



Newsletter

Hunter Bird Observers Club

Issue No. 2/16 April 2016

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

- The Club aims to:
- Encourage and further the study and conservation of Australian birds and their habitat; and
 - Encourage bird observing as a leisure-time activity

As we move into Autumn the migratory shorebirds are moulting into their breeding plumage, such as this Pacific Golden Plover photographed by Bruce Hosken at Stockton Sandspit on 23rd March



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Please send Newsletter articles direct to the Editor,
 Dan Williams at scythrops@yahoo.com.au
 Deadline for the next edition – 5 June 2016

HBOC postal address:
 PO Box 24 New Lambton NSW 2305
 Website: www.hboc.org.au

President's Column

How is your start to the 2016 birding year going? Personally, I've had an enlightened beginning to my year. It's funny, I rarely get an opportunity to bird in my own patch. My work most often takes me to other areas in the Region and often outside it, so the time at home, when I could be birding, is often taken up by catching up on home life. However, this year I've made an extra effort to get out and about in the Morisset locality.

This period of looking for whatever I can locally has turned out to be more than a small revelation. Within no more than 5 km of my home, I've found myself driving down roads I've never heard of before, discovered wetlands and other habitats in the backyards of others I never knew about and I've been looking over sections of the nearby Watagans that I've never explored before, where it's been great getting reacquainted with its vegetation communities and discovering habitats for birds in nooks that until recently I didn't know about. Best of all though, I've found a welcomed renewal to my child-like enthusiasm for the discovery of birds again right here in my own backyard.

The post summer period, through which we've just been birding, has its challenges for even the local patch birder.

During late summer and early autumn many species are going through their pre-basic moult, where they have to renew their basic plumage after the damage caused by the rigours and stresses of their various breeding seasons. During this time many birds go very quiet and their presence can be very difficult to detect. Sometimes we're tempted to think these species have moved away from our area already, particularly the normally boisterous species, like Fan-tailed Cuckoos, Reed Warblers, Cisticolas and Grassbirds, and their apparent silence can make for a very slow start to the birding year.

Striated Pardalotes were completely absent everywhere until I finally happened upon their autumn seasonal preferences for habitat fairly recently. It will be interesting to see how the year progresses in the lives of my locals and how many other secrets are waiting to reveal themselves. I'm sure the anticipation of new local discoveries will have me out early on cold mornings in May, with the Swamp Mahogany, and cool winter nights as the forest owls start thinking about family matters, may their discovery find you out and about as well.

Allan Richardson

New Members

The Club extends a warm welcome to:

Brian Jackson of North Lambton
Maree McCarthy of Highfields
Kate McKay of Medowie

Robert Palazzi of Blackalls Park
Wez Saunders of Georgetown
Isaac Steel of Mayfield

We hope to see you at club meetings and outings.

Health and Safety Awareness for Activities

When attending field outings, ensure you are wearing appropriate clothing, including wet weather gear in inclement weather, and suitable footwear. It is advisable to bring a hat, sunscreen, insect repellent and to carry water.

Please sign the attendance register at field outings and also at meetings.

If you leave an outing early, please let the leader know before you go.

Participants attend at their own risk and should refrain from any behaviour that might put themselves or others at risk. That includes assessing whether they have the level of fitness required for the advertised outing. If in doubt, contact the leader beforehand.

Celebration Time



You're invited to celebrate
HBOC's 40th birthday
12.30pm on Sunday 22 May 2016 at the Hunter Wetlands Centre, Shortland



Only \$10.00 per head (payable on the day)
RSVP by Wednesday 11 May to Ann Lindsey on 4951 2008 or ann.lindsey@bigpond.com
Please state the numbers attending and if you have any specific dietary requirements ie vegetarian
NOTE: Drinks are not included in the above cost. HWC has a licensed bar.

Seniors Week at Hunter Wetlands Centre

On a very hot day several members of HBOC came to the Wetlands Centre to help with showing people the wonderful birdlife from the downstairs deck. Dusky Moorhens were building a nest close by, Magpie Geese, Black Duck, Chestnut Teal were all fast asleep while Eurasian Coot and Royal Spoonbills fussed around feeding in the shallows. Andrzej spotted what was no doubt the highlight of the day, a Little Wattlebird feeding a young Koel which was perched in the tree on Gilligans Island. In turn the Little Wattlebird was chased by a Spangled Drongo but it did eventually return to "its" overgrown young. Thanks to Andrzej, Lyn, Judy and Max for spending a very pleasant morning.



Max, looking highly official with birding slacks, hat and scope

Ann Lindsey

Club Activity Reports

Tahlee, Port Stephens

1 March 2016

On a bright and sunny first day of Autumn, twenty of us visited the Tahlee Ministries site on the northern side of Port Stephens. This is a private property with extensive woodlands as well as a shoreline suitable for waders. This was the first visit to this area as an official outing by the club and was organised by Alan Stuart and Stuart Fleming.



The "not-so-common" Common Sandpiper

We set off along the Blue Track and were soon seeing and hearing many bush birds such as honeyeaters high in the trees. After some difficulty we all also saw a juvenile Dollarbird. The keenest of us then climbed a hill in search of the Bee-eaters Alan and Ann had seen the previous week. They unfortunately were not to be found but a couple of Wonga Pigeons made their appearance. On emerging from the woodlands we had good view of five Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos.

The staff at Tahlee had very kindly invited us to morning tea and those of us who attended were greeted with a sumptuous spread in a very impressive room with marble fireplaces. The AA Company had established headquarters here in 1826 and there are some interesting buildings on the site. There were several other groups of people present and they outlined their purpose in being there. Alan spoke about our outing and invited anyone interested to join us after morning tea. We were delighted to be joined by several of the young people from Korea who showed a great interest in what we were looking at.

And what we looking at and for? Alan and Ann had seen a Bush Stone- Curlew on their previous visit and this was

our primary objective. Thanks to very careful searching by Alan we finally located this bird and everyone got a good look at it. Waders were also present on the waterfront, including a Common Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwits, an Eastern Curlew and Grey-tailed Tattlers. A Greenshank was seen flying past.

A total of 66 species were seen and/or heard and we were pleased to find that we had added two more species to the list of over 120 birds seen on the property in the 12 months since Stuart Fleming started surveying at Tahlee. Our thanks to Alan Stuart for organising this outing and to the staff at Tahlee for being so welcoming.

Margaret Clarke

Ash Island & Stockton Sandspit

20 March 2016

It was a good thing we started at 7am although it was a bit nippy. However, within an hour things had warmed up and we had shed our jackets.

At Stockton Sandspit the Godwits, Golden Plovers and Eastern Curlew were waiting for us on the lagoon. However, not even one hour later a Hobby arrived, the birds flew up and away not to be seen again. We would have missed them if we had been later.

After some good birding at the Sandspit, Fern Bay rocks and the wreck we went to Ash Island. The birds produced on Wagtail Way with many hundred Grey Teal and Chestnut Teal.

A good count of Black-tailed Godwits was a nice surprise and the Avocet numbers on Ash Island outnumbered the count at the Sandspit – all we recorded there was just one.

We had a good day with 63 species, including six raptors. Thanks to the eight birders who were happy to come birding with me.

Lorna Mee

Easter Camp, Munghorn Gap NR

25 to 28 March 2016

This camp saw 33 HBOC members and 4 bird banders camp together at Honeyeater Flat, with a total of 102 species identified.



Never a happier band of rambling ladies have I seen!

Having the banders there at the same time gave us an opportunity to learn how they band and what they record, plus have a closer look at some of the common bird species of the area. Many of us were allowed to hold a bird to release it, including young Dominic who observed that the Eastern Spinebill has a very long tongue for eating nectar. Dominic also held and released a Speckled Warbler, which he happily tells anyone who will listen.



The magical interaction between children and nature!

Another highlight was the drip in the picnic area, down the road from the entry to Honeyeater Flat. The water brought White-eared Honeyeaters, Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters, White-naped Honeyeaters, Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, Eastern Spinebill and Crested Shrike-tits. I had the pleasure of seeing an adult Crested Shrike-tit feeding a juvenile in addition to constant bathing and fluttering of the honeyeaters and a lyrebird could be heard calling as we sat and watched.

Most of the interesting bird sightings occurred along Moolarben Road – species such Diamond Firetail, Speckled Warbler, Double Barred Finch and many types of Woodswallows were consistently being counted at our evening bird calls. The campsite itself was fairly quiet except for some Sulphur-Crested Cockatoos, White-Winged Choughs and the night birds. I was pleased to hear both a Boobook Owl and a Powerful Owl calling at the same time, so I was able to compare them.

Thank you to everyone who came along, we look forward to seeing you again soon.

Micaela McDonald

Lake Cargelligo Tag-along

28 March to 2 April 2016

Following a very successful Easter camp at Munghorn, four of us (Graeme, Barbara, Helen and I) continued on the long road to Lake Cargelligo. Unfortunately, Robert, Micaela and Dom couldn't join us, but Robert filled us in on the spots to go! With three vehicles we made our own way through Parkes and Condobolin and established ourselves at the Lake Cargelligo Caravan Park on Monday night.

Tuesday saw us checking out the local hot spots, including a small dam just 5 kms south. Here we had our first Bluebonnets, as well as Grey-crowned Babblers, and a startled fox! Helen and I then drove out to Brewster Weir and added the normal Egrets, Darters, Cormorants and Pelicans to the list. We saw plenty of Kestrels and the occasional Brown Falcon while driving as well as Cockatiels, Little Corellas and Galahs in great numbers. At one point we had three types of Woodswallows on a fence line – Masked, Dusky and White-browed – so plenty of photos were called for.

The “poo ponds” were relatively quiet, but there were plenty of Grebes – both Hoary-headed and Australasian, a Black-tailed Native-hen, Red-capped Plover, 20+ Pink-eared Ducks, and three Australasian Shovelers. My personal favourite was the small family of White-winged Fairy-wrens that kept flying away from me, only allowing fleeting glimpses!

Early Wednesday morning saw Graeme pick us up and we headed out to Round Hill and the mallee country. Our first stop almost became the only one we needed, as we were overwhelmed with the number of birds that were making use of the small waterhole beside the railway line. As we pulled up, I called a striped

Club Activity Reports

honeyeater in the closest bush, and by the time we had wound down the windows and picked up our bins the 'invasion' had begun. At one stage we guessed there might have been at least 50-60 birds flying in and out in rapid succession, and it continued for almost an hour! It was impossible to know where to look and they didn't stay still for long, flitting down to the water for brief sips and scattering each time another bird flew in or over! We had about 14 species, including 10 Honeyeaters – Pied, White-fronted, Spiny-cheeked, White-eared, Yellow-plumed, Grey-fronted, Brown-headed, Singing, White-plumed and the cacophony of sound was amazing! We couldn't wipe the grins off our faces!



Stakeout at the waterhole

When we finally dragged ourselves away we continued up to the old wheat paddock where we found two Chestnut Quail-thrush and brief views of what I think was a female Splendid Fairy-wren. Unfortunately, we couldn't find any males to help with ID. At Whoey Tank we had Red-capped Robins and Southern Whitefaces, as well as a Spotted Bowerbird, but it was fairly hot by this stage so not much action. Unfortunately, we had no luck with the Whistlers, except for a Rufous, so Graeme missed out on any new birds, but Helen and I both collected quite a few over the day.

Thursday saw Graeme and Barbara leaving town, but Helen and I decided to stake out the waterhole again and spent another two hours taking in the variety of birdlife. It wasn't as busy (we were a little later) but still amazing, so we did a sunset session as well! This time we also had goats and a kangaroo come down, as well as three Common Bronzewing who took turns to drink and stand guard. It was fascinating to watch each species interact (or not) and see their different approaches to drinking.

Helen and I headed back home via Forbes and spent a lovely lunch break at Gum Swamp Reserve, just 3kms south of Forbes. With at least 22 species there, my pick was the pair of Blue-billed Ducks and great views of breeding plumage on three Yellow-billed Spoonbills. We overnighted at Lake Burrendong with Little and Musk Lorikeets having a feeding frenzy in blossoming Mugga

Ironbark. The Arboretum is worth visiting, we spent over three hours there investigating tracks and plants.

This concluded a highly successful week birding with good company and around 95 species. It is well worth jumping in the car and heading west for many hours... go on, do it!

Eula McKane

“The Old Brush”, Brunkerville

5 April 2016

Old Brush, a private property which is open to the public, welcomed 22 HBOC members plus 2 visitors on this glorious autumn day. The group saw 58 species and heard five more species. The highlight for me was seeing five Bassian Thrush feeding on the grassed area to the left of the entrance to the Old Brush property. They were there when the group walked through the area mid-morning and were still there four hours later. They seemed not to be disturbed at all by our presence.

The morning walk around a dry bush area then to the main house, through the flat damp-forested areas and around the 'lagoon' produced most of the expected species for this location plus a few welcome surprises. We saw Topknot Pigeon (a fly-over of ten), Eastern Yellow Robin, Satin Bowerbird (and a bower), Rufous Fantail, Whipbird, Brown and Striated Thornbills, White-throated Treecreeper, Spotted and Striated Pardalotes, Scarlet Honeyeater, Brush Turkey, Bar-shouldered Dove, Yellow-throated Scrubwren, Grey Shrike Thrush and Leaden Flycatcher. Only one person saw the resident Azure Kingfisher at the 'lagoon' but there were two occupied Dusky Moorehen nests to be seen.

After morning tea, the group became widely dispersed. There are many tracks to explore and people chose their track according to degree of difficulty, and in some cases a 'target' bird species. Notable species seen before lunch were Golden Whistler, Wonga Pigeon, Brown Cuckoo-Dove and White-headed Pigeon. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Shining Bronze-Cuckoo and a Noisy Pitta were heard but not seen.

The sole raptor for the day was a Wedge-tailed Eagle, seen roosting in a smallish eucalypt at the very start of Liebert's Lane. A single White-necked Heron was also seen in a paddock beside the entry road.

Rob McDonell

An Expansion of The Whistler Team

The HBOC Management Committee has welcomed with pleasure a proposal that Neil Fraser join the editorial team for HBOC's journal The Whistler. The two incumbent Editors, Harold Tarrant and Mike Newman, both live far away from the Hunter these days. As the new Assistant Editor, Neil will provide much needed local support. Neil will liaise as required with authors and with the production team (Liz Crawford and Rob Kyte) and will also keep an "ear to the ground" identifying potential articles and encouraging people to write them (and providing some mentoring for them if they request it). Also, Neil will gradually start to take some of the "editing" load off Harold and Mike. Neil can

be contacted at neil8fff@gmail.com or phone (02) 4981 0197.

Several articles have been received for the 2016 edition of The Whistler or are known to be in the pipeline. However, there currently is room for more material. In particular, Short Notes about an interesting aspect of bird behaviour are always very welcome. These are relatively easy to write (and to read), so please bear this in mind, and also note that any of the editors would be pleased to assist you if you're unsure about how to proceed.

Alan Stuart

Future Club Activities

ANZAC Day Camp

23 to 25 April 2016

This year's ANZAC Day Camp is to Bulga, on the eastern edge of Wollemi National Park. The cost is \$2 per person (NB our camps are for HBOC members having current financial standing, however you can join the club or renew your membership at the camp). The Street address is 305 Inlet Road, Bulga.

After following the Putty road to Bulga:

From the South – take the first left once you enter Bulga, onto Inlet Road. If the road bends right and you get to the bridge, you've gone too far.

From the North – once you enter Bulga, take the second right, onto Inlet Road. If you leave Bulga then you've gone too far.

On Inlet Road after approximately 3.2km the road will bend sharply to the right, do not turn, go straight ahead into the driveway of 305. Follow the HBOC signs to the campsite.

Any questions, call me on 0408 877 827

Robert McDonald

HBOC Brunch

9 to 10 April 2016

HBOC is trialling a new monthly activity. We call it HBOC Brunch. Each month, except December and January, members and their friends meet on a Wednesday morning from 10am till 11am at a different bird-friendly place for morning tea or coffee and conversation. You will need binoculars, folding chair, drink and eats. There is no walk involved, although anyone who wants to can do their own walk earlier or later. The brunch is for those who don't want to walk, but do want to meet friends for a morning activity and chat, or who like a break after shopping or dropping off the kids. There will be a bird list, but only for the time and area of Brunch. It will be interesting to see what it turns up in the way of bird-life.

On 16 March six hardy members huddled under a shelter at Blackbutt in steady rain for our first brunch. Even so we enjoyed our chat and morning tea and still managed to spot about five species before declaring the day a washout. However, we all agreed the concept was a good one with plenty of bird talk, and finer weather would draw more people. So on Wednesday 20 April we will gather again at the Carnley Avenue entrance to Blackbutt Reserve at 10 am. Then on Wednesday 18 May

we will meet at the southern car park at Croudace Bay Park.

Each brunch chooses the next, depending on suggestions. If you miss one, the next is to be found

from friends, or contact me on 4962 1793 or 0425 300 389 for details.

Max Blanch

Court Win for the Critically Endangered Regent Honeyeater

In a desperately needed win for the Critically Endangered Regent Honeyeater, the NSW Land and Environment Court recently found in favour of a challenge to the approval of a development which would have destroyed habitat in the Hunter Economic Zone (HEZ) – a site well-known as being of vital importance to Regent Honeyeaters. In the decision, it was recognised that the Regent Honeyeater is in “grave peril” and that Cessnock City Council acted improperly in approving a Development Application for a steel fabrication facility.

The approval by Council ignored advice from its own ecologist that a Species Impact Statement (SIS) should have been carried out to properly assess the impacts of clearing for the development on Regent Honeyeaters. The consultant report for the development also ignored the importance of HEZ to Regent Honeyeaters, even claiming that no nesting records exist from the HEZ and that the area is visited irregularly. The HEZ is in fact, one of the most important single sites anywhere for the Regent Honeyeater, which may number as few as 350-400 birds in the wild.



Regent Honeyeater during HEZ breeding event, by Andrew Zoneff

Friends of Tumblebee, represented by community legal centre EDO NSW, claimed that an SIS should have been prepared. The Court agreed, concluding that in the

absence of an SIS, the approval issued by Council was invalid. The Court added: “Preservation of this area is therefore of vital importance to the long term survival of the species. Habitat destruction is a primary reason for its imperilled status.”

HBOC is well aware of the significance of the HEZ for Regent Honeyeaters. In 2007/08 one of the most significant known Regent Honeyeater breeding events of the last decade (approximately 20 nests and up to 100 individuals) was recorded within the HEZ. Regent Honeyeater Recovery Coordinator, Dean Ingwersen said “the Lower Hunter Valley is one of only four known core areas for Regent Honeyeaters and the HEZ site is possibly the most important part of these lowland forests for the species. Further to the breeding event in 2007/08, this site has been one of the most consistently used in NSW in the past decade and is likely to be an important refuge under drying climatic conditions in the future.”

The HEZ is situated on one of the largest wooded remnants in the Hunter Valley and was rezoned for industrial purposes by the NSW Government in March 2002 after minimal ecological investigations. Since rezoning occurred, numerous ecological studies have shown that the HEZ contains a remarkably large range of threatened flora, fauna and ecological communities, including some species of Eucalypts yet described by science. As well as being one of the most important sites for Regent Honeyeaters, it has been referred to as one of the most important mainland sites for another nationally threatened bird species; the Swift Parrot.

Importantly, the court decision also demonstrates that cumulative impacts of smaller proposals within larger “staged” developments need to be properly considered by consent authorities.

Mick Roderick
HBOC Conservation Officer

Hanging around with the Lost and Found

An injured Little Bittern was brought into care in March and was looked after by Mark Simpson at the Sugarloaf Animal Hospital. The bird was found in a suburban backyard in Cameron Park and had sprains rather than broken bones.

The bird seemed to take to its temporary captivity like a duck to water. It was relatively calm and not panicky as the Black Bittern typically are in such circumstances. It was provided with a relatively large enclosure containing reeds and branches. He ate well, being fed whitebait (soaked for an hour to try and lower the salt content), pinkies, cockroaches, and crickets fortified with multivitamins and calcium powder. Once every couple of days soaked cat food too, fed in small amounts. The total daily food intake was about 55g, and his body weight rapidly rose from an initial 72g.



A perspective on the small stature and downy head (photo M.S.)

Published weights for adult birds is 70-120g and some down was still clearly visible on the crown, so it would

appear that the bird had just fledged when brought into care. It's a very interesting record because we don't have any confirmed breeding records for this species in the Hunter. In fact, it hasn't been recorded anywhere since 2012 (it is a Category 3 species for the region).



Look into my eyes! (photo M.S.)

The bird was eventually released back to the wild in Pambalong Nature Reserve, which is not too far from the from where it was discovered and has an abundance of suitable habitat for him to find his feet again back in the big wide world. Here's hoping he makes a full recovery.

A Noisy Pitta was also taken into care recently, after being found at the John Hunter Hospital. It was taken to Joy Nicholls' where it was fed on earthworms, beetles and slugs. She released it in Blackbutt Reserve after colour banding it – adding to the steadily growing number of individuals that she has caught and banded in the Reserve, which has become a regular site for them in recent years. Fingers crossed for this bird too!

Dan Williams

Recent Observations

Hunterbirding is an email group set up by HBOC that is run through the Yahoo Groups. It is a great way to keep in touch with the latest goings-on in Hunter Region birding. Members are able to report sightings, post questions to the group and get involved with group discussions on bird related issues. If you are interested in joining the group then the easiest way is to send an email to hunterbirding-subscribe@yahogroups.com.au. You can choose either to receive individual emails or a single daily digest. Alternatively, email me at scythrops@yahoo.com.au and I'll sort it out for you – what could be easier?! In addition to being a forum for interesting discussions on issues such as bird identification and behaviour it is also a great place to report your observations. Some of the Hunterbirding observation highlights from the last couple of months include:

- Two Greater Sand Plovers photographed at Stockton Sandspit on 9th February, present until at least 14th;
- The Oriental Cuckoo at Walka Water Works still present on 15th February;
- Plum-headed Finches and 10+ Varied Sittellas seen along Jones Reserve Road on 21st February;
- Black-eared Cuckoo and Red-winged Parrot reported at Giants Creek Road on 24th February;
- Emu, Hooded Robin and Red-winged Parrot seen on Wollar Road, Goulburn River NP on 24th February;
- Three Freckled Duck, 57 Pink-eared Duck and a Wandering Whistling Duck at Morpeth WWTW on 25th February;
- c.30 Fork-tailed Swifts seen flying north over Wallis Lake on 26th February;
- Plum-headed Finch and Hooded Robin at Giants Creek Road on 28th February;
- Plum-headed Finch and Singing Honeyeater recorded near Ulan on 9th March;
- A pair of Logrunner seen near Mandalong on 12th March;
- A Red Wattlebird observed feeding a young Koel at Swansea on 15th March;
- An Australasian Bittern seen at Hexham Swamp on 16th March;
- Four adults and a juvenile Black-necked Stork seen at Hexham Swamp on 19th March;
- A juvenile Channel-billed Cuckoo seen at Lambton on 28th March; and
- A juvenile Pacific Gull was photographed at Newcastle Beach on 1st April.

Bird records are obtained by the club through a variety of means, In addition to bird records communicated via Hunterbirding others are received through the BA atlas database, club outing sighting sheets, the club night observations forum and direct communications with the record officers. Of particular interest to the club are those records of regional significance, including sightings of the more unusual species, observations of breeding activity, early and late records of migratory birds and significantly large counts. A selection of records of this nature reported at the club nights and through direct communications is provided below. Unfortunately, space limitations do not enable all of the records to be reproduced here. However, the club is appreciative of all records that are received and all contributors are acknowledged in the Annual Bird Report.

Species	Number	Date	Location	Observer
Blue-billed Duck	2	10/02/2016	Walka Water Works	L. Mee
Brown Quail	breeding	Feb 2016	Broughton Island	J. Pettifer
Buff-banded Rail	1	29/02/2016	Redhead	D. Raine
Common Blackbird	breeding	Feb 2016	Walka Water Works	S. Hamonet
Gang-gang Cockatoo	2	5/02/2016	Watagans NP	T. Kendall
Latham's Snipe	5	Feb 2016	Irrawang Swamp	L. Mee
Oriental Cuckoo	1	10/02/2016	Walka Water Works	R. Kyte
Rainbow Bee-eater	1	5/03/2016	Paterson	T. Kendall
Southern Whiteface	2	25/02/2016	Durrigere Road	B. Watts
Square-tailed Kite	1	Feb 2016	Shortland	A. Lindsey

Club Activities April to June 2016

DATE	EVENT	MEETING PLACE & TIME	CONTACT
APRIL 2016			
Sunday 17 April	Field Outing – Belmont Lagoon	8.00am Belmont South lakeside car-park (near the traffic lights)	Grahame Feletti 4945 5608
Sunday 17 April	Estuary Family Festival	Ash Island 10am-3pm	Margaret Stewart 4963 2029
Mon – Wed 18 – 20 April	Broughton Island land bird surveys	8:00am Nelson Bay NPWS wharf	Alan Stuart 0409 978 171 (it's booked out)
Tuesday 19 April	Tomago Wetland Survey	7.30am Entry to Tomago House	Neville McNaughton 4951 1265 Please ring to confirm
Wednesday 20 April	The HBOC Brunch	10:00am Blackbutt Reserve Carnley Ave entry	Max Blanch 0425 300 389
Sat – Mon 23 – 25 April	Anzac Day w/e camp	Bulga. See Newsletter for details.	Robert McDonald 0408 877 827
Fri – Sun 29 Apr – 1 May	Total Field Days	Volunteers to be organised	Alan Stuart 0409 978 171
MAY 2016			
Tuesday 3 May	Mid-week Outing – Butterwick / Green Wattle Creek	8.00am Seaham Swamp (cnr of East Seaham and Seaham Rds)	Margaret Stewart 4963 2029 / 0401 283 305
Wednesday 4 May	Management Committee Meeting	6.30pm – 9.30pm Garden Suburbs School	Allan Richardson 0459 806 176 All members welcome
Wednesday 11 May	Club Meeting	7.30pm The Wetlands Centre, Shortland	Special meeting commemorating 40 years of HBOC
Sat – Sun 14 – 15 May	Regent Honeyeater/ Swift Parrot searches	Various locations as desired or directed	Mick Roderick 0421 761 237 mick.roderick@birdlife.org.au Or Steve Roderick 0409 452 921 Please contact for information
Sunday 15 May	Field Outing – Tomalpin Woodlands	7.00am Kurri Kurri McDonalds	Steve Roderick 0409 452921
Tuesday 17 May	Tomago Wetland Survey	7.30am Entry to Tomago House	Neville McNaughton 4951 1265 Please ring to confirm
Wednesday 18 May	The HBOC Brunch	10:00am Croudace Bay Park Southern carpark	Max Blanch 0425 300 389
Saturday 21 May	Hunter Wader Survey	7.30 am Ash Island 8:00 am Other locations as directed	Alan Stuart 0409 978 171 – Ash Island Dan Williams 0408 023 262 – Kooragang Jack Adams 4971 5334 – Swansea Jenny Powers 4944 7274 – Stockton Sue Hamonet 4958 1023 – Swan Bay Steven Cox 0409 848 390 – Tomago Ann Lindsey 4951 2008 - Hexham
Sunday 22 May	Special Celebration Lunch to mark 40th anniversary of HBOC	~12.30pm The Wetlands Centre	BBQ Buffet. For financial members only. For bookings: Ann Lindsey 4951 2008.
JUNE 2016			
Wednesday 1 June	Management Committee Meeting	6.30pm – 9.30pm Garden Suburbs School	Allan Richardson 0459 806 176 All members welcome
Tuesday 7 June	Mid-Week Outing – Hunter Region Botanic Gardens	8.00 am Car Park, Botanic Gardens	Marg Clarke 4933 2981 / 0412 616 030
Wednesday 8 June	Club Meeting	7.30pm The Wetlands Centre, Shortland	Guest Speaker: Alan Stuart “Birds of the Gloucester Tops”