



Hunter Bird Observers Club

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc
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ABN 62 415 889 446

E-news

No. 5/August 2020

The Club Aims: To encourage and further the study and conservation of Australian birds and their habitat, and to encourage bird observing as a leisure-time activity.

Next edition: September 2020, deadline: 2 September; send contributions to newsletter@hboc.org.au

Past Newsletters on Web Page

The HBOC website now carries scanned copies of all the HBOC newsletters from 1978 to 2020. This remarkable achievement was the brainchild of Ann Lindsey and Sue Hamonet, one of the original members of HBOC.

Sue Palazzi (not even a birder herself - but a long-suffering spouse of one!), volunteered to scan all the old newsletters that Sue Hamonet had collected and preserved over the years.

She finally completed the digital copies recently and they have now been added to the website. Many thanks to Sue Hamonet, Ann Lindsey, Sue Palazzi and Steve Merrett for a great job done.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read our very first newsletter or [CLICK HERE](#) to see all newsletters dating back to 1978. This is a truly wonderful resource for the Club. Thanks Sue H and Sue P!

Photography Badges up and running again

Gary Tong is the first recipient of a 250 badge in the revamped photography badge program. Gary commented "*The last 3 photos taken were Long-billed Corella at Tenambit (I couldn't make it to the recent mid-week outing but went the following week and found the bird in its hollow), Crimson Rosella at Blackbutt and Black Bittern at Morisset.*"



Black Bittern by Gary Tong

For details of HBOC Membership Badges and how to apply [CLICK HERE](#)

New Members

Shelly, Mia, Misha, Dawn & Zara Zvingulis, Stroud	Family
Stephanie Owen, Tarro	Single
Brian & Julie Eda Jackson, Raymond Terrace	Family
Robert, Judith & Pamela Spargo, Kahibah	Family
Mollie Lennon, Mt Vincent	Student
Andre Joannis, Redhead	Single
Colin James & Nerida Lithgow, The Hill	Family
Jon Spicer-Bell, Wallsend	Single
Leanne & Roland Payne, Newcastle	Family

Welcome. We look forward to seeing you at meetings and outings.

Upcoming Activities

Wed 12 Aug. **Club meeting by Zoom.** For instructions on using Zoom go to [HBOC web site](#) The guest speaker will be Jacqueline Nguyen, an avian palaeontologist at the Australian Museum. Her talk will be fascinating telling us about the evolution of fossil and modern birds. Don't miss it!

Sun 16 Aug. Green Wattle Creek. Meet 7.30am at John Tucker Park, Paterson. NB There is a toilet at Paterson but not at Green Wattle Creek.

Contact [Marg Clarke 0412 616030](#)

October long weekend camp is planned for Fossickers in Goulburn River National Park. Pre-registration will be required. Further details to come.

In these uncertain times it is important that you check the Activities page on HBOC web site for Up-to-date information, [CLICK HERE](#). Last minute changes may be notified on hunterbirding.

July Club Night Report

We were treated to an informative and well-organised main talk by Judy and Greg Little on Bird Banding in the Hunter [READ MORE](#)

Morpeth and Earthcare Park Field Outing Report

The first Tuesday outing to be held since the Corona restrictions were relaxed was held on 7 July in the Maitland area. [READ MORE](#)

New Members Day Report

Seventeen established members were there to greet nearly as many (14) new members for our New Members' Day on 19 July at the Hunter Wetlands Centre. [READ MORE](#)

Save Walka Water Works as a Wildlife Reserve

Maitland City Council has developed a Draft Destination management Plan that, if implemented, would seriously compromise Walka Water Works as a birding site. To prevent this, send an email to yoursay@maitland.gov.au before 12 August asking that Walka Water Works be preserved as a wildlife reserve. To see HBOC's submission [CLICK HERE](#)

Mangrove Clearing at Curlew Point

Bob McDonald gives an account of mangrove clearing accompanied by some photographs that graphically illustrate the changes. [READ MORE](#)

A Note from the President

Neil Fraser has submitted these notes as President. Since then Neil has relinquished the position. We wish him well in his continuing endeavours for the club. [Read More](#)

In Search of the Variegated Fairy-wren

As our Bird of the Evening on the July club night Peter Weinstock told us about his search for the Variegated Fairy-wren. [READ MORE](#)

My Favourite Bird

John Connors gives his answer to the question What is your favourite bird? You might like to give your own answer. [READ MORE](#)

Explore your Local Wetlands: 4

Many members have been doing regular surveys of small local wetlands over many years. This month we feature Gillieston Heights wetlands. [READ MORE](#)

Education Notes

This is the third in a series of reports on some ongoing club activities. This month it is Birdwatching and Education. We hope you find time to read some of these articles to get a better idea of the variety of activities that go on behind the scenes in our club.

An Education Role for HBOC

Hunter Bird Observers Club includes an education role within its activities:

To provide and to support educational opportunities for members of the Club and the public to observe birds and to participate in birdwatching and bird conservation activities. To read more about how HBOC provides educational opportunities [CLICK HERE](#)

Working with Gresford Public School to protect critically endangered birds.

The students at Gresford Public School undertook a whole-of-school module focusing on threatened species. The students reflected on the global problem of threatened species and how they could act at a local level to protect wildlife. [READ MORE](#)

Regent Honeyeater Captive Release Update 4

Most of us are aware that captive Regent Honeyeaters were released in the Hunter Valley. To read of an update on their progress [CLICK HERE](#)

External Links

Another Local Hero

Ann Lindsey has been nominated as a Local Hero. Read the full Newcastle Herald article:

<https://www.newcastleherald.com.au/story/6837781/ann-proud-to-be-a-voice-for-bird-habitats/?cs=12>

Invisible Connections Bowerbird Collective Concert

Many members enjoyed the concert last year by musicians Simone Slattery (violin) and Anthony Albrecht (cello). Now In celebration of World Migratory Bird Day, May 9 2020, join them for a concert experience like no other: a musical and visual journey from the continental shores and archipelagos of Australasia to the tundra of Siberia and Alaska,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDotxnJ7bBI>

Your Observations

Some recent Observations

[CLICKHERE](#)