



# FAR SOUTH COAST BIRDWATCHERS Inc.

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

## NEWSLETTER JAN/FEB 2017

### TASMANIA'S LESSER KNOWN PARKS

Cliff Wallis and Sayaka Mihara

Having previously visited Tasmania and walked extensively in places like Cradle Mountain and Freycinet, last October we headed to some of Tasmania's lesser known national parks.

#### Mt William NP

Mt William NP is located on the north-east corner of Tasmania. Mostly flat country along the coast, Mt William itself rises about 400 metres and offers excellent views. There are a number of open areas alongside the vegetation which offer good opportunities for bird watching. Of the 51 species seen interesting sightings included:

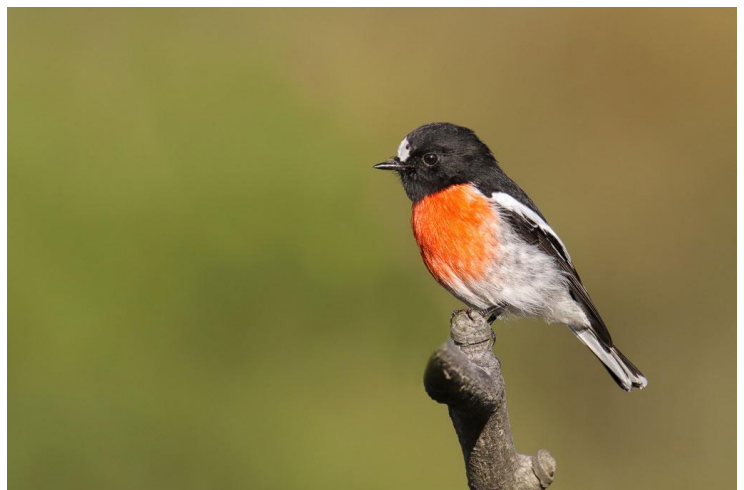
Pacific Gull, Black-faced Cormorant, Ruddy Turnstone imm., Tasmanian Native Hen, Dusky Woodswallow, Tasmanian Thornbill, White-fronted Chat, Australian Shelduck, Flame Robin, Red-capped Plover (nesting), Banded Lapwing, Tasmanian Silvereye, Yellow Wattlebird, Hybrid Mallard/Pacific Black Duck, Brown Falcon, Scarlet Robin, Eurasian Skylark, Green Rosella imm., Swamp Harrier, Wedge-tailed Eagle.

The beach on the southern end of the park is at the northern end of the Bay of Fires and quite spectacular. On that beach alone we saw eight pairs of nesting Hooded Plovers, Australasian Gannets, and 200+ Sanderlings.

#### Douglas-Apsley NP

Douglas-Apsley NP is a heavily forested park northwest of St Helens. It is a mix of lovely eucalypt forest with pockets of cool rainforest (and hungry leeches!), deep river gullies and waterfalls. We mostly walked in the northern section which is difficult to access and only recommended for experienced bushwalkers. The southern area offers a good short walk and is only a short drive from St Helens. We heard far more birds than we actually saw but notable sightings included Flame Robin, Green Rosella, Eastern Spinebill, Strong-billed Honeyeater, Dusky Robin, Black Currawong, Fan-tailed Cuckoo and Grey Goshawk. A highlight was the Pink Robin that popped out when we were having lunch on the river one day.

While walking on the footpath around St Helens one night we came face to face with some Little Penguins!



Scarlet Robin

image: Leo Berzins

### EVENING MEETING Thursday Feb 9, 2017

Meet in the Uniting Church Hall, Henwood St, Merimbula, for a 7:30 pm start.

This will be a 'February Feathered Friends Fun' night. Something for everyone. Find out what you know and what you don't know and have some fun.

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## Tasman NP

Tasman NP offers some of the most spectacular coastal scenery in Australia – towering cliffs, gorgeous beaches and offshore islands. Vegetation is a mix of coastal heath and forest. We humped our packs around the entire coastal trail over six days. Sadly the southern section has been impacted by government commercialization in the name of the Three Capes Walk – which actually only goes to two Capes! This seems to be a worrying trend in Australia's park system.

As with Mt William NP there was a surprising lack of sea birds. Interesting sightings included Flame Robin, Pied Oystercatcher, Yellow Wattlebird, Green Rosella, Dusky Robin, Strong-billed Honeyeater, Kelp Gull, Australasian Gannet, Scarlet Robin, Olive Whistler, Black-faced Cormorant, Black Currawong.

The Flame Robin is a very adaptable bird – we see lots of them in Perisher in the spring. In Tasmania we saw them in the higher forested country of Douglas-Apsley NP, then again among the rocks on the seashore of Tasman NP.

Being there in the spring also offered some terrific whale watching. One morning we saw two adults and young just fifty metres off the coast.

In these three parks we saw few people and all but one of Tasmania's endemic birds – the Forty-spotted Pardalote which we saw on our last visit.

## Meeting Report

Thursday 9 December, 2016

Barbara Jones

The final meeting of the year was attended by 31 members. The AGM was conducted swiftly with nominations received for all positions except President. Jenny Morrison joined the committee. Barbara offered to be Acting President until a replacement emerges. The members approved a donation to BirdLife Australia of \$1000 towards their Battle for the Birds Appeal and two further amounts to other projects to be finalised by committee.

The photographers of the group gave us a fine showing with the amazing array of subjects they chose. Roger had Little Corella nests and a series of users; Leo had a variety of local shorebirds, mostly on the Threatened Species list; Max had a variety of birds using a distant TV aerial and Scarlet Honeyeaters from his study; Hayden had a motion-activated camera set on a well visited bird bath; Liz took us for a walk as she went through her typical day – beach, garden, bush and kayaking; Neill had mostly NT birds, colourful finches and parrots, and Andrew had a Spotted Quail-thrush in his garden. Gary spoke of the 1950's success of Merimbula Public School bird-calling competitions and the revival of this event planned by the Historical Society for the Pambula Show. All in all it was a good night topped off with much conversation over supper.

## Acting President's Report

Welcome back to what we hope will be an excellent year of birding. We have plenty of interesting venues to take groups and provide a variety of species. Summer usually keeps us near the coast and with the interesting waders appearing for brief visits and the interest in Panboola rarities, travelling too far is not necessary for most. Roger has a couple of 'away' trips coming up so please try to join at least one of them.

You will notice this message comes from the 'Acting' President and for those who were not at the AGM in December you can guess that no one offered relief for your aging former President! It really is time for some serious consideration from all members to this situation. None of us lasts for ever and a commitment of a couple of years would be a good start to a changing of the guard – please.

We were delighted to move and have agreement at the AGM to support the Birdlife Australia Appeal for the Birds with a \$1000 donation sent in December. Two further amounts will be finalised for other projects and announced in coming months. This is a great achievement for our small club and can be attributed to the sale of our booklet 'Looking at Birds on the Far South Coast NSW'. More and more people are being exposed to and enjoying finding out about birds with their 'little book' and we hope this interest might result in new members coming on board. Our current membership remains steady at about 120, the subscriptions keeping the day to day functions of the club running smoothly. Thank you to all members who have attended to paying their 2017 subs, especially electronically, saving time for the Treasurer. Receipts are written but forwarded to you only on request – again saving the Treasurer.

The new-look larger newsletter will evolve as we proceed and with members adding their own stories it should represent the friendly mood of the club. Please contribute even the tiniest contribution to either Leo, Sue, Alison or myself for preliminary preparation for coming newsletters. Longer articles are welcome too.

Meanwhile we hope the heavens open and bring some good rain. Spring gave us false hope, with no good rain having fallen since September, creating a very dry landscape wherever we go.

There are interesting birds turning up. [Glossy Ibis](#), [Crimson Chat](#), Eastern Bristlebird, Brolga. It's all happening.

Happy birding  
Barbara Jones

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members and look forward to their participation:

Mike & Jan Collingridge, Brogo  
Andrew McCutcheon, Melbourne  
Robyn Levy, Bermagui  
Natalie Alcock-White, Bemboka  
Charles Alcock, Bemboka

## Activity Reports

### YELLOW PINCH DRIVE

**Tuesday November 22, 2016**

**Barbara Jones**

Yellow Pinch Drive is a loop road isolated after straightening of the Princes Highway, close to Merimbula, with rural properties on one side and forest on the other. Walking was easy and productive, with 33 species recorded during the 1 km walk, without venturing off the roadside.

Surprises were: Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike feeding young at nest; Black-faced Monarch; Brush Cuckoo calling nearby; Dollarbird - with a young bird; two Sacred Kingfishers; White-throated Gerygone carrying nest material and five Brown-headed Honeyeaters feeding actively right beside us undeterred by us moving past.

Close to home for many, this might be an option for a morning out, even if only covering half the distance. Plenty of parking and local traffic only.



**Brown-headed Honeyeater**

image: *Max Sutcliffe*

A brief visit to a Millingandi property on Merimbula Creek turned up two noisy Dollarbirds and few surprises.

### BERMAGUI

**Sunday November 27, 2016**

**Barbara Jones**

Today was an early start at Wallaga Lake bridge, and after a brief view of a Whimbrel before it took off to shelter from a raw wind we too moved on to the next stop out of the wind at the Wallaga Lake mouth, further south. The absence of the boardwalk due to the east coast storms has not deterred the surfers, creating a well-trodden track formed through the casuarinas enabling access to Murunna Point overlooking the sand bar. Here we stayed for ages watching a colony of Little Terns (20+) flying and sitting on the sand, as if they had intentions of staying. Two Hooded Plovers wandered, obviously not nesting. There were seven Eastern Curlews, seven Bar-tailed Godwits, a Whimbrel, a few Red-capped Plovers and two Pied Oystercatchers, not to mention about 200 Crested Terns. Walking back through the bush we recorded many bush birds with a group of small birds confusing us with an unfamiliar call that turned out to be Brown Gerygones.

Next stop was Camel Rock car park for a morning tea break and a look out to sea with only a few shearwaters feeding away from shore. The view of the rock was outstanding from this aspect.

Then off to Long Swamp, approaching from the north end, with one Musk Duck and the highlight for many of a pair of Variegated Fairy-wrens right beside the track to the hide. So tame!

Bermagui State Forest beckoned. The picnic area was the stopping point before walking to the rainforest, aka 'Mozzie Grotto', but so dry there were no mosquitoes and few birds. A Black-faced Monarch presented well for photos and a Leaden Flycatcher called intermittently near the cars. Last year one nested here but with lunch calling we did not hunt for a nest.

After lunch in town most of the group of 14 left for home and a carload called for a pre-arranged visit to 'Umbi Gumbi', on Cuttagee Lake for a quick recce. We will return there in 2017, maybe for a weekday walk.

Bermagui has so much to offer and we could spend days there. We hope to see a large group on February 11 to explore more hidden parts. Our bird count today was 60 species.



No time to sit

image: Roger Heffernan

**BROGO DAM final outing**  
**Saturday December 10, 2016**  
**Alison Hayes**

Today's walk was a wonderful conclusion to the year's activities. Visited locations combined dense woodland, open country and the outstanding scenery of Brogo dam; its beautiful parkland, high sheer cliffs and impressive mountainous skyline have made this place an enduring favourite for us. 22 participants assembled at Brogo fire shed on a bright and fresh morning, which gradually developed into far-south-coast perfection.

This rallying point was quite fruitful, with species such as the Black-faced Monarch, and Superb Lyrebird heard, and several other species, such as Grey Fantails, seen. We then drove to a forested walk track on Warrigal Range Road, opposite McGregors' property. This yielded many sightings, including a Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Olive-backed Oriole and Wonga Pigeon, and the clear notes of a Rufous Whistler enhanced the general background of calls.

Going on to the dam, we were enveloped by song: cascades of pure, silvery notes from the resident White-throated Gerygones set the atmosphere, as they blended with the familiar melodies of Golden and Rufous Whistlers, and many

other calls, challenging our abilities to match birds to them. With the gerygones in full "courtship" voice, it was a treat to find one of their meticulously-constructed nests (bark bound with spider silk). Another stand-out bird was a Sacred Kingfisher, posing for the photographers on an exposed branch by its nest in a hollow in the tree trunk. Other notable species were an Eastern Osprey below the dam wall, a male Mistletoebird, and the elusive Varied Sittellas, in easy range for the cameras. We recorded 51 species.

Lunch at the picnic area concluded a day which was as good socially as it was for birdwatching, and thanks to Pat and Nalda for creating a touch of Christmas.



Sacred Kingfisher

image: Roger Heffernan

**PANBOOLA SURVEY**  
**Wednesday January 11, 2017**  
**Robyn Kesby**

Our Summer survey recorded some unusual visitors enjoying the muddy edges of the rapidly drying billabongs. Up to 16 Glossy Ibis and one immature Black-winged Stilt have been in Tips Billabong since Christmas. Southern Emu-wrens are always a delight to find. We had excellent views of them this survey and they were found in 3 different locations. Although it looks lush and green at Panboola, our area is rapidly entering drought conditions. We welcomed some extra keen eyes for this survey. With Bill Graham from COG and Damien Roche from Peninsula Birdlife, and member Steph Skelton with her 3 young daughters the final count came to over 60 species. Surprisingly this did not include the Gang-gangs that had been seen in previous days munching on the unripe berries of the hawthorns.

Note: A transit camp of Grey-headed Flying Foxes with at times over a thousand members has been established in the Waterbird Sanctuary. Flowering gums, their normal food source, are in short supply elsewhere.



**Immature Black-winged Stilt**  
Image: *Max Sutcliffe*

**PANBOOLA PICNIC TEA**  
**Sunday January 22, 2017**  
**Barbara Jones**



**Panboola picnic**

image: *Derek Jones*

What a perfect way to start the year's schedule – a late afternoon walk followed by a picnic tea in Tips Billabong. Twenty of us enjoyed seeing old friends plus one visitor from Melbourne. Gang-gang Cockatoos have found the ripening fruits of the Hawthorns providing photo opportunities as they munched quietly without disturbance from passers-by. About 30+ wheeled around the trees in the Waterbird Sanctuary. A quick glimpse of a crane failed to determine which one it was but there will be chances to find that as the water continues to reduce. Southern Emu-wrens are moving closer to the front of Panboola for all to see. The Australian Reed-Warbler struck up its call right beside us and unusually we had four Eastern Rosellas feeding on the grass. We recorded a total of 32 species during our one hour walk.

All credit to the maintenance volunteers of Panboola for presenting the area in an inviting

manner with mown paths making access easy, yet leaving many ragged areas for the wildlife, creating a good balance for all. We would love to be able to get closer to the billabong edges in spots to see what's in there. Maybe a consideration for their planning?

**A CHANCE ENCOUNTER**

In mid-December 2016 **Terry Williams** was walking with his dog along the ridge of his property at Reedy Swamp, Bega. A sudden flash caught his attention and he realised it was a bird lifting from the ground. After a couple of steps another one lifted. He took hold of the dog and looked closely at where the birds had lifted. The only evidence was dry leaves and twigs until he noticed a small ball of beige fluff about the size of a small teacup, with a beak poking out. Retreating hastily, he realised he had found a **White-throated Nightjar** nest.

This species visits the Far South Coast from the northern forests only in summer, to nest on ridges amongst leaf litter. Nesting on the ground brings hazards of course, however they are well camouflaged and will only flush as a last resort when disturbed. Both adults will feed insects to the single chick until it can fly in about a month. A relatively common nocturnal bird in suitable areas the night call can be heard across valleys – an ascending 'whoop-whoop-whoop' finishing with a cackle.

## MERIMBULA REAL ESTATE CRISIS

Every summer in Merimbula there is a shortage of accommodation, or so it would seem. In recent years our Silver Gulls have taken to nesting successfully on moored boats. Many are permanently moored. This season some took the high-rise option and nested on roofs of at least two buildings along the main street – again with success. You might have noticed gulls circling around over the back of the shops away from the water, supposedly enticing their chicks to brave the flight to the lake.

## ROGER'S CRYPTIC BIRDS

EXAMPLE – Small swine, Not off (Piggy, On) or Pig-e-on > Answer = PIGEON

TRY THESE: - Answers at the meeting and in next newsletter.

1. Backbone beak
2. Rooster a double
3. Evening Jam Container
4. Reddish Chinwag

## GOOGLE GROUP

Subscribers offered some interesting variety in answer to some questions posed.

What was your favourite bird for 2016?

Regent Honeyeater or Forest Kingfisher at On the Perch and Yellow Chat at Broome Bird Observatory.

Locally, Scarlet Honeyeaters, Freckled Ducks and Glossy Ibis were popular, plus Beach Stone-curlew and White-throated Needletails.

What was your first bird of the year 2017?

Location of early risers' reports was reflected in the variety - Eastern Whipbird, Red Wattlebird, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Brush Cuckoo, Bell Miner, Channel-billed Cuckoo.



Beach Stone-curlew

image: Leo Berzins

## PIED OYSTERCATCHER BREEDING SUCCESS IN MERIMBULA

Leo Berzins



Pied Oystercatcher chicks at Short Point (5 weeks old) image: Leo Berzins

A pair of Pied Oystercatchers successfully hatched and fledged two chicks at Short Point, Merimbula. Their nest was discovered on 12th November on the sand below the Short Point carpark near the shores of Back Lake. Signage and a rope barrier were promptly installed.

The nest was regularly monitored by Shorebird Volunteers and members of the Far South Coast Birdwatchers. The eggs hatched on 8th December.

It was pleasing to see the response of locals and visitors alike in observing the signage and allowing the birds enough space to achieve a successful outcome in such a busy location. The signage and rope barrier remained in place to give the birds a relatively safe area to feed and rest until the chicks had fledged. The birds

returned to this area on most afternoons after spending the mornings further around the lake shore and in the shelter of the sand dune vegetation.

## HOT BIRDING DOWN THE LACHLAN

From our out of town member **Chris Lloyd**, as sent to birding-aus. January 15, 2016

Some months ago the idea of a week birding in western NSW seemed like a good idea. A warm but pleasant amble down the Lachlan with the caravan brought us to Forbes and three booked nights at the CP. Now closer followers of ancient rituals and weather forecasts would already have noted some red flags. We simply noted that the CP was chock-a-block and moved straight to Gum Swamp. Nothing spectacular but a good collection of old friends and, like all the countryside around, plenty of water and greenery. Returning to the Park we found an unusual number of men with large black sideburns and women sporting some variation of the onesie with sequins. The penny dropped when an otherwise perfectly competent string quartet moved from Dublin to Memphis while rehearsing in the camp kitchen at the request of the large impromptu audience. At this point it was 6pm and a bracing 36° with 38° for the following day.

A day of retail therapy, the library and the hysterical society kept our cool until an inevitable return to the van and afternoon of recline in the air-con. It was not to be as the combined assault of fridge and AC compressors brought on a denial of service from the aging circuitry of the Park. Tempers flared as much as trousers as the system tripped out every half hour or so. There were compensations. For those rooting for the King there was a crooner at a battery power mike and for us the delight of warm beer and wine while watching the aerobatics of four first year Collared Sparrowhawks intent on playing tag with cockies while a brace of White-faced Heron observed both phenomena.

It was with a brave face that we informed Rhinestone cowboys and girls that we were headed for the milder climes of Lake Cargelligo. 39° in Condobolin made the bitumen toasty for the dog's pads and a hefty 20 knot north-westerly made clothes driers redundant. As we motored along the Valley Way to LC the Bureau raised the bar for the following day to 44° and we started to consider professional help.

Then we struck the ephemeral lakes and flooded paddocks. Most of the world's population of Pacific Herons seemed to have descended and around their legs wandered Black-winged Stilts of all ages, Red-necked Stints, coots, and plovers. Overhead in the wind were the Marsh Terns in flocks of dozens while all three ibis species strutted their stuff in the greasy water. There was nothing new, just thousands of 'good' birds loafing or foraging as the whim took them. There were stilts on to their third or fourth clutch while the previous offspring wandered around the sitting adults. Ducks and grebes seemed to have endless trails of bobbing heads either behind them or on their backs. A pair of Plumed whistlers did not seem to have lost one of their near grown brood to the Kites as they wove through a forest of egret and spoonbill legs and bills. A quick dash through the furnace blast to the water's edge showed that, what appeared a still surface from three metres away was a swirling stew of algae, insects, fish and crustaceans. It might be hot but nobody was going to starve.



**Australian White Ibis**

image: *Leo Berzins*

Friday lived up to everyone's expectations and to the 44° nature added a powerful north-westerly and thick black clouds to provide an apocalyptic edge. Gallons of water and a little bit of German refrigeration engineering kept two adults and a small spotted dog from joining their respective makers as lunchtime hit the 40 mark and climbing. But nothing stopped the birds. We peered in awe out the windows as half a dozen Major Mitchells cartwheeled across the park and Peewees and Pied Butcherbirds used the sprinklers to assist the luncheon efforts. Two Butcherbirds carried out a full mating display of neck pecks and vocals on the wing while their youngster watched on. The White Ibis, using their suburban experience wandered about lawns and bins exuding an air of 'nothing to see here' as dog and humans cringed under wet cotton. The one great saving grace of the west in summer is the evenings and despite the mid-forties onslaught, by midnight you are reaching for the sheet and then the blanket.

Dawn brought 30 degrees and a south-westerly that brought the 'feel' down to 25° but with a sun that had the bite of a White Pointer. So it's off for a day along the Lachlan and the lakes. Once again no new birds but who needs new birds when thirteen adult Nankeen Herons rise from a water race and disport themselves around the trees? Everywhere water moved there were fishers dipping a bill in their favourite hole. At the regulator there was a line of black and tans in their yellow waders as the water rolled past. No one was missing out and even the ill-equipped ibis were making a catch. Just up river a human family complained they had got little other than carp fingerlings.

The locals were as awe-inspiring as the birds as they maintained their laconic bonhomie to melting birders and still mowed lawns, welded pipe or served customers. Cargelligo again lives up to its reputation as a hot spot to bird.

## SOME GREAT BIRD STORIES ON RADIO NATIONAL

ABC Radio National's program "[Off Track](#)" (Sat 10:30 am, repeated Sun 6:30 am) often features a bird related story.

Recent highlights include:

["Flying for Your Life"](#) - a four part series about the perilous situation confronting many migratory shorebirds

["In the cockpit for one of the planet's biggest wildlife surveys"](#) - Richard Kingsford's long-running aerial surveys of water birds in the Murray-Darling basin

["It's a mad fan's world"](#) - a study of breeding strategies of Rufous Fantails.

If you miss an episode or want to hear earlier ones, visit the [Off Track](#) website and download them.



Rufous Fantail

image: Leo Berzins

## 5 PLACES TO GO BIRDWATCHING IN MERIMBULA

(This guide was supplied by FSCB and published in the December 2016 edition of "Australian Birdlife" magazine)

The pretty coastal town of Merimbula is a great base to take in the many birdwatching opportunities along the Far South Coast of NSW, with its beautiful estuaries, lakes, beaches, coastal headlands and forests. Small numbers of migratory shorebirds reach the estuaries and lakes each year and the north-south migration brings bush birds from the northern parts of Australia to breed from August to March.

The forests are home to Powerful, Masked and Sooty Owls, while Swift Parrots visit Spotted Gums when times are lean inland. Beach-nesting birds such as Little and Fairy Terns, Hooded Plovers and Pied Oystercatchers are regularly sighted and there are many points overlooking the ocean for seabird enthusiasts. BirdLife Australia member BARBARA JONES walks us through the best places to spot birds in this spectacular part of the world.

### Merimbula Boardwalk

The boardwalk skirts the western end of Merimbula Lake and has views over the water for waders on one side and a narrow bush reserve on the other. Rose Robins, Bassian Thrushes, Variegated Fairy-wrens and Rufous and Golden Whistlers have all been spotted in the bush here. Starting the walk from the town bridge (where an Osprey sometimes takes position on a light pole or boat mast) the walk leads past mangroves where Striated Herons breed. Buff-banded Rails, Little and Great Egrets, Eastern Curlews, Whimbrels, Royal Spoonbills and Bar-tailed Godwits feed close to the walk

### Mandeni, Tura

Six km north of Merimbula is the Mandeni Fun Park where visitors are welcome, especially birdwatchers! At the Stone House Café on Sapphire Coast Drive, Tura, turn at the Mandeni sign and follow the road to the Golf Centre where brochures with bird lists and a map are available. There are old forests, waterways, golf fairways, plenty of level walking tracks and wide bike routes winding through the property. Over 150 birds are listed for the area including Glossy Black-Cockatoos, Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters, Rufous Fantails, Black-faced Monarchs, Dollarbirds and many breeding species. This is a favourite of local birdwatchers

### Panboola, Pambula

A little south of Merimbula is Panboola, on the floodplain of Pambula River. Formerly a working farm, in 2000 it was gifted to the community and is now a conservation area. There are two entry points off Bullara Street with maps showing numerous walking tracks. The site has an impressive list of about 170 species including 14 raptors. Vagrants and rarities often call in for brief stopovers and the reeds and ephemeral ponds bring a variety of waterbirds. Target species include Southern Emu-wrens, Gang-Gang Cockatoos, Golden-headed Cisticolas and Azure Kingfishers.



### Wallagoot Lake, Bournda National Park

Bournda National Park is 18 km north of Merimbula and its heaths, wetlands and coastal scrub provide habitat for an interesting variety of birds, with around 200 species recorded, including many waterbirds. The northern side of Wallagoot Lake is good for waders and in summer often hosts breeding Little Terns, Hooded Plovers and Pied Oystercatchers. The southern entry along Bournda Road takes you to Bournda Lagoon and Island, Hobart Beach and Scotts Bay and offers good bush birding throughout the forest walking tracks

### Haycock Point, Ben Boyd National Park

Haycock Point is 24 km south of Merimbula on the south end of the Pambula River mouth. With beach, banksia, heathland and rocks there is plenty of variety for the bird enthusiast. At the car park Eastern Whipbirds often loiter around the picnic tables. Access the beach for possible Hooded or Double-banded Plovers or follow the higher walking track to overlook the Haycock Rock, with Sooty Oystercatchers, Eastern Reef Egrets, Short-tailed Shearwaters, White-bellied Sea-Eagles and all five cormorant species often visible.

Go to [www.fscb.org.au](http://www.fscb.org.au) for more information about birdwatching on NSW's Far South Coast.



White-bellied Sea-Eagle

image: *Leo Berzins*

## FSCB DIRECTORY

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Reports 200-250 words. Articles longer subject to space  
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All mail to PO Box 180 Pambula NSW 2549.  
Email: [fscbirds@bigpond.com](mailto:fscbirds@bigpond.com)  
Subscriptions due Jan 1 annually: Family \$20. Single \$15

**Facebook:** click here [Far South Coast Birdwatchers Inc.](#)

## A SELECTION of SIGHTINGS from Dec 2016/Jan 2017

Please report your sightings, especially threatened species

8/01/2017	Australasian Figbird	2	Baragoot Lake	J Gilchrist	
29/12/2016	Australasian Grebe	present	Mandeni, Tura	M Sutcliffe/Waldon x 2	
22/01/2017	Australasian Grebe	present	Panboola	M Sutcliffe	
27/12/2016	Australasian Pipit	1	Yurammie	R Heffernan	
7/12/2016	Australian Hobby	1	Tura Beach Club	N Hayes	
29/12/2016	Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	1 ad + 1 y	Broadwater	L Allen	
31/12/2016	Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	pair+ 2 y	Wallagoot Lake	M Sutcliffe	
12/01/2017	Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	pair + 2 y	Short Pt, Merimbula	L Berzins	hatched 8 Dec
22/01/2017	Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	pair + 1 y	Bournda Lagoon	L Berzins	yes they can swim!
11/01/2017	Australian Reed-Warbler	5+	Panboola	FSCB survey	
29/01/2017	Azure Kingfisher	1	Panboola	S Romane	Watsons Waterhole
29/12/2016	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	8	Panboola	B Jones	
22/01/2017	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	pair fy	Panboola	FSCB outing	
5/12/2016	Black-faced Monarch	calls	Mandeni, Tura	S Romane	
10/12/2016	Black-faced Monarch	calls	Brogo Fire Shed	FSCB outing	
29/12/2016	Black-faced Monarch	many	Mandeni, Tura	M Sutcliffe/Waldon x 2	
1/01/2017	Black-faced Monarch	1	Nethercote	B Jones	daily
6/01/2017	Black-faced Monarch	1	Merimbula Boardwalk	S Romane	
14/01/2017	Black-faced Monarch	1	'Ngairin', Tanja	D Bright	right at house
29/12/2016	Black-fronted Dotterel	present	Mandeni, Tura	M Sutcliffe/Waldon x 2	
4/01/2017	Black-fronted Dotterel	1	Mandeni, Tura	S Romane	
11/01/2017	Black-fronted Dotterel	1	Panboola	FSCB survey	
12/01/2017	Black-fronted Dotterel	1	Bournda Lagoon	L Berzins	
5/12/2016	Black-shouldered Kite	1	Berrambool Oval	M Sutcliffe	
11/01/2017	Black-shouldered Kite	1	Panboola	FSCB survey	
22/12/2016	Black-winged Stilt	1 imm	Panboola	M Sutcliffe	
22/01/2017	Black-winged Stilt	1 imm	Panboola	FSCB outing	still there
29/12/2016	Brolga	1	Wallagoot	R Salau	known to observer
17/01/2017	Brown Cuckoo-Dove	1	Frogs Hollow, Bega	K Reed	died on branch
5/12/2016	Brush Cuckoo	calls	Mandeni, Tura	S Romane	
10/12/2016	Brush Cuckoo	calls	Brogo Fire Shed	FSCB outing	
12/12/2016	Brush Cuckoo	1	Nethercote	B Jones	constant calling
2/01/2017	Buff-banded Rail	1 + 3 chicks	Merimbula Boardwalk	M Sutcliffe	
1/01/2017	Caspian Tern	nesting	Wallagoot Lake	L Allen	
15/01/2017	Channel-billed Cuckoo	2 juv	Bega	L Allen	Raven host parent
25/12/2016	Common Myna	3	Yurammie	R Heffernan	
6/01/2017	Common Myna	few	Princes Hwy, N Bega	J Plumb	
16/01/2017	Common Myna	2	Wolumla Cemetery	R Heffernan	
20/01/2017	Common Myna	2	Kalaru, Jellat Way	C Shepherd	
29/12/2016	Crescent Honeyeater	present	Mandeni, Tura	M Sutcliffe/Waldon x 2	
1/01/2017	Crested Shrike-tit	2	Nethercote	B Jones	
14/01/2017	Crimson Chat	1	Wallagoot Lake	N Lyons	her photo via S Sass
31/12/2016	Curlew Sandpiper	10	Wallagoot Lake	L Berzins	
5/12/2016	Dollarbird	4	Bega, Black Range Rd	A McCutcheon	
25/12/2016	Dollarbird	1	Sapphire Coast Drive	Sa Romane	
31/12/2016	Dollarbird	2	Yurammie	R Heffernan	
12/01/2017	Dollarbird	pair	Bega -Tathra Rd	D Reckord	
29/12/2016	Dusky Moorhen	2 ad 1 juv	Mandeni, Tura	M Sutcliffe/Waldon x 2	
7/12/2016	Dusky Woodswallow	on nest	Mandeni, Tura	M Sutcliffe	
11/01/2017	Dusky Woodswallow	3 + 1 juv	Panboola	FSCB survey	
25/12/2016	Eastern Bristlebird	50	Nadgee Reserve	G Maloulakis	NPWS 4 day survey
22/01/2017	Eastern Bristlebird	1	Wonboyn, Jewfish Bch	J Plumb	on edge of track
10/12/2016	Eastern Osprey	1	Brogo Dam	FSCB outing	photos
15/01/2017	Eastern Osprey	2	Middle Beach	J Plumb	cruising north
22/01/2017	Eastern Osprey	1	Wonboyn Lake	R Miller	swooping over leases
12/12/2016	European Goldfinch	6	Yurammie	R Heffernan	
4/01/2017	Fork-tailed Swift	1	Pambula Beach	D Waldon	very clear views
22/01/2017	Gang-gang Cockatoo	30+	Panboola	FSCB outing	
25/12/2016	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	3	Manna Park, Tura	Sa Romane	behind Hostel
21/12/2016	Glossy Ibis	1	Panboola	Sutcliffe/Waldon/Jones	
22/12/2016	Glossy Ibis	16	Panboola	S Romane	opp Old Bar
11/01/2017	Glossy Ibis	2	Panboola	FSCB survey	
29/12/2016	Grey Goshawk	1 grey 1 w morph	Mandeni, Tura	M Sutcliffe/Waldon x 2	
6/01/2017	Grey Goshawk	1	Sapphire Coast Drive	J Plumb	dived on dead snake
11/01/2017	Grey Goshawk	1	Panboola	FSCB survey	
25/12/2016	Ground Parrot	35	Nadgee Reserve	G Maloulakis	NPWS 4 day survey

1/01/2017	Hardhead	4	Panboola	B Jones	
12/01/2017	Hooded Plover	1 (P5) + 3 chicks	Bournda Lagoon	L Allen	
24/01/2017	Hooded Plover	1 + 3 chicks	Bournda Lagoon	C Wallis	still safe
29/01/2017	Hooded Plover	2 + 1 chick	Nullica Beach	L Miller	4 days old chick
10/12/2016	Jacky Winter	6+	Brogo Dam	FSCB outing	
7/12/2016	Latham's Snipe	1	Mandeni, Tura	B Jones/M Sutcliffe	
14/01/2017	Leaden Flycatcher	pair	Nethercote	B Jones	at last years nest tree
12/12/2016	Little Corella	~250	Yurammie	R Heffernan	
12/01/2017	Little Corella	~400	Behind Bega Hospital	B Jones	flying at dusk
5/12/2016	Little Lorikeet	small groups	Mandeni, Tura	S Romane	
5/01/2017	Little Tern	10 not nesting	Wallagoot Lake	L Allen, R Kesby	
22/12/2016	Little Tern/Fairy Tern	29 nests 56 eggs	Mogareeka	A Harris	Shorebird Rec Officer
10/12/2016	Mistletoebird	1 male	Brogo Dam	FSCB outing	
10/12/2016	Nankeen Kestrel	2	Brogo Fire Shed	FSCB outing	
31/12/2016	Nankeen Kestrel	5	Yurammie	R Heffernan	
29/01/2017	Nankeen Night-Heron	1 imm	Panboola	Watsons Waterhole	
10/12/2016	Olive-backed Oriole	calls + nest	Brogo Dam	FSCB outing	
7/12/2016	Peaceful Dove	1	Mandeni, Tura	B Jones/M Sutcliffe	
7/12/2016	Peregrine Falcon	1	Tura Beach Club	N Hayes	
31/12/2016	Peregrine Falcon	3	Yurammie	R Heffernan	
21/12/2016	Powerful Owl	1	Reedy Swamp, Bega	T Williams	2 am calling
31/12/2016	Red-capped Plover	12	Wallagoot Lake	M Sutcliffe	
19/01/2017	Red-capped Plover	chicks	Tura Beach	L Allen	
31/12/2016	Red-necked Stint	20	Wallagoot Lake	L Berzins	
5/12/2016	Rose Robin	1	Mandeni, Tura	S Romane	
11/01/2017	Royal Spoonbill	11	Panboola	FSCB survey	
29/12/2016	Rufous Fantail	1	Mandeni, Tura	M Sutcliffe/Waldon x 2	
4/01/2017	Rufous Fantail	1	Nethercote	B Jones	
14/01/2017	Rufous Fantail	1 on nest	Yurammie	R Heffernan	near creek
15/01/2017	Rufous Fantail	1	Reedy Swamp, Bega	T Williams	
21/12/2016	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	3	Panboola	Sutcliffe/Waldon/Jones	
10/12/2016	Silver Gull	nests + y	Merimbula Lake	G Holden	on moored boats
16/12/2016	Silver Gull	nests + y	Merimbula CBD	P Humphreys	on roofs
5/01/2017	Sooty Oystercatcher	2	Wallagoot Lake	L Allen/R Kesby	
1/01/2017	Southern Boobook	1	Nethercote	B Jones	
11/01/2017	Southern Emu-wren	4 + 6 off site	Panboola	FSCB survey	
7/12/2016	Spotted Quail-thrush	2	Bega, Black Range Rd	A McCutcheon	in garden
2/01/2017	Square-tailed Kite	1	Greigs Flat	B Jones	
22/01/2017	Square-tailed Kite	1	Tura Beach	N Hayes	regular sorties
25/12/2016	Stubble Quail	1	Yurammie	R Heffernan	1st for summer
14/12/2016	Swamp Harrier	1	Yurammie	R Heffernan	
11/01/2017	Swamp Harrier	1	Panboola	FSCB survey	
22/01/2017	Swamp Harrier	1	Pambula flats	B Jones	
1/12/2016	Tawny Frogmouth	1 + 1	Kanoona	R Heffernan	
1/12/2016	Tawny Frogmouth	2 ad 2 y	Candelo CBD b/yard	D Barton	roosted several days
21/12/2016	Topknot Pigeon	9 overflow	Panboola	M Sutcliffe	photos
22/01/2017	Tree Martin	few	Panboola	FSCB outing	
10/12/2016	Varied Sittella	6+	Brogo Dam	FSCB outing	
4/01/2017	Varied Sittella	6	Mandeni, Tura	S Romane	
31/12/2016	Whimbrel	1	Wallagoot Lake	L Berzins	
29/12/2016	Whistling Kite	1 ad and 1 juv	Mandeni, Tura	M Sutcliffe/Waldon x 2	
15/12/2016	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	2	Mandeni, Tura	S Romane	
3/12/2016	White-breasted W/swallow	2 juv	Mandeni, Tura	M Sutcliffe	photos
29/12/2016	White-cheeked Honeyeater	present	Mandeni, Tura	M Sutcliffe/Waldon x 2	
11/01/2017	White-faced Heron	12+	Panboola	FSCB survey	
31/12/2016	White-fronted Chat	6 carrying food	Wallagoot Lake	M Sutcliffe	
12/01/2017	White-fronted Chat	1 male	Bournda Lagoon	L Allen	
22/01/2017	White-fronted Chat	3	Panboola	M Sutcliffe	within racecourse
4/12/2016	White-throated Gerygone	1	Nethercote - Jones	B Jones	
4/12/2016	White-throated Gerygone	calls	Yurammie	R Heffernan	
5/12/2016	White-throated Gerygone	present	Bega, Black Range Rd	A McCutcheon	few days
10/12/2016	White-throated Gerygone	pair at nest	Brogo Dam	FSCB outing	
13/12/2016	White-throated Nightjar	call	Mandeni, Tura	Sa Romane	
17/12/2016	White-throated Nightjar	pair + y	Reedy Swamp, Bega	T Williams	disturbed, with chick
10/12/2016	Yellow Thornbill	1	Brogo Fire Shed	FSCB outing	
11/01/2017	Yellow Thornbill	3	Panboola	FSCB survey	

White-throated Needletail sightings are all reported to Mike Tarburton. This period they were sighted at Tanja, Green Cape, Black Range, Pambula Beach, and Mandeni.

# COMING EVENTS

*Held on second Saturday and fourth Sunday of each month and odd weekdays.  
Evening Meetings on second Thursday of February, April, June, August, October and December.  
Information about outings or help with transport contact anyone on committee (see FSCB Directory page 5).*

## **Thursday February 9, 2017**                      **EVENING MEETING**

Meet in the Uniting Church Hall, Henwood St, Merimbula, for a 7:30 pm start. This will be a 'February Feathered Friends Fun' night. Something for everyone. Find out what you know and what you don't know and have some fun.

## **Saturday February 11, 2017**                      **BERMAGUI (again)**

Meet Barbara (6495 7390) just north of the Bermagui Bridge, on the corner of the Bermagui – Narooma Rd, opposite the group of small shops at 8:45 am. First a return to the property we visited in Feb 2015 then continuing on to Bermagui sites not seen in Nov 2016. Lunch in the park opposite the Country Club, near Saltwater café, with more to see after lunch if energy permits.

## **Sunday February 26, 2017**                      **DAVIDSON WHALING STATION AREA**

Meet Barbara at 9:15 on the corner of Princes Highway and Edrom Rd, sth of Eden. Allow 15 minutes from Eden. From here to Davidson Whaling Station as a group. Bring lunch and chair. Will we find the Beautiful Firetail?

## **Wed/Sat March 8/11, 2017**                      **Out of Town to SHOALHAVEN AREA**

Roger and friends are organising a trip to the Shoalhaven Come and explore for one day or all. Ring Roger (6493 2208) to express an interest and more details. Planning is well underway.

## **Saturday March 11, 2017**                      **SEVERS BEACH AND HAYCOCK POINT**

Meet at 9:15 am just 100 metres into Haycock Rd (signposted by NPWS) off the Princes Highway between Pambula and Eden. Once assembled we'll travel to Severs Beach carpark and walk to the river. Returning to cars we'll drive to Haycock Point for a walk and lunch. Carry snack, lunch near cars.

## **Sunday March 26, 2017**                      **REEDY SWAMP AND BEGA RIVER**

Meet Tony (6492 1607) at 9:00 am opposite the entry to Bega Golf Club, Tarraganda Lane, Tarraganda (Bega). A visit to a private property on Reedy Swamp Rd will be followed by a walk and lunch on another property beside the Bega River where we have visited before. Pack a chair if you have room.

## **Saturday April 8, 2017**                      **WALLAGOOT, 'WATERY FOWLS'**

Meet at 9:00 am inside the gate of 'Watery Fowls'. Turn off Sapphire Coast Drive on to Bournda Road, as if going to Bournda Lagoon on the south side of Wallagoot Lake. Drive about 500m to just before Tickalara Close and turn left into the almost hidden driveway to the home of Cliff and Sayaka Wallis. BYO snack and lunch and chair as usual. Always a good species count here. Flat walking. We might get to Bournda Lagoon too.

## **Wednesday April 12, 2017**                      **PANBOOLA SURVEY**

Meet Robyn (6495 6469) at Panboola Centre, Watson Waterhole, next to Idlewilde Motel in Bullara St, Pambula at 8:00 am for the autumn survey. Wear sturdy shoes. Carry snack and drink, insect repellent. Takes about 3 hours.

## **Thursday April 13, 2017**                      **EVENING MEETING**

Meet in the Uniting Church Hall, Henwood St, Merimbula, for a 7:30 pm start. Guest Speaker will be Chris Lloyd whose subject 'Helping the little blokes back into the housing market' will look at the attempts to improve the breeding of the White-faced Storm-Petrel. Of course there will be regular features and photos too.

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## **FSCB GOOGLE GROUP and FACEBOOK**



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

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

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

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