



Hunter Bird Observers Club

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

Issue 4 May 2026



Club Aims

To encourage and further the study and conservation of Australian birds and their habitat, and

To educate members and the public, encouraging an interest in Australian birds and their habitat



HBOC Turns 50

Over 150 guests gathered at Newcastle City Hall on 6 May to celebrate 50 years of the Hunter Bird Observers Club. MC for the evening was Chris Bath, prominent journalist and self-declared “bird nerd”. After a welcome to country, she introduced our president, Louise Williams, and then deputy lord mayor of Newcastle, Charlotte McCabe, who each gave short speeches. After both the entrée and mains had been served, Chris conducted a forum with eight life members, who discussed the founding of the club, its aims and objectives and where its future lay. Louise and founding president, Fred van Gesell, then cut a celebration cake, which was distributed as dessert.

During the evening, we were entertained by two brackets from Steel City Sue, and a slide show of HBOC activities compiled by Lene Parashou was projected onto the big screen. Drew Garnett conducted a very successful art auction of a painting of Australian Golden Whistlers, the club emblem, by Helen Ruma. Chris Bath concluded the evening with a vote of thanks to the organising team led by Shaun Pollington.

More details and more photographs by Stephenie Owen will appear in the June eNews.



HBOC Happenings

For upcoming club activities, including the year's calendar of outings and camps and New Members:

[Click here](#)

Club Activities

For Reports on the Easter camp and field outings:

[Click here](#)



Articles

For a copy of HBOC's second newsletter

[Click here](#)

Observations

Your observations for April 2026

[Click here](#)

A copy of this newsletter is also available online:
<https://www.hboc.org.au/publications/newsletters/>
Next edition June 2026; deadline 28 May 2026

Happy birding!



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