side of a pond full of large carp. Soon after we got there, it dived in, speared a fish within a few seconds and returned to the side of the pond to feast on its prey. The darter obviously knows how to utilise our urban and park environments to its best advantage.

We returned to Sydney and Circular Quay over Easter and were now on the look-out for "my" Darter, but regrettably my avian experience at the Quay was limited to Silver Gulls and feral pigeons. We enjoyed our time wandering through the Botanic Gardens, had coffee with some attentive Sacred Ibis, and retraced our steps to the Quay later in the day.

Once again birding was not front of mind, until close to the Opera House on the harbourside wall - you guessed it - we discovered another darter. A comparison of my two photos showed that this was a completely different bird.

It was drying itself in the sun just a couple of metres from three enthralled, young, American tourists. It was great to see this fascinating bird doing its bit for Australian tourism.

Anyone can go home from Sydney saying that they have seen the Opera House, but who can say they have seen The Darter of the Opera?!



Powerful Owl Talk



We would like to invite you to come along to the next talk organised by BirdLife Shoalhaven - a presentation by Dr. Beth Mott, Birdlife Australia's Powerful Owl Project Officer. The talk is entitled - "**Citizen scientists make a powerful difference for owls**".

When: 7:30pm on Monday 23rd April 2018

Where: the St Georges Basin Community Health Centre, 21 Meriton Street, St Georges Basin.

Owls ahoy! Just in time for the breeding season, come along to hear an update about Powerful Owls in the city.

Beth will share what has been going on for owls in the greater Sydney Basin, including fabulous records of breeding success, and some good data about how urban owls are using the landscape.



She will also talk about some of the developing threats to Powerful Owls, identified by the fantastic data collected by citizen scientists, and give a brief update on what we can do to help urban birds.

The project also needs your help. Records for Shoalhaven Powerful Owls are thin on the ground in the project database, and Beth would love to know how our own owls are faring in the face of continuing urban expansion.

Your suggestions about what we can do to help our amazing nocturnal birds will be valued. Hope to see you there - it will be a hoot!

About our Guest Speaker

Beth has been managing the Birdlife Australia Powerful Owl project for just over one year. She holds a PhD in Conservation Biology and is particularly interested in community-level responses to disturbance.

Chasing these ideas, she has spent the last 20 years working with faunal communities in the desert uplands of North Queensland, Wet Tropics rainforests and sub-tropical coastal forests of the New South Wales mid North coast, all great places for a person with an unquenchable love of wildlife.

Beth has had a varied career as a quoll trapper, sexy fish cartoonist, lizard breeder, frog and albatross wrangler, flying fox mum, dissector of feral cats and educator.

Basically, Beth has used all these jobs as an excuse to go see critters. Whilst she always thought she would end up either marrying or becoming David Attenborough, Beth finds educating people about conservation almost as rewarding.

The talk is free for BirdLife Shoalhaven members, though a gold coin donation would be appreciated from non-members to cover costs. Feel free to pass this invitation on to your friends. Everyone is welcome! We hope to see you there.

If you are planning to come along please email our secretary Kim Touzel at shoalhaven@birdlife.org.au by Wednesday 18th April, so we will know numbers for catering purposes.

- Kim Touzel

Reading the Bherwerre Wetlands

- by Chris Grounds

The SeeChange Arts Festival will feature a "Reading the Bherwerre Wetlands" exhibition at the Sandholme Guesthouse at Huskisson, involving art works by Vanessa Barbay, which feature in this article.

The exhibition opens on May 28 and runs to June 11, 10am to 4pm each day, and is part of the "Sandholme Salon Show". The Arts festival theme for 2018 is "Shared Pathways" - a celebration of the original Wool Road, which features Bherwerre.

Introduction

This is a story with many intertwined elements involving a very special local artist, the Bay & Basin 2018 Arts Festival, conservation, SeeChange, wetland, birds (of course), associated art, Aboriginal culture, the local Sanctuary Point and St Georges Basin community and the Villages Forum, local school students, BirdLife Shoalhaven (BLS), Bay and Basin Community Resources (BBCR), and our veritable local council. What a mix! Indeed, it is a rich and fascinating story.

In early 2014 the Basin Villages Forum began a project to convince council to develop a council-owned bush block on Larmer Avenue, Sanctuary Point, next to Cockrow Creek, into a wetland reserve for passive recreation. The project, now four years old, advanced to the stage of councilors accepting the concept plan for the site in 2017.

BLS supported the concept by developing a bird catalogue for the site and advising on bird hide locations. The number, types and species of birds at the site amazed people generally and proved a key stimulus to the success of the concept.

In June 2016 and again in February 2018 environmental and Aboriginal cultural workshops were conducted on the wetland site for artists, and a follow-up exhibition was planned for the works arising from these artist experiences.

SeeChange 2018 will feature this exhibition.

Vanessa Barbay - the Artist

Vanessa is certainly one of the most qualified artists in the Shoalhaven with a Visual Arts doctorate which involved a PhD painting project at the Australian National University supported by an ANU research scholarship 2009-2013.



In conjunction with the practice component of this PhD project, Vanessa produced a dissertation exploring the traditional representation of animals by Aboriginal painters in Western Arnhem Land, particularly in site-specific rock art.



Vanessa was an inaugural recipient of the ANU Vice Chancellor's College Visiting Artist's Fellowship for which she brought together visual anthropology and painting in a cross-cultural collaborative painting project with childhood friend Theresa Ardler, a Gweagal – Dharawal woman from the Wreck Bay community.

She also has a strong connection to the Jervis Bay and Basin Arts Society for whom she has served as Vice-president and contributed over a number of years now as committee member, which she continues for the 2018 SeeChange year.



Vanessa Barbay with two works from the Bherwerre Wetlands project that will feature in SeeChange

Vanessa has a strong connection to Jervis Bay with her grandparents, Grandma and Pa (see photo) and parents both residents of Vincentia.

Vanessa's grandparents ran the first general store and had the first mail contract in Vincentia operating from a small weatherboard building near the Vincentia boat ramp, which they rented.



Eventually, when the shopping village was created in Burton Street, the Post Office moved there in the late 1980s. Vanessa was in her final years of High School and grew up helping in the Post Office.

The actual original building remains on the original site today as part of local heritage.

The Post Office has only recently moved to the Woolworths complex though the premises would be about the size of the original!

Vanessa's Art Connection

Vanessa has an amazingly rich family heritage in the arts and environment.

As Vanessa recounts: "My father Tibor was Magyar (Hungarian) and art and music are central to their culture, as are horses. When he, his brother Miklos and my father saw my drawings, they instilled in me that I had a talent passed down through the generations - as both grandparents practiced art and music."

Grandfather, "Nagyapa Geza", was a jeweler and prize-winning photographer who also played piano. He took photos of the grandchildren on visits to Vincentia. He carved elaborate frames for tapestries and designed carpets featuring strange creatures, such as a winged lion-elephant and peacock in the tapestry below.



He, Geza, would sit Vanessa down as a young child to do drawing tasks for him, with Vanessa was motivated in large part by not wanting to disappoint him.

Vanessa's Nanna Matild, played violin, stitched old master paintings into tapestries and wove carpets. Matild was a "Czigany" of Lake Balaton (Horse Gypsies) who had a goatherd.

Geza, with Vanessa's father interpreting, would also relate stories of escape from the Russian army during the world wars.

Vanessa knows from these family links that she was chosen to carry the artistic and historic legacy of the Barbay / Czigany clans as a young child. As Vanessa says : "It was my destiny to be an artist, although I feel out of sync with Australian culture. I think this is why I was drawn to Aboriginal culture due to the value placed on artistic endeavour".

It could be said however that Vanessa, like so many gifted artists, is actually creating the Australian culture of today, and even more so for the recognition that she pays to Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Vanessa's dad was an amateur naturalist fascinated with Australian animals, especially spiders. He became a taxidermist and created a natural history museum at their home. When Vanessa began her university art tuition, animals quickly became her main subject matter.

By the time Vanessa undertook her PhD she was deconstructing taxidermy via decomposition printing and researching animal representation in ochre within the rock and bark paintings of Kunwinjku artists in Western Arnhem Land.

Birds are a common feature of her "oeuvre" or body of work, though usually post decomposition.

Vanessa was awarded a major art prize of \$10,000 in 2010 with her work "Avian Spectre" (which is illustrated below left).

Bherwerre Wetland Art Project

One of the major elements of the wetlands project has been a Shoalhaven Arts Board Grant to produce exterior art installations of "Wetland Murals".

This project has been developed and guided by Vanessa Barbay.





As Vanessa says: "My partnership with BBCR has not only built my capacity to produce public artwork for the community ... but has ... enabled me to share my skills with primary school students (Tomerong and Sanctuary Point Public Schools), teenagers (Vincentia High) and men from community access. This is the fifth public mural project I have produced in partnership with BBCR".

A number of the murals will be exhibited in **SeeChange 2018** at a special Bherwerre Wetlands exhibition. By aligning the project launch with the SeeChange Festival, promotion of the Shoalhaven Council as a supporter of local artists is multiplied due to the crowds of visitors attracted to the winter arts festival.

It is intended that the installed murals will attract attention from motorists and pedestrians and raise awareness of the rich diversity of bird and orchid species living in the area.

The Bay and Basin Community Resources group (BBCR) volunteered to become the host organization to assist council and community representatives in the facilitation of ideas to enhance the passive recreation and conservation values of the site. BBCR is adjacent to the wetland site.

BBCR approached Vanessa in May 2016 about painting twelve 1.22m x 1.22m panels featuring Indigenous birds and orchids that inhabit the wetland.

Local photographer and BLS Conservation Officer Chris Grounds, who developed the bird site catalogue with other BLS members, offered his photographs for Vanessa's reference.

BBCR were able to secure funding to provide the mural materials and labour to build the stands and frames for the panels.



BBCR also provided further funding for facilitating art workshops as part of the "Harmonious Intergenerational Pathways program".

Vanessa was involved in teaching students from Tomerong Public School about designing the murals using projected images.

BBCR have also agreed to fund the anti-graffiti coating for the panels. Progress beyond these tasks for the second stage of the project required Vanessa to volunteer her professional time to complete the work.



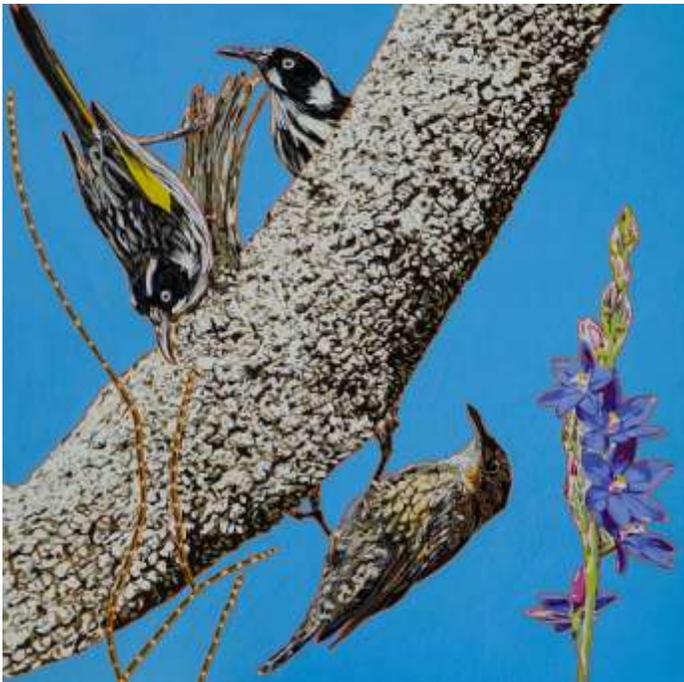
BBCR Great Mates Shed framed four of the murals and has constructed 2 of 4 steel rotating stands that hold 3 panels each.

These will be erected along Larmer Ave in Sanctuary Point and the images can be rotated at regular intervals to display all of the panels.

Vanessa has been producing public murals for 20 years developing a durable methodology and eye-catching style decipherable at close range and from a distance.



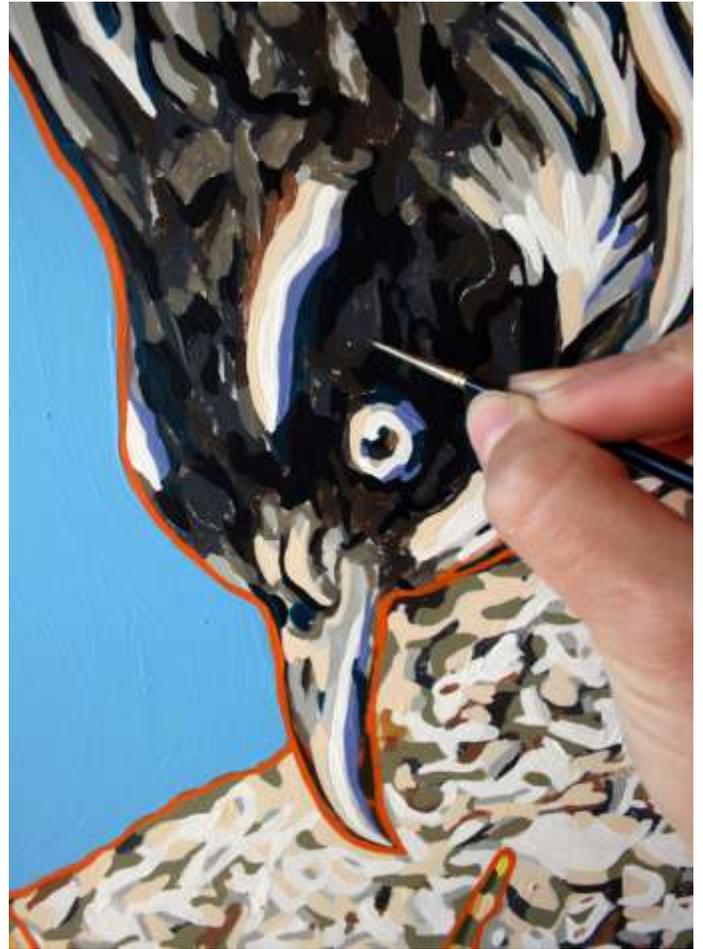
All murals she has produced before the Bherwerre project were drawn up freehand though Vanessa decided to use a projector to ensure her enlargement of the images were as accurate as possible.



The SeeChange Festival

Vanessa is producing a visual and oral history installation for Shared Pathways featuring family photos and recordings of early residents of Vincentia including her mother and Uncle David.

The twelve panels of Bherwerre birds supplemented with site orchids will be the first public signage referencing the wildlife wonderland that lies beyond the main road of this main entry to Sanctuary Point.



Members and supporters may like to visit Vanessa's website at: <http://laomedia.com/blog/>

Can you help?

-a threatened species contribution

Our BLS Conservation Officer, Chris Grounds - and his "field assistant" Marlene - have been pursuing an interest in Eastern Ospreys on the south coast for over five years.

The Osprey is of course a threatened species and evidence suggest that Ospreys are even more threatened on our south coast. This has led to some important recording and documentation of sightings of the species on the south coast and in particular, of verified nests and nesting success.

Fledglings were produced at Basin View in 2015 (2) and 2016 (1) and a fledgling at Batemans Bay in 2017 in a first nesting for "Bonnie" and "Clyde" (Clyde pictured below).

Some BLS members such as Charles Dove have been very helpful to date and working with the Eurobodalla Natural History group in 2017 was very productive.

The work includes a research element, photography, site checks and observations as well as database recording and annual documentation.

If you have any reliable information on observations of an Osprey or Ospreys, and most especially on Osprey nests on the coast south from Wollongong to the Victorian border, Chris would appreciate you letting him know so it can be followed up for verification and documentation.

All information is shared with researchers, NPWS and recorded to the Atlas of Living Australia.

If you could help with information about sightings and nests could you please contact Chris Grounds via email at solum306@gmail.com or mobile phone on 0401 137 158.

All contributions are extremely welcome!



Ongoing initiatives - Lake Wollumboola

- by Frances Bray

This article addresses issues relating to the protection of Lake Wollumboola and its exceptional birdlife:

- continuing concerns at the decline of shorebird nesting at Lake Wollumboola.
- arrangements regarding Key Biodiversity Area Guardianship for Lake Wollumboola.
- next steps with the Long Bow Point Golf Course and West Culburra mixed use State Significant development applications.

Decline of threatened shorebird nesting

Lake Wollumboola is recognised as a major South Coast nesting site for Little Terns. While success has been variable in the past this was the third successive failed nesting season. The contributing factors are difficult to resolve.

Little Terns were present intermittently with one nest laid but lost to a sand storm after 4 days. A large flock returned later in the season to feed prior to departing on their northern migration.

The resident Pied Oystercatcher pair was late to nest, finally producing two eggs on 11th December 2017. Early on 31st December a fox raided the nest, despite the electric fence and took one of the eggs.

NPWS acted quickly with a fox shoot and the second egg hatched within a few days.

Sadly, the chick disappeared at the beginning of the Australia Day weekend, 3 days before fledgling. It is likely that disturbance by prawners, crabbers and campers, created an opportunity for an avian predator to take the chick.

Red-Capped Plovers were unsuccessful too with five known nests lost to Ravens.

The two main factors in this decline appear to be:

- habitat changes due to weather, climate and ocean warming conditions.
- significant disturbance due to increased numbers of visitors.

Impacts of weather and ocean conditions

I understand from NPWS shorebird coordinator Jodie Dunn, that severe weather and ocean conditions this season, together with frequent wave wash-overs, swamped many South Coast shorebird nests.

Cumulative impacts of the East Coast lows of 2015 and June 2016 are still felt at Lake Wollumboola. The storm surge of 2016 washed much of the sand bar into the lake, burying sea grass and algae beds and changing the

gradient of the shoreline. The lake remained open for 10 months, closing in April 2017. Frequent wave wash-overs continued this season, further reducing the sand bar height and removing vegetation and wrack, diminishing its value as nesting habitat.

As a result, the Pied Oystercatcher pair nested in low dune and saltmarsh. Shoreline conditions were also unsuitable feeding habitat for migratory waders.

On previous occasions Little Terns nested on the higher southern part of the sandbar when conditions were unsuitable further north. However, this site is now unsuitable due to encroaching vegetation.

We therefore recommended to NPWS, consideration be given to trialing reduction of encroaching vegetation to improve shorebird nesting locations.

Our concern is that these adverse conditions are likely to increase in frequency, due to climate change, ocean warming, increases in storm intensity and frequency, more frequent wave wash-overs, and lake openings.

Accordingly, long term survival of nesting shorebirds, both migratory and indigenous at Lake Wollumboola is seriously threatened unless additional management measures are implemented.

On a brighter note, as the lake evaporates under drought conditions, large areas of sand and mudflats are exposed. There is abundant food, with least 16 Pied Oystercatchers at the lake, 3 with numbered flags identifying them as hatching at Corner Inlet and Foster in Gippsland Victoria. The shallows and mudflats out in the lake also attracted Bar-tailed Godwits, and flocks of Red Knots and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers prior to migration. 6 Eastern Curlews are present. Large flocks of Black-winged Stilts and Grey and Chestnut Teal are present also, whilst numbers of Swans and Red-necked Avocets have diminished.



Human Pressures

Once again, the lake openings and wave wash-overs resulted in the recruitment of prawns and crabs in abundance, attracting crowds of prawners at night and crabbers by day.

Their rapid movement around the sand bar and north-east shores caused constant disturbance to birds. The birds largely abandoned the north-east bay and adjacent shores. The fishers ignored the shorebird fencing and

signage and tramped around the salt marsh shore where the Pied Oystercatcher pair guarded their chick.



Bar-tailed Godwits devour crabs

People camped in the open or in tents and lit fires around the shores and in adjacent parks and car parks. The result was mounds of rubbish, which attracted shorebird predators, including foxes, dogs, ravens and other avian predators. Shorebird volunteers and other Culburra Beach residents felt obliged to clean up the rubbish!

Prawning and crabbing are permitted activities at Lake Wollumboola as part of the Jervis Bay National Park Plan of Management.

However, the impacts of such large crowds of people, likely driven by social media, Shoalhaven Council's "Unspoiled Shoalhaven Campaign" and improved highway access, were not envisaged when the Plan was developed.

We recommended that NPWS:

- undertakes a review of visitation and recreational impacts including prawning and crabbing, on the Lake Wollumboola ecology, particularly its nesting shorebirds and threatened bird species, to ensure uses are sustainable and appropriately managed.
- develops information resources for South Coast National Parks both in English and community languages, to communicate to visitors, site-specific environmental and cultural values including nesting shorebirds and the potential for damage from over-use, disturbance and inappropriate practices.

Arrangements regarding KBA Guardianship

Joy Pegler was instrumental in Lake Wollumboola's recognition as an Internationally Important Bird Area (IBA) supporting 1% of Black Swan and Chestnut Teal.

Joy's monthly bird counts at Lake Wollumboola since 1993 provided evidence for the nomination.

Accordingly, she was appointed by Birdlife Australia as the IBA Guardian for Lake Wollumboola, now designated as a "Key Biodiversity Area" (KBA).

We are indebted to Joy for her extensive knowledge of birds and their habitats and her generosity in sharing her passion for Lake Wollumboola and its birds. Unfortunately, Joy is unable to continue her monthly visits to Lake Wollumboola. As a consequence, I have assumed the role of KBA Guardian for Lake Wollumboola and have just completed the annual Easter Health check for the lake. I also continue to undertake monthly Shorebird 20-20 bird counts in the northern accessible parts of the lake.

Long Bow Point golf course and West Culburra mixed use State Significant development applications

The Lake Wollumboola catchment, particularly Long Bow Point is recognised in NSW Government Policy and by experts as unsuitable for development, because of its ecological diversity and because of its significance in protecting Lake Wollumboola's water quality and ecology. The undeveloped private lands in the catchment are owned by the Halloran Trust.

The West Culburra mixed use development application is proposed mainly for the Crookhaven River catchment but also proposes urban development in the lake catchment. The Long Bow Point golf course application is located entirely within the lake catchment.

Both applications are designated as "State Significant development" and are currently being assessed by the Dept of Planning and Environment prior to consideration and decision by the NSW Independent Planning Commission, most likely during 2018. A public hearing will be arranged as part of the assessment process.

I was pleased to discuss both applications with senior members of the Department during their visit to Lake Wollumboola, Culburra Beach and proposed sites in April.

I look forward to engaging with Birdlife Shoalhaven regarding involvement in the hearings.

- Frances Bray

(Frances is President of the Lake Wollumboola Protection Association Inc and the NPWS Shorebird Program Coordinator for Lake Wollumboola)



What makes bird artists tick?

- three interviews by Rob Dunn

Our recent magazines have included interviews with some of our excellent local bird photographers – what motivated them to pick up a camera, what birds still excite them and why they keep searching for that exclusive shot of an elusive bird.

But what about bird artists of the non-photographic kind? Their motivations, interests and backgrounds are equally diverse and worthy of note.

At the moment the Jervis Bay Maritime Museum is showing two exhibitions until 11 June - the paintings of Peter Wale and "The Flyway Print Exchange" curated by Kate Gorringer-Smith. And from 26 May to 11 June the SeeChange Arts Festival with venues across the Bay & Basin area will include an exhibition called "Bird" curated by Julie Cunningham.

BLS took the opportunity to talk to Kate, Peter and Julie to learn about their interest in birds and what makes bird artists tick.

Kate Gorringer-Smith



What is the Flyway Print Exchange exhibition about?

The Flyway Print Exchange consists of 20 original prints (linocuts, woodblocks, etchings) by 20 artists from nine of the 23 countries that make up the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. This is the 25,000 km route flown annually by 36 species of migratory shorebirds from the coasts of Australia and New Zealand to their breeding grounds above the Arctic Circle in Alaska and Siberia. A second set of the same prints were mailed individually, without cover or protection, up the Flyway and back to follow the birds' migratory route. These are suspended in perspex still with their original postage stamps, postmarks and addresses.

The exhibition evolved from a desire to engage people with the stories of our migratory shorebirds. I believe that there is a difference between knowing something and actually believing it. "Knowing" is a cerebral thing that may not affect how you feel or behave, but once you actually "believe" something, I feel it is a more visceral experience that may then lead you to a deeper connection and also possibly action. So I thought that the best way to make people stop to ponder just how far these birds travel would be to engage artists from as many Flyway countries as possible and to put a set of the prints in the mail to mirror the physical same wear and tear that the birds have to endure.

Can you tell us a bit about your background and family?

I'm a Melbourne-based artist, with a background in science communication, editing and writing. I have studied English, zoology, ecology, applied science and printmaking. I worked at the RAOU in the 1990s before it became BirdLife Australia, first as Assistant Editor for the "Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds" and then editing "Wingspan". Today I work from my studio in East Brunswick. I live with my husband, three kids, two rabbits and an indoor cat. No birds for our pussycat! I'm also Vice-President of the Print Council of Australia, which educates the public about printmaking as a significant medium in contemporary art.

When did you first develop an interest in birds?

I have always loved animals, but I really became interested in birds when I worked for the RAOU. I became interested in migratory shorebirds when my family and I returned after a three-year stint living in the UK and I was looking for an artistic metaphor for the state of being torn between two homes. Our experience gave me a little window into how it was hard to move between countries. Even though we were middle class and had lots of support networks it was still hard. What about other people who have none of that? Like a refugee, say? It was enough to drive an interest in migration. And the shorebirds were really emblematic of that.



Inclination Compass



Points of Departure

Both of the images above are from the Flyway Print Exchange exhibition currently on show at the Jervis Bay Maritime Museum.

Do you have a favourite bird and place to go birding?

The Bar-tailed Godwit is my favourite of course. I like noticing birds wherever I am, but the place I've seen the most shorebirds is Phillip Island where we spend our summers. I have many must-see birds, including all the other shorebirds. It would be amazing to see them in the Arctic in their breeding plumage.

When did you take up art?

Like most people I used to draw when I was little, but I just never really stopped! My Mum is an artist so that probably helped. I started making prints in secondary school. We were very lucky to have a beautiful etching press in the art department, which had been donated by the widow of Fred Williams, the Australian pre-eminent painter. I have had long periods where I have made very little art, but I always come back to it.

Can you explain how you develop your art from an "idea" to "canvas"?

Lordy! What a question!! Usually I get an idea of what I want to convey – often inspired by a quote in a book or some research I have done, then as the idea becomes more concrete it gains a visual aspect as well as a conceptual one. Any idea will bring many possible ways of conveying it, so you just have to make a decision!

The final look of the work will be governed by the printmaking technique chosen to execute the idea. For bolder images I usually make linocuts, but more detailed, smaller images might be etchings.

Often I'll combine techniques and sometimes I work in 3D. I've made small sculptural forms with wood and glass, but I am mainly a printmaker.

For the uninitiated amongst us, can you give me an overview of printmaking from linocuts and etchings?

Only an overview?! Let's see!

A linocut is a form of relief printing, which means that you print from the surface of your print matrix, in my case this is a block of specially-made lino, which is softer than actual flooring lino. You carve into the matrix with sharp tools and generally speaking you remove the area that you don't want printed.

Etchings are a different technique. You clean the surface of the plate and print from lines etched into the metal plate made from copper, zinc, steel or aluminium.

The kind of etching I make is called a hard-ground etching, as you first cover the surface of the plate with a wax or bitumen "ground" i.e. a thin layer to protect the surface of the plate from the acid. You then draw into this fine layer, revealing just the width of the fine tool you draw with.

The plate then goes into a bath of acid or another substance (a mordant, e.g. nitric acid or copper sulphate) that will eat into the areas of the plate revealed by your lines. While a linocut or wood block is inked up using a roller, for an etching you want to push ink into the etched lines and leave the surface clean. When you print an etching you often make the paper damp first and print under high pressure so that the paper is pushed into these finely etched lines to pick the ink up.

Prints are printed on paper, not canvas. It is usually a heavy cotton rag paper which will show the pressured imprint of the linocut or etching plate.

These are just two, not very comprehensive descriptions of printmaking techniques. Others include silkscreen printing, digital prints, lithography, wood blocks, mono prints and engraving. They are also often combined.

How much of your work focuses on birds?

All my art is focused on environmental themes, but migratory shorebirds have been my main focus for the past nine years. I use them both as birds in themselves and as a metaphor for migration in general. They are also a wonderful way to illustrate how interconnected the global environment is, as they rely on habitat in 23 different countries.

What do you hope people will take away from the exhibition?

A curiosity about migratory shorebirds, so they look for them and consider them next time they head for the beach or a wetland. And tell their friends about them!

I would like the works to be a sort of bridge between what the scientists are doing and the people who don't know anything about shorebirds. I'd like to think that we will somehow be able to do with shorebirds what people have done with whales. In the early days it was only a few people like Greenpeace who were concerned about whales, but somehow it reached a tipping point in our culture where we all cared about whales. I would love to see shorebirds enter our culture that way.

What are you planning next in your art career?

"The Overwintering Project" is my new project using art to raise awareness of migratory shorebirds, following on from the "Flyway Print Exchange" shorebirds. Hopefully I will get some ideas when I go birding in the Shoalhaven when I come down in May.

Kate will give a talk at the JB Maritime Museum on 26 May about the current exhibition and "The Overwintering Project". You can see more of Kate Gorrings-Smith's art at the www.kategorringsmith.com.au website and also at www.portjacksonpress.com.au. Also check out the www.theoverwinteringproject.com site.

Some of the original prints from "The Flyway Print Exchange" are available for sale for \$200 at the Jervis Maritime Museum. Kate was also featured in the March 2016 edition of the Australian BirdLife magazine with its special focus on migratory shorebirds. Proceeds from sales of the prints and magazines will help support a shorebirds conservation project in the Shoalhaven.

Peter Wale



Tell us about your current exhibition, Peter ...

The exhibition is called "Native Australian Bird Portraits" and is currently showing at the Jervis Bay Maritime Museum until 11 June. It includes about 15 classical representations of birds in a variety of drawing and painting media. There is also a display showing the steps in the process of producing one of my paintings. My drawings and paintings are my creative response to the beauty I experience in nature. I simply paint pictures which, I hope, can be understood and appreciated by all.



Your accent suggests you did not grow up in Australia. What is your background?

I was born in Rusthall, a small Kentish Village in the UK and emigrated to Sydney in 1978, living in the Blue Mountains from 1988 to 2016, before moving with my wife to St Georges Basin about 18 months ago.

When did you first develop an interest in birds?

As a boy growing up in Kent in the "Garden of England", my brothers and I spent much of our time playing in the woodlands around our area, climbing trees, making camps from natural resources, catching newts and tadpoles from ponds and more. Getting to know the names of animals, birds, butterflies, plants etc. was simply a part of life.

Do you have a favourite bird and place to go birding? - Too many favourite birds to mention. I wouldn't describe myself as a birder - I just love birds, that's all. I am currently interested in painting more water birds, so I went out to Shoalhaven Heads on Sunday to have a squiz and to take some photos.



Do your three children share your love of nature?

They all do to varying degrees. Our youngest daughter is a senior veterinary nurse and is involved in a number of animal protection and conservation projects, including wild brumbies, foxes and elephants.

When did you take up art?

I've drawn and painted ever since I can remember and attended the Royal Tunbridge Wells School of Art in Kent for a short time. I went on to spend too many years of my life in commerce. I was a management consultant for a number of years. I took up art full time in 1995, mainly due to health problems.

Why did you leave art school?

I left early to pursue a recording career as a professional drummer. Our band, "Kippington Lodge", recorded during the 60's at Abbey Road around the same time as the Beatles. We put out 5 singles.

Can you explain how you develop your art from an "idea" to "canvas"?

When it comes to painting birds, I always have a range of ideas for birds I would love to paint. Photographs are important sources of reference for me and I like to take my own photos. The Australian Museum has been a great supporter of mine and kindly allows me to use its facilities to research my subjects. Zoos and wildlife parks are also useful places for getting "up close and personal" with birds. Botanical drawing and painting is also important for creating the correct environment for the particular species of bird.

When did you start to focus on birds in your art?

About 8 years ago I painted a Crimson Rosella, just because I wanted to. We had lots of them around our home in the mountains. It was a very positive experience for me and touched me deeply. I couldn't not paint birds after that. Then I learned that every individual bird is different. No two birds are the same, even of the same species. Fairly simple, straightforward stuff I guess, but extremely powerful for the bird artist. Now I don't just paint *a* bird. I paint *the* bird and no other!

How much of your work focuses on birds?

Around 80% of my work is painting birds. I also paint wild animals, portraits of peoples' dogs, cats and horses, landscapes and botanical subjects.

What do you hope people will take away from your exhibition?

I want people to feel "I'm glad I saw that exhibition". Just a peaceful, easy feeling. Pleasure in other words. Anything else is a bonus.

What are you planning next in your art career?

I am concentrating my attention upon creating a collection of bird portraits and other nature studies here in the Shoalhaven. Hopefully, these will comprise my next exhibition.

Visit www.peterwaleart.com for more of Peter's art.

Julie Cunningham



Tell us about your current exhibition, Julie

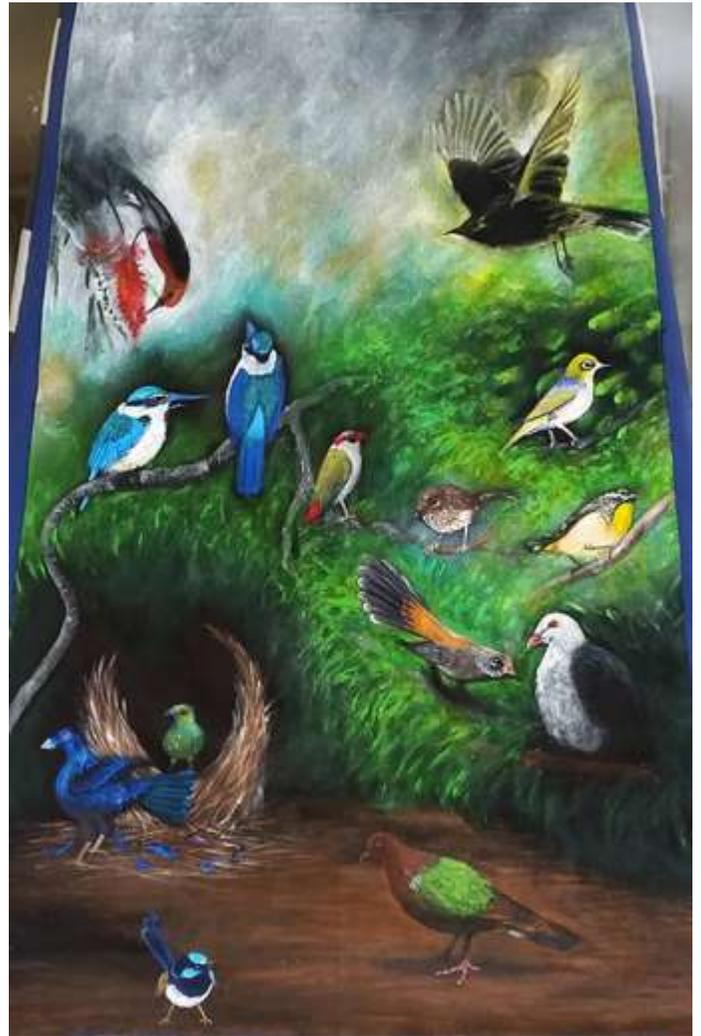
The exhibition is a group show of artists whose work engages with birds and who have different approaches and mediums. It includes painting, photography, printing, sculpture and video. These varied visual and conceptual lenses bring birds into focus in the environment, as well as in the symbolic, imaginative realm of dreams and stories.

I have always been attracted to art's ability to move people rather than art in conversation with art. The community engagement aspect of SeeChange excited me and its possibilities to explore how we journey with birds considering the overarching festival theme of "shared pathways".

Art can have a role in conservation along with the observing, monitoring and lobbying that is being done. While the exhibition is the central attraction, there is a wider program with a Birds in Backyards talk, a music/poetry event, workshops and birdwalks.

Can you tell me a bit about your background?

I lived in Sydney for many years and before that Brisbane. In my early career I was involved with film, particularly animation, was a teacher in TAFE, graphic designer, artist and I studied art therapy. Now if I need a label I say artist/media creative. I currently work three days a week creating educational graphics, illustration and animation and the other days painting and organizing this exhibition.



What do you mean by "art therapy"?

That word "therapy" has a lot of baggage. Generally, I avoid it but there's power in art, creative thinking and design to stimulate, connect and go some way towards creating greater wellbeing for people and communities. It's within those contexts that I often like to engage.

When did you first develop an interest in birds?

I've always loved nature. When I lived in the city the natural world was mostly out of reach, but my earlier fascination with birds was re-triggered when I lived in Maroubra. Black Cockatoos visited there. Their slow motion flying style and other worldly cry affected me, quite a lot! Then curiously I was offered a place to look

after on Comerong Island, so close to Nowra, meaning "Black Cockatoo". I fell in love with the island, the light, the river, the wild beach and the many birds.

Do you have a favourite bird and place to go birding?

Whenever I see Black Cockatoos my heart sings, but many different birds delight me for their different qualities. Comerong and the Shoalhaven estuary, but also the Basin are favourites for watching and listening.

When did you take up art?

Since I can remember I have been making things, experimenting and drawing.

Can you explain how you develop your art from an "idea" to "canvas"?

There are two distinct strands to my work involving birds. In one strand I work from photographs. So far these have been generously made available by David Gribble, a cinematographer and photographer with a place "Birdhaven" on Comerong Island, who is also in the show. For these paintings I am directly applying colours on black canvas.

The other strand of work I began in 2013 is painting images from a series of 16 digital collages I'd made in Photoshop. I was exploring the idea of an archetypal female story. Each image is a station or significant moment of that imagined journey. Birds are often present along with the female figure.



The first image I painted is when the heroine benefits from the appearance of "unexpected friends". In my painting these friends are for the most part birds. The Black Swan, the Black Cockatoo and a brown non-specific bird balance precariously on the female figure's arm stacked on top of each other. The belief in Europe prior to colonising Australia was that there could only ever be white swans, and they had a saying "as likely as a black swan". So the Black Swan is there because, besides this bird being beautiful and powerful, it also represents the reality of manifest things which were once considered impossible. The Black Cockatoo is there because they affect me and I see them as the birds of the void, of a potent otherness. To me they speak of mystery, depth, and a creative darkness where ideas are born.

In "The Journey Begins" (see image this page), the first image in the series, a bird perches on a female figure's head. Its dangling a word - "Notice". Partly the moment expresses the idea of internal pressures, feelings which can no longer be ignored, of socially acceptable shells that need to crack so life can begin to flow. Is she being prodded to notice or being "given notice"?

How much of your work focuses on birds?

At the moment all my personal visual work is focused on birds, though I am also writing a book for children.

What do you think people will take away from your exhibition?

I'd like them to walk away more fascinated, informed and maybe galvanised to know more about birds. Also with a feeling to help them in their own ways, in their gardens and perhaps beyond that too. And of course, I'd be great for the artists involved if people were so moved they take some art away with them!

What are you planning next?

To keep painting the two strands I have begun involving birds. To finish the children's book.

See www.juliecunninghamcreative.com for more of Julie's art, www.ideasmadevisual.com.au for her creative media work, www.juliecee.com for her creative wellbeing site, and www.facebook.com/Bird.SeeChange/ for the Bird exhibition Facebook page.

More work by bird artists at SeeChange

Another must see for anyone going to SeeChange is "Bherwerre Wetland", an exhibition of twelve local artists, including Vanessa Barbay with her large painted panels of birds and orchids on the wetland. The panels will be installed outdoors at the Sandholme Gallery at Huskisson. You can find more details about this in the Chris Grounds article on page 11. Chris will have a solo photography exhibition, "REtroSPECT," at the Erowal Bay Community Hall - see page 30.



SeeChange Jervis Bay Arts Festival

26 MAY - 11 JUNE 2018

SATURDAY 26 MAY - MONDAY 11 JUNE 2018

Come and join us in our vibrant winter festival. Immerse yourself in the creativity, culture and cuisine of our local region as we celebrate the idea of Shared Pathways.

FREE + TICKETED EVENTS | ART EXHIBITIONS | STAGE + STREET PERFORMANCES | POETRY RECITALS | CREATIVE + CULINARY CLASSES | FESTIVAL FEASTS | CABARET SUPPERS | HOUSE CONCERTS | TALKS | WALKS | MARKETS AND MORE.

FESTIVAL PROGRAM AND TICKETS AT SEECHANGEFESTIVAL.NET.AU

Proudly presented by Jervis Bay and Basin Arts Inc. Image © Peter Solness / Paths of Light

Web Watch - 2018

- by Chris Grounds

Bird news has been a little thinner on the ground this last quarter. Maybe it is just the rest period that has necessarily followed the publicity brawl between the Magpie and White Ibis for popularity. It definitely is a fact that some major conservation issues have taken precedence and aren't there some competing for media space? One of those is the move from a broad coalition of conservation groups to bring a focus to a renewal of environmental laws, the Commonwealth EPBC Act in particular. More of that in the next edition. In the meantime, here are some of the items from the Warm season.

Why isn't duck shooting season endangered ???

<https://theconversation.com/why-duck-shooting-season-still-isnt-on-the-endangered-list-92926>



On March 17, the 2018 duck shooting season opened in Victoria. The first shots were fired in Tasmania and South Australia last weekend. The Northern Territory allows certain types of bird shooting later in the year. Duck shooting is prohibited in the rest of Australia.

At present, only 28,000 Australians are registered duck shooters. According to 2012 Australia Institute analysis, 87% of Australians support a ban on duck shooting. There is mounting evidence that endangered and non-game species are also being killed.

Birds on new \$50 note



www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-15/new-fifty-dollar-note-has-a-uv-security-feature/9451060

We bet you \$50 you can't spot all the birds on this new note. There are four birds on the new \$50 note unveiled by the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA), but we're confident you'll only be able to spot three. That's because the fourth can only be seen under ultraviolet (UV) light.

The UV feature was also included on the new, already-released \$5 and \$10 notes, with an invisible Eastern Spinebill on the \$5 and a Cockatoo on the \$10.



Bush stone-curlews making comeback in ACT

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-20/curlews-popping-up-in-canberra-suburbs-after-reintroduction/9567094>



Bush stone-curlews are turning up in Canberra's suburbs, a sign that the bird once extinct in the ACT is making a comeback. The bush stone-curlew was lost to the ACT for more than 40 years before being reintroduced into Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary in 2014.

More than 14 curlews currently call the sanctuary home and some of them have successfully bred over the past three years.

Carnage created by pest corellas in WA

www.abc.net.au/news/2018-01-14/controlling-the-carnage-created-by-pest-corellas/9325558



Fireworks, gassing and shooting at point-blank range — councils are resorting to extreme measures in a desperate bid to control destructive Corella birds across Western Australia as numbers balloon to plague proportions. The white corellas are causing headaches for councils across the state, damaging infrastructure and causing a nuisance for residents.

Desert-hunting birds spread fire

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-03-03/smart-bushfire-birds/7216934>

and

<http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/news/2018/01/this-is-why-aussie-firehawk-raptors-are-spreading-bushfires?>

A new study has recently confirmed what Indigenous Australians have known all along: our raptors are using bushfires to corner their prey.



Northern Territory lawyer-turned ornithologist Bob Gosford is determined to prove something he said Australian Aborigines have known about for centuries - our raptors spread fire.

"Black kites and brown falcons come to these fronts because it is just literally a killing frenzy, it's a feeding frenzy, because out of these grasslands come small birds, lizards, insects, everything fleeing the front of the fire."

Mr Gosford has spent decades exploring the field of ethno-ornithology — the study of cultural bird knowledge." My interest was first piqued by a report in a book published in 1964 by an Aboriginal man called Phillip Roberts in the Roper River area in the Northern Territory, that gave an account of a thing that he'd seen in the bush - a bird picking up a stick from a fire front and carrying it and dropping it on to unburnt grass."

Barnaby Joyce prolongs rat infestation on Lord Howe?

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/bungle-at-barnaby-joyce-s-pet-agency-prolongs-rat-infestation-on-lord-howe-island-20180320-p4z57i.html>



Lord Howe Island is a slice of world heritage-listed paradise in the Pacific Ocean, but it is besieged by rats, introduced to the island by accident 100 years ago.

A huge multimillion-dollar extermination project was supposed to take place last winter, but has now been postponed until 2019. The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) is still assessing the application, which was made in November 2017, and expects to make a decision this month.

As agriculture minister, Mr Joyce insisted on moving the APVMA from Canberra to Armidale, in his electorate, as part of a decentralisation push. At one point, officials were reportedly forced to work out of the local McDonalds in Armidale because it had internet access.

Some islanders believe the agency's upheaval to Armidale contributed to the bungling of this project. But in a statement, the APVMA insisted the move had nothing to do with its failure to grant the approvals in time.

Last-ditch effort to save orange-bellied parrot

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-06/last-ditch-effort-to-save-orange-bellied-parrot-from-extinction/9401180>



A last-ditch effort to save one of Australia's most endangered but least understood birds from the brink of extinction is underway.

There are less than 50 orange-bellied parrots left in the wild, and very little is understood about the species, let alone why so many die during their winter migration.



In Melaleuca, nestled in one of the country's most remote areas in Tasmania, scientists are capturing the birds and moving them into captivity in Hobart. There, they hope they can protect them until breeding season next year when they will be released back into the wild.

According to conservation biologist Dejan Stojanovic, the future of the entire species rests in the tiny baby parrots, some of which will be taken into captivity under the Government's plan.

Weighing in under 50 grams each, just 31 have been born in the wild this summer. Dr Stojanovic said it is still a mystery as to why they are endangered.

Bird Photographer of the Year

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/gallery/2018/mar/08/bird-photographer-of-the-year-2018-in-pictures>

The shortlist for the coveted Bird Photographer of the Year awards has been announced by Nature Photographers and the British Trust for Ornithology. Follow the link above to see a few of the entries in the running for the awards, which will be announced by Chris Packham in August at the annual Rutland Birdwatching Fair.



2018 Aussie Backyard Bird Count

Can you help make the 2018 Aussie Backyard Bird Count even bigger in the Shoalhaven?



Since 2014, as part of its National Bird Week celebrations every October, BirdLife Australia has run the Aussie Backyard Bird Count (ABBC) with the numbers of people involved and the number of birds counted doubling during this time.

It has been a great, fun way to get more people looking at birds, especially school children. It has opened up doors with more Local Councils and generated a lot of media to promote our birds.

Of course, despite vetting within the ABBC app and by BirdLife Australia staff, there are some limitations in this data, but is still a valuable monitoring tool of our backyard birds.

As for the involvement of people in the Shoalhaven, 201 people registered to submit surveys last year, involving 323 observers. Of the 201 that registered only 55 were existing BLS members or Wildbird Protectors and a half of the other 146 people who registered had no previous engagement with BirdLife Australia. A great result for the ABBC, but clearly something for the branch to build upon.

The BLS Committee is already starting to think about the ABBC this year. The ABBC surveys do NOT have to be in your own backyard. The surveys can be anywhere, like a public park, golf course or school.

We all love birds and birdwatching, and 20 minutes a day for a single week is not a lot of time, so why don't we all participate in the ABBC in October this year?

In the meantime:

- download the App,
- put 22 to 28 October 2018 in your diary, and
- tell your family and friends!

So what were the results for the Shoalhaven in the last ABBC? See the list below ...

In the 2017 ABBC, 207 species were reported in the Shoalhaven with a total of 18,932 individual birds observed. The most common species were:

Rainbow Lorikeet	3,155
Little Wattlebird	801
Red Wattlebird	592
Crimson Rosella	579
Australian Magpie	565
Silvereye	555
Superb Fairy-wren	529
Silver Gull	510
Welcome Swallow	495
Galah	482
Red-browed Finch	459
Eastern Spinebill	410
Little Corella	368
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	368
Satin Bowerbird	340
Laughing Kookaburra	328
Magpie-lark	325
Australian Wood Duck	298
Chestnut Teal	297
Common Myna	285
Australian King-Parrot	278
Black Swan	241
Eastern Whipbird	232
Crested Tern	230
Willie Wagtail	210
House Sparrow	207
Noisy Miner	204
Grey Fantail	176
Masked Lapwing	166
Common Blackbird	164
Crested Pigeon	158
White-headed Pigeon	155
Australian Raven	152
Brown Thornbill	149
New Holland Honeyeater	145
Lewin's Honeyeater	130
Spotted Dove	121
Scarlet Honeyeater	112

If you are interested in helping lead an ABBC survey walk or you know of schools that might be interested in getting involved, please call Rob Dunn on 0438 250 600 or email robarb@bigpond.com.

"RETROSPECT"

A See Change 2018 Exhibition by
Chris Grounds

June 3, 9 and 10 - 10a.m. to 3 p.m.

EROWAL BAY COMMUNITY HALL

Each afternoon 2.30 p.m.

A Threatened Species Bird
Audio-Visual Presentation



THE FLYWAY PRINT EXCHANGE

10th March - 11th June 2018
PROGRAM OF EVENTS

Saturday 5th May 10:30am - 11:30am

PROTECTING LAKE WOLLUMBOOLA: SIGNIFICANT HABITAT FOR INTERNATIONAL AND INDIGENOUS BIRDS

Presented by Frances Bray and Narelle Wright from Lake Wollumboola Protection Association Inc.

This presentation will introduce the role of the Association in protecting the Lake whilst showcasing the habitat and intriguing species that live there.

Gold coin donation entry

RSVP 4441 5675 or enquiries@jbmm.asn.au

Jervis Bay Maritime Museum, Woollamia Rd, Huskisson

Wollumboola Wild Walks

As part of the *Burradise Festival 2018* members of the Lake Wollumboola Protection Association Inc invite you to join us in a casual walk and talk along the lake shore featuring the lake's wildlife and wetlands

Saturday 12 May and Sunday 13 May—9:00am-11:00am

Walk will leave from Lakeside Park near lake sand bar—look for bunting in car park



Please book via info@wollumboola.org.au

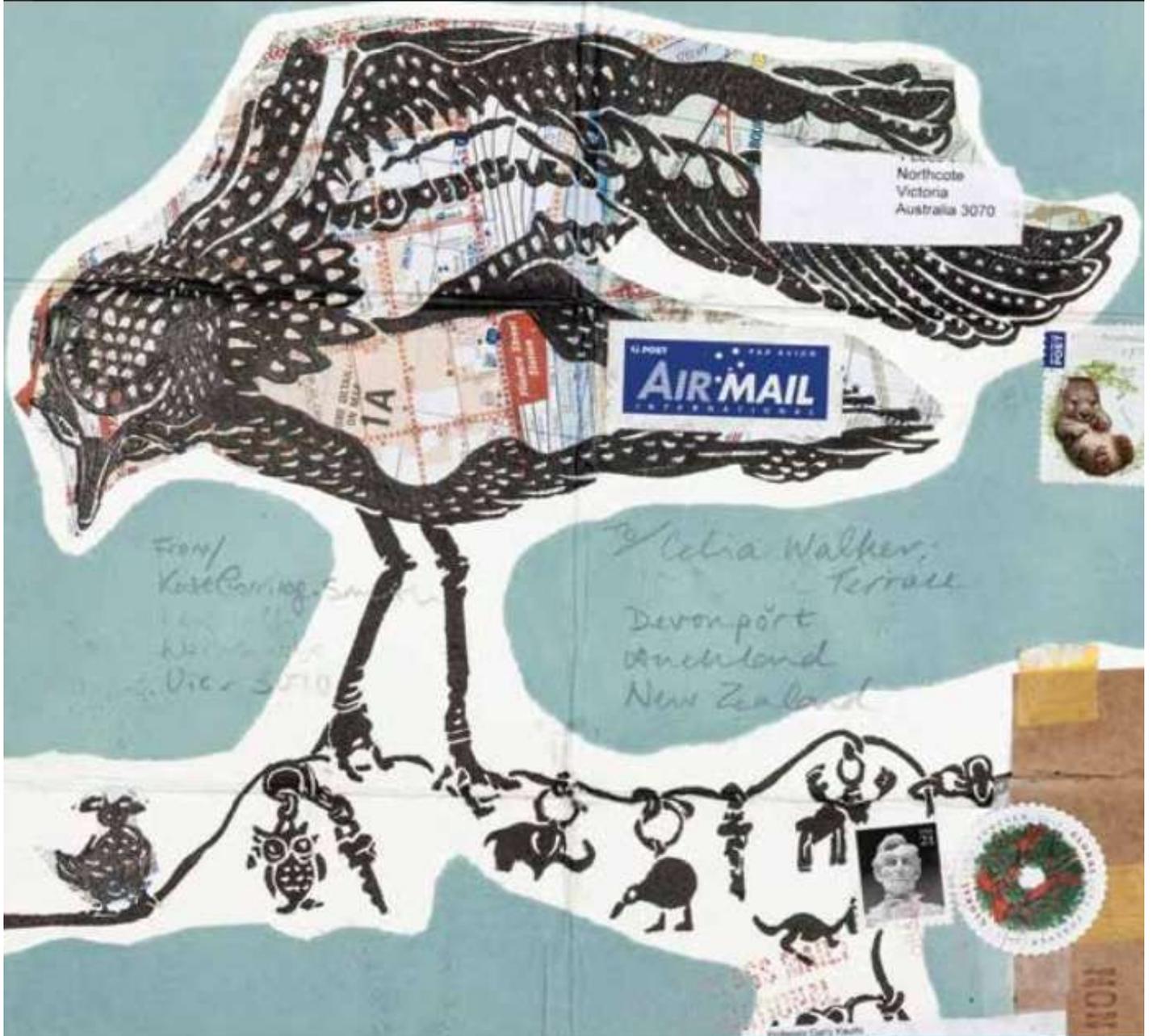
We will confirm registration and will notify participants by email of any changes to time and meeting place on the afternoon before the event. This is a popular activity—please book early as numbers are limited to 25 each walk

Activity is suitable for all ages and will include some sand/wetland walking

Please wear suitable footwear and sun protection. Bring water, camera and binoculars if you have them—a scope will be supplied

Walk and route subject to weather and lake conditions

JERVIS BAY | MARITIME MUSEUM



THE FLYWAY PRINT EXCHANGE

**20 ARTISTS FROM 9 COUNTRIES
INSPIRED BY THE JOURNEYS OF
5 MILLION BIRDS**

An exhibition of prints exploring the migratory bird Flyway route from Australia and New Zealand to the Arctic breeding grounds... and back

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

CREATIVE WORKSHOPS

Sunday 15th April 10am - 3.30pm

BIRD PORTRAIT WORKSHOP

Presented by Peter Wale

Take the time to learn how to capture the personality and beauty of birds using watercolour or pencils. \$70

Sunday 20th May 10am - 1pm

TEXTILE ART WORKSHOP

Presented by Leslie Lockwood

Get stitching and be guided through the creative process of making a bird soft sculpture or embroidery art. \$35

Children also welcome with responsible adult.

Sunday 27th May 10:30am - 1pm

RSVP by Thursday 10th May

NATURAL PRINT AND STENCILS WORKSHOP

Presented by Kate Gorringer-Smith

Experiment with this simple but effective printmaking technique using a printing press and natural materials to create your own cards and mini print artworks. \$45 Adult \$30 Child.

Children under 12 welcome with responsible adult

KIDS SCHOOL HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

18 - 19th April 10:30 - 12pm

2 DAY PRINTMAKING COURSE

Presented by Antony Bunyan

Learn about printmaking techniques and develop skills to create your own lino cut art works.

\$40 or 3 children for \$100 (age 7+)

23 - 24th April 10:30 - 12pm

2 DAY STOP-MOTION ANIMATION COURSE

Presented by Antony Bunyan

Become a director, producer and writer as you learn how to create and shoot your very own stop-motion animation!

\$40 or 3 children for \$100 (age 7+)

BYO iPad or phone. Please inform staff when booking if not available. 3 children may share one device.

TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

Gold coin donation entry

Saturday 24th March 11am - 12pm

BIODIVERSITY & BIRDS AT SHOALHAVEN HEADS

Presented by Chris Grounds - Conservation Officer for BirdLife Shoalhaven

A discussion the many bird species at the Heads, including domestic shorebirds and migratory species.

Saturday 14th April 11.30am - 12.30pm

ARTIST TALK

Presented by Peter Wale

Join Peter for a tour through his solo exhibition of bird portraits and discover the techniques and stories behind the art.

Saturday 5th May 10:30am - 12.30pm

PROTECTING LAKE WOLLUMBOOLA

Presented by Frances Brae and Narelle Wright from Lake Wollumboola Protection Association Inc.

An introduction to the role of the Association, the lake's protection status, important habitats and the bird species that live there.

Saturday 26th May 10:30am - 1:00pm

\$5 entry - includes morning tea*

CURATOR'S TALK & TOUR (10:30)

Visiting from Melbourne, Kate Gorringer-Smith will take attendees on a journey through the print exhibition, discussing the artists' involved and the pieces they created.

THE OVERWINTERING PROJECT (12pm)

Kate Gorringer-Smith will present her future print exhibition, *The Overwintering Project: Mapping Sanctuary*. Background about the project and information about how artists can be involved will be discussed.

* You may attend one or both presentations

Contact the museum to RSVP or for details:
(02) 4441 5675 enquiries@jbmm.asn.au
jervisbaymaritimemuseum.com.au

jervisbaymaritimemuseum.com.au

Jervis Bay Maritime Museum. Woolamia Rd, Huskisson NSW 2540

2018 BLS Trivia Quiz questions

- 1) What makes the noise a crested pigeon makes in flight - modified wing feathers or an air sac in its throat?
- 2) When gannets hit the water, approximately what speed are they doing - 60kph, 100kph or 140kph?
- 3) According to Australian Geographic, what is the world's loudest bird - the NZ Kakapo, the Australian Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, or the Three-wattled Bellbird of Central America?
- 4) What is the world's smallest bird?
- 5) If you had one kilogram of Vervain Hummingbird eggs - approximately how many eggs would you have? You will get a point if you are within 500 of the correct answer ...
- 6) What is the world's most promiscuous bird - Australia's Superb Fairy-wren, the Greater Vasa Parrot of Madagascar, or America's Saltmarsh Sparrow?
- 7) Yes or No - can any birds count beyond 5?
- 8) What is the longest lived bird - a cockatoo, a macaw, or a turkey buzzard?
- 9) What bird goes the longest without eating?
- 10) How fast can a Secretary Bird run? You will get a point if you are within 10 kilometres per hour of the correct answer ...
- 11) What land animal has the largest eyes?
- 12) On average, how many weeks do Koel hatchlings stay with their parents? 1 point if you are within 2 weeks of the exact answer ...



- 13) Tweety Pie is a fictional cartoon character - what sort of bird is Tweety Pie?

- 14) Many birds regurgitate pellets of undigestible material - what is the official one-word name of those pellets?
- 15) What Australian bird was the first non-mammal species found to be susceptible to contagious yawning?
- 16) A group of geese on the ground is a gaggle - what is a group of geese in the air called?
- 17) What country has been totally dependent on bird poo for most of its existence?
- 18) Do female turkeys gobble?
- 19) What bird is the closest living relative to the Tyrannosaurus Rex?
- 20) What was the first bird domesticated by humans?
- 21) Do any parrots migrate?
- 22) Approximately what percentage of bird species migrate - 10%, 25% or 40%?
- 23) Name one thing related to birds that actors Michael Keaton and Burt Lancaster have in common?



- 24) What bird, recovering from near extinction, is the symbol of Norfolk Island National Park?
- 25) A famous Norfolk Island resident - Colleen McCullough - wrote the "Thorn Birds" - on what continent are thornbirds native?
- 26) The Birds was a movie directed by Alfred Hitchcock - based on a short story by which British writer?
- 27) Name 3 rock bands named after birds.
- 28) What famous novel, a classic of modern American literature, has both a main character with a bird name, and a bird name in the title - and I need the novel title and the name of the character?

29) Mockingjay is part of which book series and movie franchise?



- 30) The Roc is a legendary bird from which mythology - Greco-Roman, Middle Eastern or Central American?
- 31) Name one of the 4 Beatles songs with the word "bird" in the title?
- 32) What national airline is named after a mythical bird?



- 33) Name two stars of the 1965 film "The Flight of the Phoenix"?
- 34) What is the first species of bird mentioned in the Bible?
- 35) Which one of the following birds is not mentioned in the Bible - eagle, vulture, buzzard, falcon, kite, albatross, turtledove, hoopoe, lapwing, stork, heron, owl, cormorant, partridge, swallow, swift, thrush, ostrich, quail or sparrow?
- 36) True or false - a verse in the Bible says "And God blessed them, saying 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth'."

37) Who wrote "If it looks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, we have at least to consider the possibility that we have a small aquatic bird of the family anatidae on our hands".

- 38) How many bird species are mentioned in the works of Shakespeare - 16, 32 or 64?
- 39) Born in 1827 in New York, Eugene Schieffelin was a lover of Shakespeare and a lover of birds - what is his main claim to fame?
- 40) The term raptor is derived from the Latin word rapere - what is the meaning of rapere?
- 41) What is the only Australian parrot with a completely red head?
- 42) "Diseases of Canaries" is a 1933 book written by Robert Franklin Stroud. Stroud is better known as ?
- 43) Psittacine beak and feather disease (PBFD) is a viral disease affecting Old World and New World parrots - in what country was it first found?
- 44) What Australian parrot has subspecies that are resistant to the PBFD virus?
- 45) New flu viruses are named for two proteins, hemagglutinin (H) and neuraminidase (N). Is the bird flu virus designated as H3N7, H2N8, H6N4 or H5N1?
- 46) The parrot on the logo of the Arnotts Biscuits company came from which country?
- 47) The Twitter logo is a bird - what colour is it?
- 48) How long is the Birdsville Track which goes from Birdsville QLD to Marree SA - 517km, 682km or 855km?
- 49) Who wrote "We cut over the fields at the back with him between us - straight as the crow flies - through hedge and ditch"?
- 50) Canaries were introduced into British coal mines in 1911. When were they replaced by man-made gas detectors - 1947, 1986 or 2011?



2018 BLS Trivia Quiz answers

- 1 The noise of Crested Pigeons comes from modified wing feathers
- 2 When gannets hit the water, they are doing 100kph



- 3 The world's loudest bird is the NZ Kakapo - the call can be heard up to 7 kilometres away
- 4 The world's smallest bird is the Bee Hummingbird - the male is 57mm and weighs 1.6 grams - 3 of them weigh less than a teaspoon of water
- 5 If you had one kilogram of Vervain Hummingbird eggs you would have approximately 2700 of them
- 6 The world's most promiscuous bird is the Saltmarsh Sparrow - a study showed 97% of females mated with more than one male, and 95% of nests had chicks from different fathers
- 7 Yes or No - can birds count? Yes, cormorants used by Chinese fishermen that were given every 8th fish to eat would stop working if not given a fish after their seventh catch.
- 8 What is the longest lived bird? A cockatoo. Two documented birds vie for the title, an 80 year old Sulphur-crested Cockatoo and a 77 year old Major Mitchell - both cockatoos.

- 9 What bird goes the longest without eating? The male Emperor Penguin - overland travel to the breeding colony, courtship, 62-67 days of incubation, waiting for the female to return, and travel back to the open sea taking up to 134 days (4.5 months!)
- 10 How fast can a Secretary Bird run? You will get a point if you are within 10kph of the correct answer ... Zero kph - the Secretary Bird can't run - it walks and hops.
- 11 What land animal has the largest eyes? Ostrich - 2 inches - twice as large as the human eye.
- 12 On average, how long do Koel hatchlings stay with their parents? You will get a point if you are within 2 weeks of the correct answer ... Zero weeks - Koels are cuckoos so hatchlings don't spend any time with their parents ...
- 13 Tweety Pie is a Canary

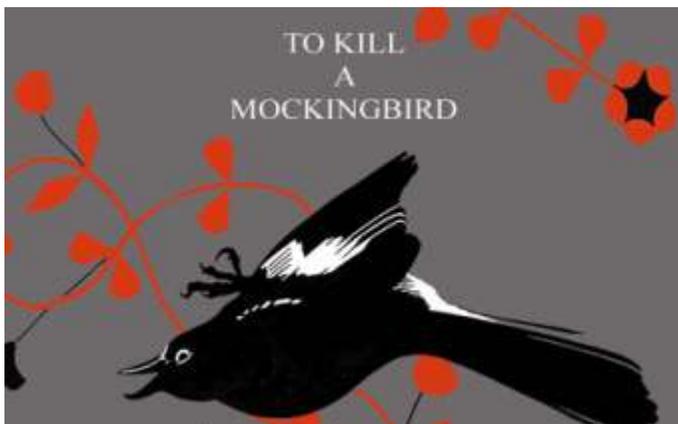


- 14 Regurgitated pellets of indigestible material are officially known as pellets
- 15 The first non-mammal species found to be susceptible to contagious yawning is the budgie
- 16 A group of geese in the air is called a skein
- 17 What country has been totally dependent on bird poo for most of its existence - Nauru
- 18 Do female turkeys gobble? No, they make a clicking noise.
- 19 The closest living relative to the T Rex is the Domestic Chicken (although we will also accept Ostrich)
- 20 What was the first bird domesticated by humans? The Goose

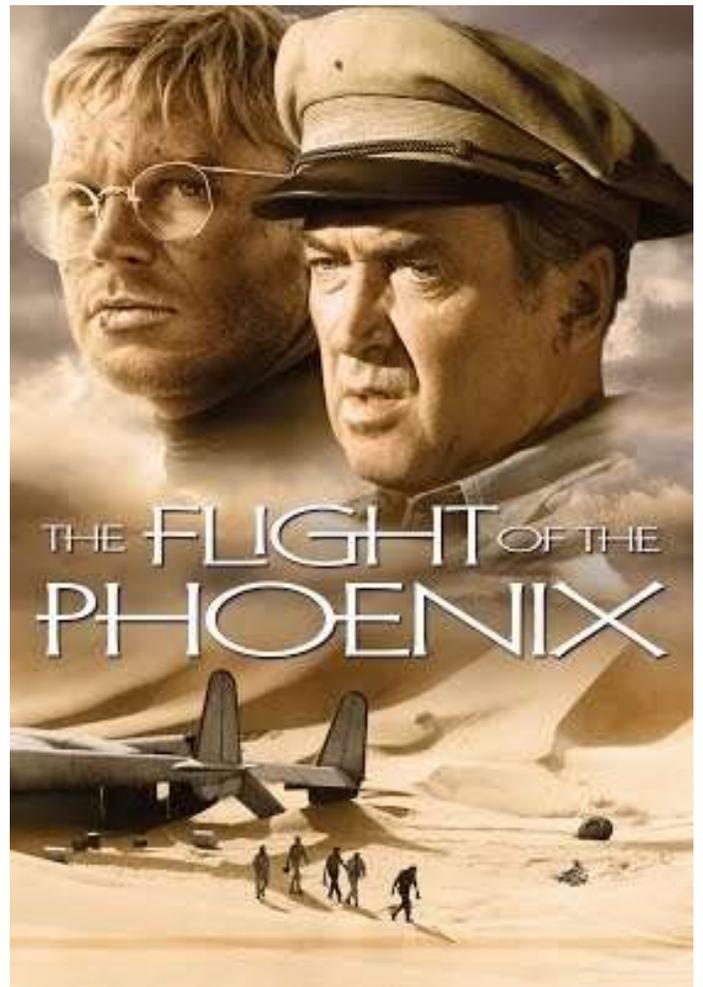
- 21 Do any parrots migrate? Yes i.e. Swift Parrot and Orange-bellied Parrot
- 22 Approximately what percentage of bird species migrate - 40%
- 23 Michael Keaton and Burt Lancaster both starred in movies with "Birdman" in the title ("Birdman" and "The Birdman of Alcatraz")
- 24 What bird is the symbol of Norfolk Island National Park? The Green Parrot



- 25 Thornbirds are native to South America
- 26 The Birds movie was based on a short story by Daphne du Maurier
- 27 Name 3 rock bands named after birds - choose from The Byrds, The Flamingos, The Yardbirds, Andrew Bird, Fabulous Thunderbirds, Weird Owl, Black Crowes, Sheryl Crow, Counting Crows, Old Crow Medicine Show, Finch, Jimmie's Chicken Shack, An Albatross, Pelican, The Doves, The Eagles, Eagles Of Death Metal, Department of Eagles, Eagle Eye Cherry, Flock of Seagulls, Them Crooked Vultures, Robyn, The Jayhawks, Dixie Chicks, Raveonettes, Herbie Hancock, Ryan Adams & The Cardinals, the Housemartins, the Starlings
- 28 The famous novel / movie with a bird name in the title is To Kill a Mockingbird, and the main character is Atticus Finch



- 29 Mockingjay is part of the book series and movie franchise "The Hunger Games"
- 30 The Roc is an enormous legendary bird from Middle Eastern mythology
- 31 Name one of the 4 Beatles songs with the word "bird" in the title? - Blackbird, Free as a Bird, And Your Bird Can Sing, This Bird Has Flown (Norwegian Wood)
- 32 The Indonesian national airline Garuda is named after a mythical bird.
- 33 Name two stars of the 1965 film "The Flight of the Phoenix"? Choose from James Stewart, Richard Attenborough, Peter Finch, Hardy Krüger, Ernest Borgnine, Ian Bannen, Ronald Fraser, Christian Marquand, Dan Duryea and George Kennedy



- 34 The Raven is the first species of bird mentioned in the Bible - Genesis 8:7 - "And he sent forth a raven, which went forth to and fro, until the waters were dried up from off the earth." The dove was sent out second.
- 35 The Albatross is not mentioned in the Bible
- 36 True - a Bible verse says "... and let birds multiply on the earth" - Genesis 1:22

- 37 Who wrote "If it looks like a duck, and quacks like a duck etc." Douglas Adams
- 38 How many bird species are mentioned in the works of Shakespeare - 64
- 39 Eugene Schieffelin tried to introduce all the British birds mentioned in the works of Shakespeare into America. He was most successful with the Starling. He released 60 starlings, and there are now estimated to be 200 million starlings in the US.
- 40 Raptor is derived from the Latin word rapere which means "to seize or take by force"
- 41 The male Australian King Parrot is the only Australian parrot with a completely red head.



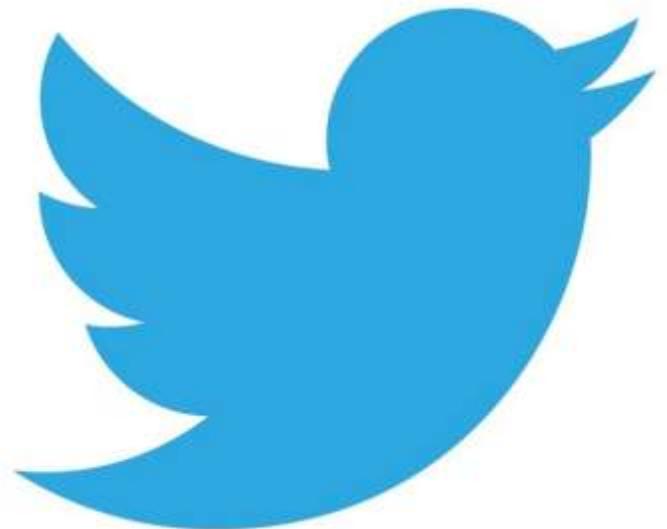
- 42 Robert Franklin Stroud is better known as the Birdman of Alcatraz
- 43 Psittacine beak and feather disease (PBF) was first found in Australia - infecting Red-rumped Parrots in the Adelaide Hills of South Australia in 1888
- 44 What Australian parrot has subspecies that are resistant to the beak and feather disease virus? Crimson Rosella - the Adelaide Rosella and Yellow Rosella subspecies have much lower levels of the disease
- 45 Bird flu is H5N1



- 46 The parrot on the logo of the Arnotts Biscuits is the red-crowned amazon (*Amazona viridigenalis*) also known as red-crowned parrot, green-cheeked amazon, or Mexican red-headed parrot - it comes from Mexico



- 47 The Twitter logo is blue



- 48 The Birdsville Track is 517km long
- 49 The quote that includes "straight as the crow flies" was written by Charles Dickens in Oliver Twist
- 50 Canaries were replaced by man-made gas detectors in 1986

BirdLife Shoalhaven Calendar for 2018

Date	Event / Location / Group*	Details - meeting time and place, leaders etc.
April		
Sat 14th	Peter Wale - Artist Talk	11:30am at the Jervis Bay Maritime Museum
Sun 15th	Bellawongarah (SB)	Meet Apex Park Berry at 8:30am.
Sun 15th	Bird Portraiture Workshop	10am to 3:30pm by Peter Wale at the JB Maritime Museum. Cost \$70
Mon 23rd	Powerful Owl talk	By Dr. Beth Mott from Birdlife Australia - "Citizen scientists make a powerful difference for owls" - 7:30pm at the SGB Community Health Centre, 21 Meriton Street, St Georges Basin.
Fri 27th	Little Forest Plateau (MUD)	8am at Harry Higgs Room at Milton. Leader: Mike Jefferis 0412 480 371
May		
Sat 5th	Protecting Lake Wollumboola	Talk by Frances Bray at JB Maritime Museum 10:30am to 11:30am
Fri 11th	Jervis Bay Area (MUD)	8am at Harry Higgs Room at Milton or 9 am in Berry St Vincentia near the WWTP gate. Leader: Robyn Hill. Bring morning tea / lunch (enquiries to Chris Shinton 0423 352 718)
Fri 11th	BLS Committee Meeting	At the home of Rob Dunn from 2pm to 4pm
12th & 13th	Wollumboola Wild Walks	9am to 11am - book via info@wollumboola.org.au
Fri 25th	Garrads Reserve (MUD)	Meet: 8 am: Back of Harry Higgs Room or 8:15 at the end of Leo Drive at Narrawallee. Leader: Chris Shinton 0423 352 718
Sun 20th	Parma Creek NR (SB)	8:30am 200m up Blackbutt Range Rd off Highway south of Log Cabin
Sat 26th	Flyway Print Exchange (at JB Maritime Museum)	Curator's Talk and Tour - Kate Gorrington-Smith will take attendees on a journey through the Flyway Print Exchange exhibition at 10:30am followed by a talk on her Overwintering Project at 12 noon - \$5 entry
June		
Sat 2nd	World Environment Day	8am to 3pm - BLS stall at the Jervis Bay Maritime Museum
Sat 2nd	Birds in Backyards talk	By Yolande Cozijn at Huskisson Community Centre at 2pm as part of "Bird" exhibition - followed by a bird walk around the Museum grounds.
Fri 8th	Tabourie (MUD)	8am end of Beach St, Tabourie. Leader: Bob Rusk 4455 2169
Sat 9th	Murray's Beach Circuit (BLS)	Meet at Hyams Beach turnoff at 8am. Leader Karen Davis 0487 208 437
Sun 17th	Jerrara Dam / Spring Creek (SB)	Meet at 8:30am at Apex Park, Berry
Fri 22nd	Conjola (MUD)	8am: At Conjola Fire Station. Leader: Charles Dove 0417 422 302
July		
Fri 6th	Warden Head (MUD)	8am at lighthouse. Leaders: Marg Hamon & Maggie Mance 4457 1129
Sun 15th	Greenwell Point (SB)	Meet at 8:30am at the Greenwell Point Boat Ramp Car Park

* The BirdLife Shoalhaven calendar contains activities from the branch (**BLS**) and two associated birdwatching groups - Shoalhaven Birders (**SB**) and the Milton-Ulladulla District Birdwatching Club (**MUD**). BLS members can attend all activities. SB have no leaders on their outings and it is possible that nobody else will turn up, especially if the weather is bad. Contacts: Stan and Su Brown 4443-4828 and 0419 287 224, Peter and Julie Hale 0402 076 548. MUD have outings every fortnight on Fridays from 8am until about 11am. For information about joining MUD phone Marg Hamon 4457-1129 or Chris Shinton 4454-5584 or email mubirdclub@gmail.com.

Australia's voice for birds since 1901

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

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

birdlife.org.au

Add your voice

join us

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

volunteer

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

donate

Help us create positive outcomes for birds and their habitats