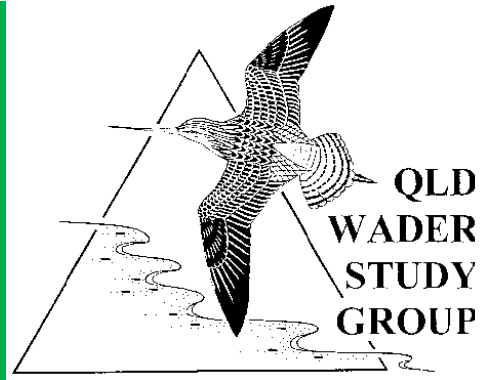


QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue 111

March, April, May 2020

Newsletter of the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG), a special interest group of
Queensland Ornithological Society Incorporated. www.waders.org.au
<https://www.facebook.com/QueenslandWaderStudyGroup/>

Chairperson Report to QWSG Annual General Meeting

15th December 2019

I am pleased to present this report as Chairperson of the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG), on behalf of the 2019 QWSG Management Committee. As with so many past reports I start by commenting as to how busy this year has been. The report will highlight some of the achievements and activities of the QWSG over the last 12 months as we continue to promote the protection of wader habitats under threat, and promote the scientific study and conservation of all waders.

One big change in the year was Rachel Harding's standing down as QWSG Treasurer. Due to business and family commitments the extra work of QWSG Secretary was becoming overbearing. We thank Rachel for her time with QWSG.

Luckily we found that Judith Giles, the Treasurer of Birds Queensland (BQ), was willing to take on the extra role of QWSG Treasurer. Judith not only brought her expertise from the BQ position but also Wayne Locke. Judith and Wayne have proved to be a tremendous asset to the finances of QWSG, sorting out many large and small quirks found in MYOB, so that now we have a great system up and running.

Also we have Gordana Pozvek taking on the role of Membership Secretary. This position was once incorporated into the Treasurer's duties. Gordana has excelled in clearing the membership of old records and is well on the way to streamlining the role.

As a quick aside it is remarkable to think that these two roles were once done by Sheryl Keates on her own.

Our collaboration with the Port of Brisbane (PoB) has also continued this year with the count program continuing and the group continuing to analyse data and provide annual updates and a report for the Port on their shorebird populations. We have also undertaken banding expeditions at the Port. We thank them for their continued interest in waders and their support in so many forms. It is also exciting to see the PoB experimenting with the use of floating roost sites within the Port, we look forwards to seeing how this project turns out.

The newsletter, Queensland Wader, has been presented every quarter with the vast majority of the editions now being sent out as an electronic version. Weight restrictions means that the print version is limited to 18 sides which means that it cannot present some content, whilst the electronic copy is virtually unlimited. So if you still receive the Newsletter in print form consider the electronic version. Once again many thanks to all contributors, a special thanks to Linda and Phil Cross, who produce content for the Newsletter each quarter and to Arthur Keates for all his articles on flag sightings,

Some of the key activities in 2019, in no particular order of priority are highlighted below:

EDUCATION

As always a number of wader ID days were held in 2019 with Sheryl and Arthur Keates, Phil and Linda Cross doing the lion's share of the work and coordination at these events. These days are always popular and give an opportunity for not only the education side of the group but also as a meet and greet component that is missing at many of our other activities.

The Facebook page is still a very popular addition to our education and information arsenal. Obviously some pages are a lot more popular than others, but when a page takes off it spreads in many directions seeing our work observed right around the world. A big thank you to Robert Bush's dedication in updating and monitoring the Facebook site, keeping a good balance to the items on offer without overloading it with too many posts. So now visit <https://www.facebook.com/QueenslandWaderStudyGroup/>.

Robert has finalised The School Children's Wader App in Android form. So, with the Apple edition this is a great way to get the younger generation interested in Waders and their habitats.

This along with Sheryl's work with the Moreton Bay Environmental Centre educating young school children about shorebirds is so exciting and to my mind is key to the future of shorebirds. Using tools like the app to engage with children, and reinforcing messaging through other interactions and events, we will hopefully start developing the next generation of shorebird ambassadors. To Sheryl and her helpers, congratulations on this valuable work.

THE COUNT PROGRAM

Linda Cross again tirelessly organised and managed the count programme in 2019 with monthly counts across a whole range of sites in Moreton Bay and further afield up and down the Queensland coast. Online data entry continues to make life easier in terms of data entry, validation and download and we are looking to improve the user experience further with changes to the online entry of flag sightings. Linda is always looking for new counters so if you know anyone or would like to count your own site please get in touch with her.

Thanks not only to Linda but to every one of our members who counts as without you, we would not have been able to contribute as much as we have to shorebird conservation and please don't underestimate the value of consistently counting a location over long periods of time. Our count program has been responsible for some very influential discussion on shorebird declines and has influenced opinion throughout the flyway as a result of this dataset and is held in the highest of esteem.

This year has seen other extensions of the Count Program by way of surveys.

In March two members were lucky enough to go to the eastern shores of the Gulf of Carpentaria. Leaving from Weipa they travelled by boat south to Karumba. The journey entailed visiting the Mitchell, Gilbert and Flinders Rivers to survey the lower reaches of these rivers and the adjacent foreshores. Many thanks to Michele Burford, of Griffith Uni, her fellow scientists and the crew of the 'Eclipse'.

Peter Driscoll took his plane up to Mornington Island to help with surveys around the island and adjacent areas. This survey, run by Roger Jaensch and the local rangers, is working to establish an awareness of the waders and their habitat. This is an ongoing project that QWSG hopes to help. Stay tuned for future developments.

This year we had our bi-annual visit to Mackay for the 3-day survey of the area. It is an interesting time to see the participants fan out north and south of Mackay to the many roost sites, then listen to their experiences on return. One fact I picked up on this year was the deterioration of the beaches after the cyclones. So not only are the waders hit by man's actions but have to content with Nature itself. Many thanks to Linda Cross and Peter Driscoll for their organisation of the event, particularly to Linda for the day to day marshalling of her troops.

FLAGGING

Many thanks to Phil Cross for his hard work in entering all the flag sightings that come in, not only that but also giving quarterly reports for the Newsletter. I am sure Phil quivers every time he hears Jon is heading out to do a cannon netting trip. Last year I mentioned that we are looking to improve the observer/user experience further with commitment to providing an online entry of flag sightings, this is still ongoing

BANDING AND GEOLOCATORS

We continued with banding fieldwork throughout the year targeting both migratory and non-migratory shorebirds around Moreton Bay. I thank Jon Coleman for his tireless efforts in preparing for the cannon- and mist-netting days, plus his entering of the resultant data.

I still feel that this sort of local tracking would be of prime importance to our full understanding of our waders, plus give a powerful tool in the protection of waders and their habitat in Moreton Bay.

MEETINGS ATTENDED BY QWSG

Migratory Species Conservation Action Plan – Canberra

We had a representative attend a meeting in Canberra this year in order to understand what is being done on the national level. There were representatives from all states and some non-governmental parties. Though the QWSG may not have any direct effect at such a meeting it was good to know that our work in the field is appreciated.

Yatsu Higata Naturalist Observation Centre's (YNOC) Visit

The QWSG joined with the Brisbane City Council (BCC) to visit (YNOC) this September. We were most lavishly entertained by the people of (YNOC) and the staff from Narashino City Council. To see the Centre at Yatsu is a real eye-opener and an inspiration of what can be achieved. However, it is sad to see that the number of waders visiting the wetland is decreasing and the amount of plastics on the water increasing. The enthusiasm and generosity of the people of Yatsu is amazing, and true friendships have been formed. I must remark on the wonderful Brisbane City Council staff that attended. They were a joy to be with and presented the City of Brisbane in the best light.

QNPS and BCC dog off leash

During the year we had meetings with the Brisbane City Council (BCC) and QNPS about the trialling of dog-off-leash areas on the foreshore. During these talks we felt that we were not being listened to and our expertise ignored. The Guidelines produced by QNPS were only that, guidelines, and that the BCC did not have to take any notice of them. We were not told of the trial areas, even after the release of their whereabouts.

We pointed out that there was some dispute over the legality of the trial, but our representations were either ignored or glossed over. In a letter from the Lord Mayor it was stated that the trial was for the shorebirds benefit. We pointed out that is the waders that are giving areas up, and at present, dogs should be on leash in nearly all areas of BCC, and there are laws against disturbing migratory waders. So by just enforcing these laws shorebirds would be protected. We also note that there is an online survey to gauge what people think of the trial. However, you can vote as often as you like and from wherever you like, not a rigorous survey.

We will be following up on the trial through the year. Many thanks to Sheryl and Arthur Keates for their involvement.

Healthy Land and Waters (HLW)

We have partnered with HLW to help formulate plans and actions for shorebirds in Greater Moreton Bay. We hope to see the grant that HLW has live up to its full potential.

Other unsung volunteers who don't always make the highlights are Peter Rothlisberg, who maintains our meeting minutes and has the unenviable task of making us all accountable for our actions. To Peter Driscoll who has taken on the Database and has to extract information for various inquiries. To Sandra Harding and Arthur Keates (who's not even a committee member) continue to help draft formal letters and provide advice in relation to legislation, both general and conservation, without whom we would all struggle to understand what is going on. Also a mention to Arthur of his hard work at maintaining the roost at Manly Boat Harbour, the weeds and Phragmites seem to be endless, but he is slowly winning.

Thank you to every single committee member and also those who undertake non-committee roles such as Flag co-ordinator Phil Cross and Linda Cross our Count Co-ordinator. Thank you also to Rae Clark and BQ for their collaboration throughout the year. We always underestimate the effort required to make a group like this run effectively.

I am sure I have missed someone in this roundup, so to everyone who has contributed to the group in many different ways thank you.

Finally, and most importantly, I have to say thank you to all QWSG members for your support and fieldwork over the last 12 months. Without you we achieve nothing, and I hope the 2019 report has shown you how important your support, your counts, and your involvement in everything to do with shorebirds really is.

So here is to a great year for you all, good wader watching.

David Edwards – Chairperson QWSG

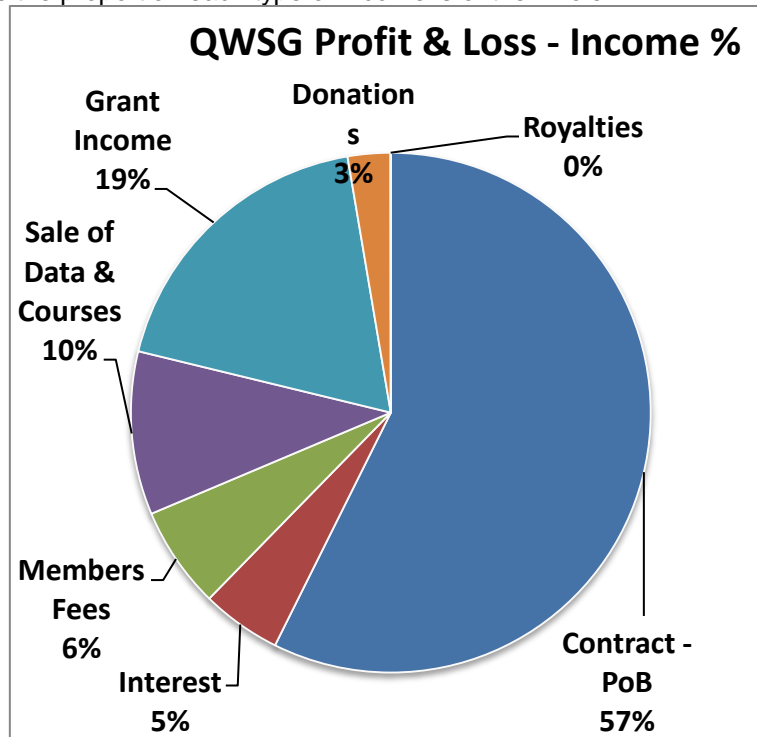
15th December 2019

QWSG TREASURER'S REPORT AGM DECEMBER 2019

It gives me great pleasure to present to you the annual financial statements and treasurer's report. For the first half of the year the accounts were managed by Rachelle Harding. Upon her resignation round about May, after discussion with Rae Clark and David Edwards I volunteered for the role of Treasurer and Wayne as assistant treasurer, the same roles we hold with BQ. There has been a bedding in process, largely related to the change from Cash accounting to Accrual accounting, which I think is largely completed now. Thanks to all who have helped with advice and practical assistance, Rachelle, Sheryl, David and Wayne.

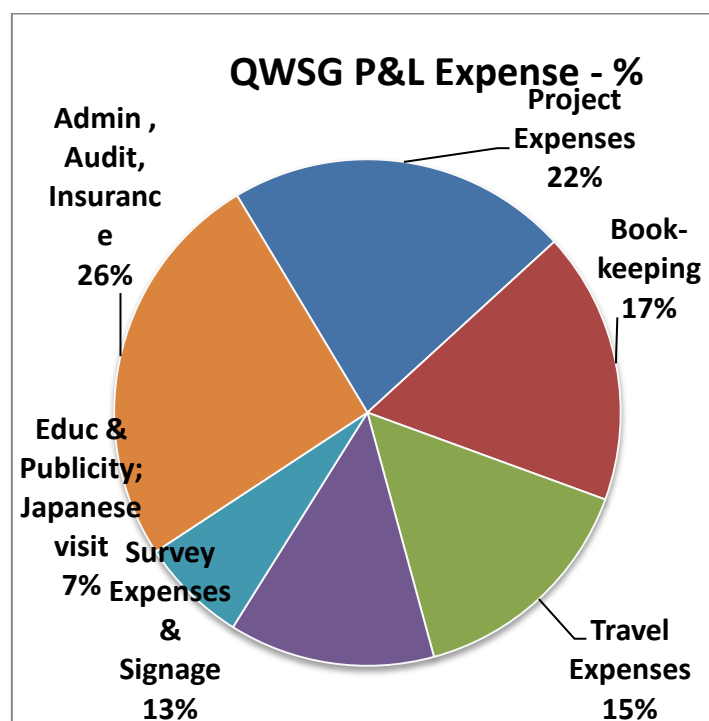
Total Income for the 2019 financial year was \$53,957 compared to \$37,945 in 2018. Much of the difference may be attributed to the fact that this includes almost 2 years of income from the Port of Brisbane contract. The grant of \$10,000 from the Port for the wader app was an audit adjustment bringing it into the current year's income. Other income was from the Wader Course, General Donations, The David Milton Fund, \$250 and Interest on all accounts \$2,677. Membership \$3,415 was slightly down on last year. Data was sold to BAAM and UQ (Healthy Land and Water) totalling \$3,500.

The Pie chart illustrates the proportion each type of income is of the whole.



EXPENSE

Total expense this year was \$28,724 which was significantly less than in 2018 when the Eastern Curlew trackers were purchased. Other major expenses were bookkeeping, Satellite transmitter expense, Travel expense, Audit fees, and Depreciation. Individual expense items may be seen on the P&L statement, but the breakup of the groups is shown in the pie chart below. This shows that majority of expenditure of the group is on the activities which are its mission. There are sufficient funds for both these activities and the administration of the group.



BALANCE SHEET

Our Total Assets are a healthy \$188,274, consisting mainly of cash, \$145,207 and Other assets (Debtors who have now paid early in the next financial year). The Plant and Equipment figure is greater than last year's figure as the auditor recommended the Wader app be capitalised, rather than being treated as an expense in one year. We have few liabilities, as all creditors are paid promptly.

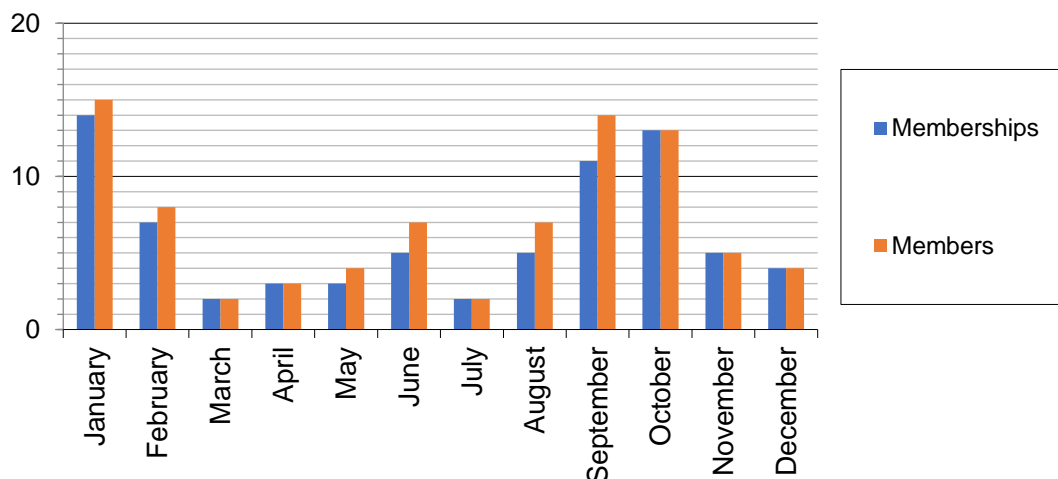
Net Profit for the year is added to the opening retained profits, giving Closing members funds of \$188,114. I refer you to the full auditor's report provided to QOSI and available on the BQ website. Contact me if you wish to receive a copy.

I move that this report be received. Judith Giles 15 December 2015

QWSG Monthly Memberships Summary

Month	Memberships	Members
January	14	15
February	7	8
March	2	2
April	3	3
May	3	4
June	5	7
July	2	2
August	5	7
September	11	14
October	13	13
November	5	5
December	4	4
TOTAL	74	84

2019 QWSG Memberships



- There is currently a total of 301 memberships and 337 members.
- There were 74 new memberships and 84 members added to 2019
- Archived 75 memberships, 83 members:
 - 18 memberships, 19 members - replied not renewing
 - 56 memberships, 63 members – no response to 3rd renewal email reminder
 - 1 membership died (sadly Clive Minton).

The QWSG Facebook membership drive post and “Welcome to Waders” event at GJ Walter Park, Cleveland in September resulted in an increase in memberships for this month which flowed on into October.

Count Coordinator's Report to Annual General Meeting

15 December 2019 Linda Cross

Overall, most sites in the count programme have been counted monthly, but unfortunately there have been quite a few sites that have not been fully covered during 2019. Kelvin and Amelia Nielsen have only conducted one count this year at their 2 sites in Tin Can Bay due to other commitments, but they are hopeful that they will be able to return to the count programme soon. Nev Capell and his team of counters have not been able to count Bundaberg Port since August because the company have filled in the site due to complaints from residents about the smell, which was probably due to the drying conditions the state is experiencing. This is most unfortunate as Bundaberg Port was a very productive site with many species of waders and other birds. No counts have been lodged for Wave Break Sand Island on the Gold Coast and Luggage Point has only been surveyed 5 times this year.

While there have not been any other problems within the count programme (other than mentioned above), I have been informed that Rob Mackenzie and Laurel Allsopp will cease counting 7 sites at Tweed Heads after the December count. They have struggled to get helpers do the counts and are finding it difficult to continue to do them on their own. I have tried to get them to consider at least doing just the National Summer and Winter counts but suspect it might be too much for them. There is somebody who is interested in taking over their sites, but that has not happened yet. It will be disappointing if the sites cannot be covered as most of them have been in the count programme since the early nineties.

Two new sites have been added to the count programme in January 2019, which are Nathan Road East, Redcliffe and Dohle's Rocks Road Pond (opposite Osprey House). Ken Cowell and Floss Wainwright have been surveying the Nathan Road East, which is a constructed water feature surrounded by a park in the new development to the east of Nathan Road (wetland), that could potentially be detrimental to the wetland site on the west side of the road due to drainage issues. Andy Jenson has been covering the Dohle's Rocks Road Pond, which was attracting numerous waders (particularly Black-tailed Godwit and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers) earlier in the year but is currently dry due to the current drought conditions.

Both Moreton Island and St. Helena Island count sites were surveyed 4 times during the year.

Online entries by counters continued to be excellent and required very few amendments. There are still a few lapses of memory when it comes to entering the times, and continuing to use the 'enter' (return), key in the comments box when they should not.

Counts conducted during 2019 are as follows:

901 counts validated to date and uploaded to database.

130 counts validated and waiting to be uploaded to database.

127 counts waiting to be validated.

Around 89 counts to be entered from counters for December.

That will make an approximate total of 1,234 counts (13 more than 2018), for the year from the count programme itself. There were an additional 62 counts added to the database from the Mackay Survey in October and 16 miscellaneous counts.

As at the 13 December 2019, the database has count entries in excess of 35,500,

Once again, Dez Wells was the most prolific counter with 107 entries to the end of November (116 when December counts are entered), followed by Arthur Keates with 76 counts (plus additional Moreton & St. Helena Island counts), which would almost certainly bring his counts to in excess of 100. Arthur Keates was the most prolific enterer (after me), with 122 counts entered on the website to the end of November (125 when December counts are entered).

Manly Harbour was again the most counted site during the year with 41 entries (3 more than last year), and again, Arthur Keates was the reason for 31 of those count (5 more than last year). Kakadu Beach roost on Bribie Island was the second most counted with 26 entries, (9 less than last year), 24 of them are attributed to Michael Strong. Buckley's Hole on Bribie Island counts totalled 23 followed by 21 counts for the Port of Brisbane Artificial Roost.

There have not been any problems with the website, and I have only needed to contact Jon Coleman to ask him to address a few oversights that I missed. Yes, I am still human and make mistakes!

The count programme would not exist if it were not for the dedicated counters. QWSG and I would like to sincerely thank you for your sterling efforts.

I have continued to strive for punctuality with my articles to David Edwards for the newsletter and hope I will do the same in 2020. My thanks to the people I have already mentioned for their assistance during the year, and to everyone else from the group (on and off committee), for their commitment to the QWSG.

Linda Cross

Port of Brisbane.

A brief summary of the QWSG's contracted work with the Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd.

I liaised with Gordana Pozvek (the QWSG membership officer), and Jessica Rudd from the Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd (PBPL), to keep the Port counter/induction list up to date, and then ensured Peter Rothlisberg and Nadene Perry from the PBPL were kept informed accordingly.

In 2018 we scheduled 13 counts for the year and were once again fortunate to have good weather with only 1 count (July), not taking place due to rain. Thankfully migratory wader numbers are low during our winter, so missing the July count was not crucial to our data. In total (including today's count), 154 Port counts will be added to the database this year. In addition to the monthly count conducted for the PBPL there have been an additional 7 counts for the Artificial Roost mainly conducted during the education sessions with school children.

Attendance by QWSG members has been good, with between 12 and 14 volunteers most months. February and November were exceptions with 16 and 15 respectively in attendance, which helped get the count done quicker. The highest wader count was recorded in (January), with a total of 8,137, being counted for all sites, which was just under 2000 less birds than the same month in 2018.

Thank you to Peter Rothlisberg and other members who arrived an hour earlier each month to conduct the Lake count prior to the scheduled count times.

I would like to thank Craig Wilson, Michael Linde, Nadene Perry, Jessica Rudd and Penelope Webster from the PBPL for looking after us during the counts.

Additional thanks to Peter Rothlisberg for organising the emails and allocating sites, and Gordana Pozvek for liaising with me on memberships, and finally a big thank you to the counters who turn up each month to conduct the count.

Leg Flag Database Report to QWSG Annual General Meeting

15 December 2019

The Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG), leg flag database currently consists of 35,629 records. A total of 5,274 leg flag re-sightings were added in the last twelve months, this was 1,205 fewer records added than in 2018.

Green Leg flags.

A total of 4,995 (505 more than last year), green flagged bird records were added to the database since the last report. Of these, 4,904 were recorded in Queensland.

Green flags seen interstate.

Only 1 bird with a green flag was recorded interstate (at Ballina New South Wales).

Green flags seen overseas.

In total 90 QWSG flags were recorded, which is fewer than last year's quantity of 126. These were seen in these countries- USA (Alaska) 1, China 2, Japan 4, New Zealand 71, South Korea 6 and Taiwan 6. The New Zealand quantity was abnormally high due to a reconciliation between our databases revealing many sightings from previous years which had not been reported to QWSG.

Overseas flagged birds reported as being seen in Queensland.

The number of overseas flagged birds seen in Queensland during 2019 totalled 183, which is only half as many as seen the previous year. They were seen in the following countries.

Japan

Had the highest number of overseas flagged birds recorded in Queensland, with 92 being seen during the year. Of those records, 74 were blue/white combination and 18 blue only.

China

Fewer records this last year with only 53 sightings of flagged birds.

Russia

Sightings of flagged birds from Russian totalled 15 for the year, which was more than double the number (7), recorded in 2018.

New Zealand

There was a dramatic drop for New Zealand flagged birds in 2019, with only 14 sightings compared with 63 in 2018.

USA (Alaska)

During 2018 there were no sightings of Alaskan flagged birds seen in Queensland, in contrast 5 were recorded in 2019 all of which were of the same bird.

Taiwan

Four flagged birds were sighted during 2019, which is 1 more than the number recorded last year.

Interstate leg flags seen in Queensland.**Victoria.**

In 2019 a total of 85 sightings of waders with an orange flag were added to the database, which was lower than the 110 reported in 2018.

New South Wales.

There were 8 reports (the same quantity as in 2018), for engraved yellow flagged Australian Pied Oystercatcher.

Western Australia.

Three records of yellow flagged birds compared to 11 in last year's report.

I would like to sincerely thank all the people who have taken the time to record and report all leg flag sightings. Please continue your good work of looking for more leg flags and reporting them.

Phil Cross

Education Report for AGM 16 Dec 2019– Sheryl Keates

QWSG, in partnership with Moreton Bay Environment Centre (MBEEC), provided volunteers to help with shorebird education for 800 Grade 3 students in Feb, Mar, Oct and Nov. Thanks go to MBEEC who give QWSG the opportunity to help educate students about shorebirds. Otherwise, we would not be able to reach so many students. My heart-felt thanks goes to all volunteers who give their time to help show the shorebirds using telescopes from inside the bird hides at the Port of Brisbane artificial roost. Thanks to the staff at the Port who arrange for the hides to be cleaned before the excursions.

If anyone is interested in helping by volunteering during the summer months, between 12:45 pm – 2:15 pm please contact me 2tattlers@gmail.com Ph: 3843 1874 Mob: 0410 960 955.

Ten wader ID days were conducted, mainly during the summer months. Phil and Linda Cross had 1 for Kakadu Beach, Bribie Is; and 2 for Toorbul, while Arthur & I had 5 at Manly Harbour including 1 in April and 1 in August, specifically to see the Double-banded Plovers which migrate "across the ditch" for our winter (can't say I blame them). Thanks to Phil and Linda Cross for their part in these events, with Phil sometimes coming to Manly to help Arthur and I if we have a lot of people attending. We sometimes help Phil and Linda if they need us at Kakadu Beach, Bribie Is or Toorbul. These sessions are good for members to brush up on their identification skills, photograph or just enjoy watching the birds. It also gives attendees who may be thinking of buying a telescope, a chance to discuss and try different brands.

As suggested by Cecile Espigole, QWSG counter from Maryborough, we celebrated World Migratory Bird Day at Maaroom, Great Sandy Strait (GSS) on 12 October with 50 people attending to look at shorebirds at the high tide roost.

Despite rain during the night and the wet start to setting up a marquee early next morning, the clouds cleared to give us a fine morning. For some, it was their first time to view shorebirds through our telescopes, while others had their own scopes and knew their birds or needed help to identify some species unfamiliar to them. Thanks to Cecile and Will for organising the flyers and various things to make this a successful event.

Banding Report to QWSG Annual General Meeting

— Jon Coleman

2019 saw more birds than usual banded as there were a further three transmitters to attach to Eastern Curlew and eight transmitters supplied by Fudan University for other species. Eight banding visits were made to three locations over the year. These were Manly Marina, the Port of Brisbane and Geoff Skinner Reserve at Wellington Point. Two visits to Coochiemudlo and adjacent mainland sites were also made to target Bush Stone-curlew. This resulted in 790 shorebirds of 22 species caught in 2019, (730 new and 60 recaptures). These are shown in the table below.

Table 1: Species and Numbers caught for banding in 2019

SPECIES	BANDED	RETRAPS	TOTAL
Bush Stone-curlew	27	2	29
Pied Stilt	2	0	2
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	82	0	82
Bar-tailed Godwit	59	1	60
Grey-tailed Tattler	279	29	308
Pacific Golden-plover	25	2	27
Lesser Sand Plover	93	3	96
Ruddy Turnstone	42	8	50
Curlew Sandpiper	34	4	38
Greater Sand Plover	1	0	1
Black-tailed Godwit	2	0	2
Broad-billed Sandpiper	3	1	4
Great Knot	18	5	23
Red-necked Stint	23	2	25
Terek Sandpiper	19	2	21
Whimbrel	1	0	1
Far Eastern Curlew	3	0	3
Masked Lapwing	2	0	2
Red-capped Plover	2	1	3
Red Knot	11	0	11
Caspian Tern	1	0	1
Grey Plover	1	0	1
TOTALS	730	60	790

A total of 4,517 shorebirds of 29 species have now been fitted with engraved leg flags generating many thousands of resightings which Phil will cover off in his leg flag report.

During 2019 a further 3 PTTs were deployed in Far Eastern Curlew (total of 8 deployed) and using the transmitters provided by Fudan University 4 PTTs were deployed on Bar-tailed Godwits, 2 on Black-tailed Godwits and 1 on a Whimbrel (a total of 6 deployed on this species). In addition, 3 of the Far Eastern Curlew PTTs fitted in the previous season continued to transmit, providing a second year of local movements and full migration tracks. The same was true for three of the PTTs deployed on Whimbrel in the previous season.

Unfortunately, a new harness material was used this year and as a result there were more device failures than normal, however, all devices provided a wealth of information on local movements and initial migration tracks with two of the Bar-tailed Godwits recording tracks to the breeding grounds, with one return journey mapped.

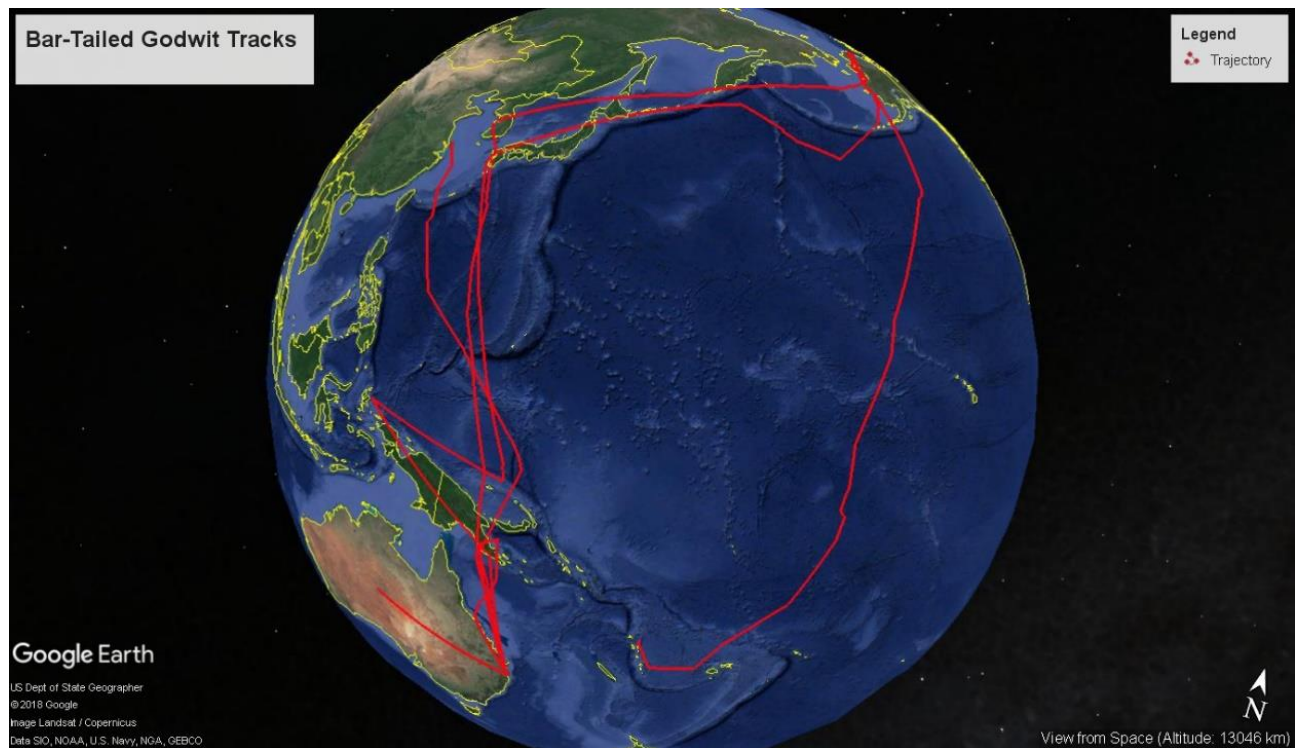
The local movements in particular are proving extremely valuable in identifying the mosaic of feeding and roosting sites and their interrelationships that our shorebirds use. Given increasing disturbance, the use of offsets and proposed rezoning of Moreton Bay Marine Park, this data will be invaluable in ensuring shorebirds are appropriately represented and protected in these activities.

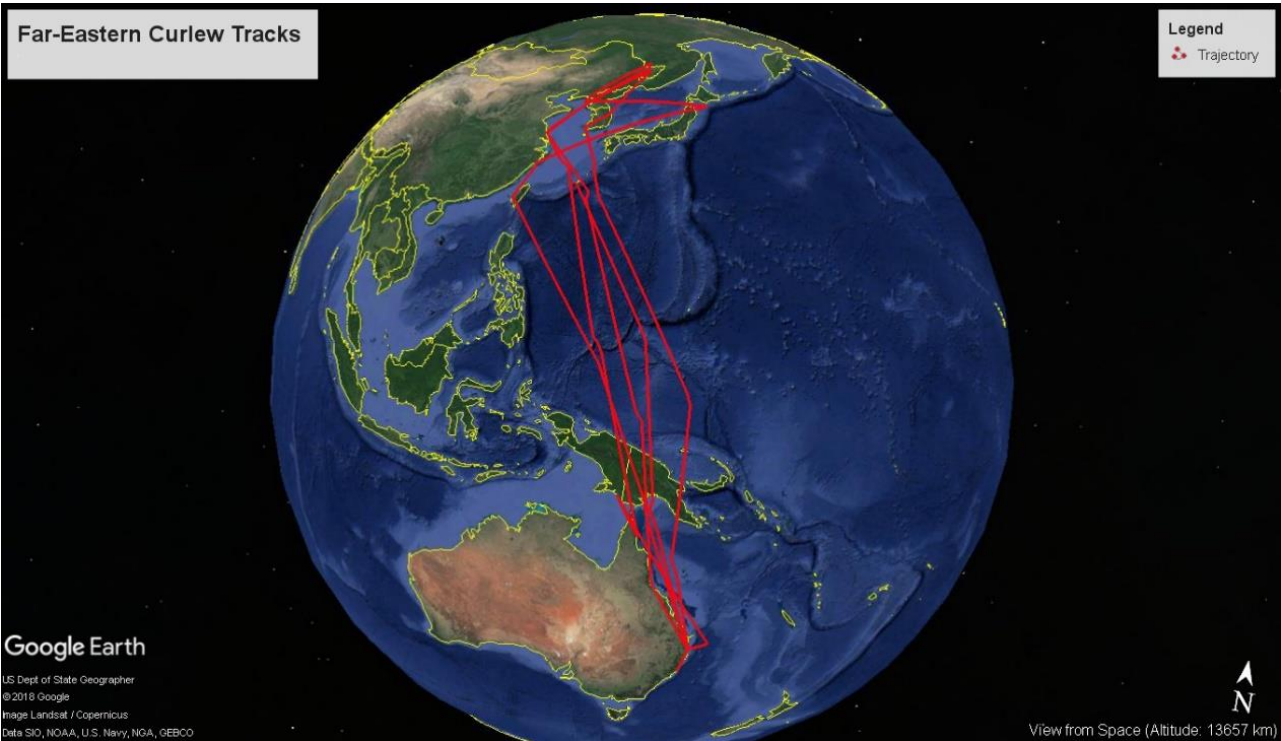
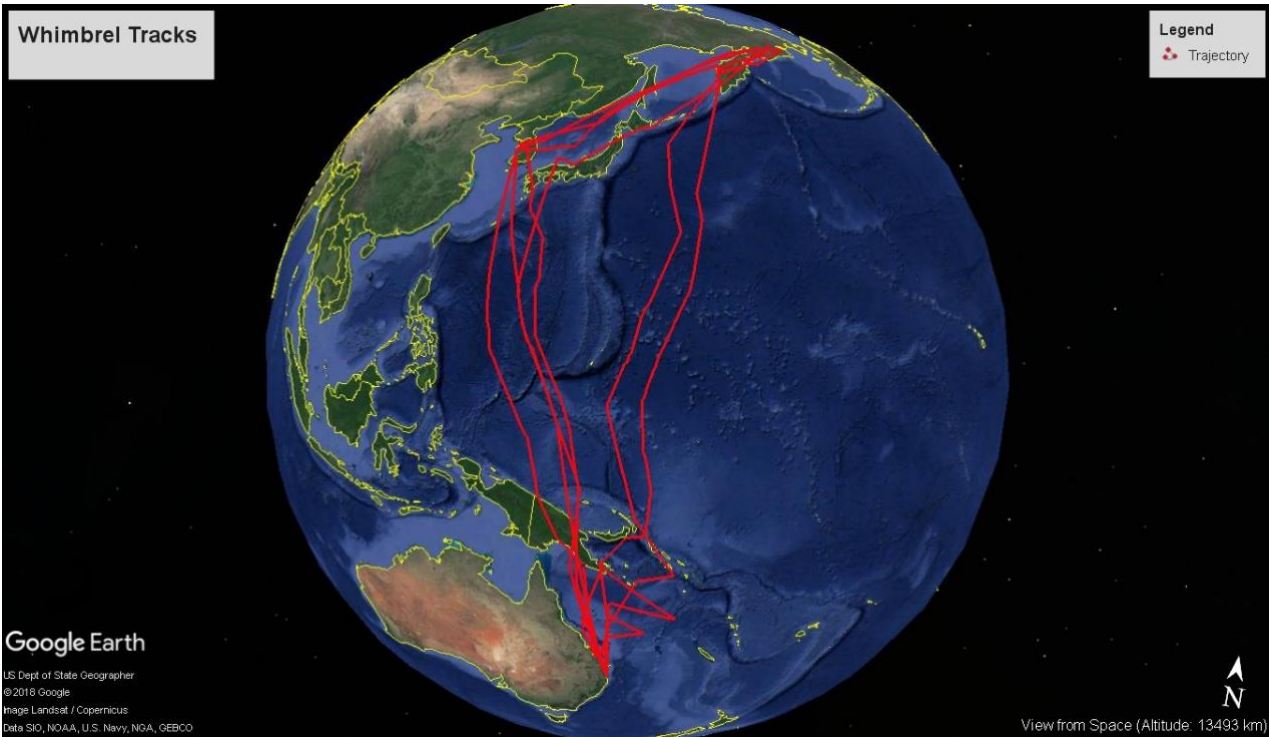
A number of figures are included showing the migration tracks of the birds fitted with PTTs.

This year also saw the publication of the results of the Pacific Golden Plover migration tracking using PTTs in *Stilt*, following on from last year's publications of the QWSG's results in tracking Grey-tailed Tattler migration using Geolocators.

Thanks to every single person who has helped on a catch, helped clean equipment after a catch or who has helped repair mist nets and other equipment. It takes a huge effort to conduct a banding program of this nature and I'm extremely grateful to every single person who has contributed in any way.

Jon Coleman
15 December 2019





Lisbon Airport Mega-Project Threatens One of Europe's Most Important Wetlands

BirdLife: 20 Feb 2020



By BirdLife Europe and Central Asia

Ignoring serious questions regarding safety, public health and the environment, the Portuguese government has approved construction of an airport in one of Europe's most important wetlands: the Tejo (Tagus) estuary.

SPEA, BirdLife's partner in Portugal, is fighting this decision. Together with other Portuguese NGOs, SPEA has declared they will take the matter to court and bring it to the European Commission, as the project is unlawful and goes against European directives and international treaties.

The proposed new airport is part of the Portuguese government's plan to expand Lisbon airport, and would be located in Montijo, across the river from Portugal's capital city. The location is right at the mouth of the Tejo, in what is currently a haven for migratory wetland birds, which congregate there by the thousands every winter.

In pushing the project forward, the Portuguese government is disregarding the impact of placing an airport in this hotspot for birds: not just the impact on nature, but on passenger safety. The (mandatory) environmental impact assessment study, which should inform the decision, did not take into account the 60,000 Black-tailed Godwits that gather in the estuary every winter, or the Glossy Ibis, whose numbers have been growing year after year: flocks of over 50,000 were observed this year. All these birds, as well as considerable numbers of larger birds like flamingos, would be in the new airport's flight path, making bird strikes almost inevitable.

"The government proposes a big budget for compensation measures, but the fact is that you can't pay birds to move somewhere else. They gather here because this spot has the best conditions, and that's not going to change," says Domingos Leitão, SPEA's Executive Director.

To add insult to injury, many of the measures proposed by the government to mitigate or compensate for the airport's environmental impact are actually things Portugal is already obliged to do to protect the species and habitats of this Nature Reserve, which is classified as a Natura 2000 site because it is one of the most important wetlands in Europe.

In spite of the concerns raised by scientists, environmental NGOs, engineers and safety experts, the Portuguese government approved the project. SPEA and partners are now looking at how to stop it.

The impact of building an airport in Montijo could be catastrophic well beyond Portuguese borders, as the birds that spend the winter in the region hail from across Northern Europe. Like the hundreds of thousands of birds that gather in the Tejo every winter, concern is pouring in from all over Europe. Worried about the impact that the airport will have on the Dutch national bird – the Black-tailed Godwit - BirdLife Netherlands has launched a petition to stop the project: [sign it today](#) to protect our feathered friends!

Maaroom, Great Sandy Strait, Shorebird Course

by Arthur Keates

The Great Sandy Strait (the GSS) is a Ramsar site and an internationally significant site for shorebirds. For many years, QWSG has conducted regular shorebird surveys in the GSS. In January 2018, about 50 high tide roosts were surveyed resulting in a total count of almost 21,000 shorebirds comprising 19 migratory species and 7 resident species.

With no plans to run a shorebird course in Brisbane near the end of 2019, the decision was taken to have a half-day course at Maaroom, about 20 km south of Maryborough on the 17th February 2020. Maaroom, in the heart of the GSS, and having one of the most accessible high tide roosts in the GSS, seemed an ideal place to run a course. The conveniently situated Maaroom Ratepayers and Community Hall was used for the presentations.

The 38 participants enrolled in the course included Qld Parks and Wildlife Service officers, Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers, an indigenous ranger from Gidarjil Development Corporation Ltd, Conservation and Project Officers from the Dept of Environment and Science, an officer from the Fraser Coast Regional Council, members of the Birdwatchers of Hervey Bay, Gympie Field Naturalists, Wildlife Preservation Society Qld and Project Officer for the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee, as well as members of Birds Qld and QWSG.

QWSG Chairperson, David Edwards, opened the proceedings explaining which species are regarded as a shorebird followed by an informative presentation on shorebird migration and breeding, finishing up on the conservation issues affecting shorebirds. After questions, QWSG stalwart and Secretary, Peter Rothlisberg, guided participants through a well-structured session giving tips on what to look for in identifying the species of shorebirds likely to be seen in the GSS.

At the end of the presentations, all participants gathered at the high tide roost on the foreshore near the Maaroom boat ramp to test their newfound knowledge, with mixed outcomes. A lone Black-tailed Godwit among the flock of Bar-tailed Godwit provided a good comparison of those species. While a few Great Knot were content roosting among the godwits, at least 5 Red Knot fed busily along the tide line also providing a good comparison of those species. Unfortunately, no Far Eastern Curlew were present to compare with the single Whimbrel that came in on the ebb tide. The following species of shorebirds were observed at the roost site:

Pied Oystercatcher, Red-capped Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Marsh Sandpiper, Grey-tailed Tattler, Terek Sandpiper, Great Knot, Red Knot, Red-necked Stint and Curlew Sandpiper.

Most participants were able to see the Curlew Sandpiper fitted with an orange leg flag having been banded in Victoria and some were fortunate to see what is believed to be a Taiwanese leg-flagged Terek Sandpiper among the c 300 of its kind roosting along the tide line.

Thanks must go to Sheryl Keates for organising the course, David and Peter for their presentations, Treasurer, Judith Giles for handling the payments and to the QWSG volunteers who helped out at the field trip. Thanks also to QWSG member Cecile Espigole for ensuring government and council staff, and members of various groups in the GSS area, were given the opportunity to attend the course. Cecile, Bill Price, Lesley and Don Bradley attended the course and helped with the field trip. Local QWSG counter John Bell also helped with the field trip.



Photo of participants at roost site.

Count Programme

by Linda Cross

It is with regret that I must report the passing of another counter from the programme. Robert (Rob), Collyer passed away on 26 January 2020 after battling Mantle Cell Lymphoma. I first met Rob and his wife Barbara during a Fraser Island Bird Week in 2006, where I persuaded them to get involved in counting waders and in the second half of 2007, they replaced the counters surveying 2 sites at Point Halloran. Both sites are classed as very high or king tide roosts with very few wader species most of the time and I have always admired the perseverance of Rob and Barbara to continue to count given the unrewarding results at times. Rob's contribution to the count programme has been in excess of 151 counts into the database. We extend our deepest sympathy to Barbara and her family.

Disappointingly, I must report the stepping down of 2 counters from the count programme (Laurel Allsopp and Rob Mackenzie), who have been counting 7 sites in the Tweed Heads, New South Wales area. Laurel has been counting since January 2005 and has contributed in excess of 660 counts to the database. Rob joined Laurel to assist with the counts in November 2011 and has contributed 191 counts. They feel that it is time to pass over the role to younger people. We thank Laurel and Rob for the dedication to the count programme and hope they enjoy retirement from counting.

Given that the Tweed sites have been counted monthly since early 1994, I was pleased to hear that Laurel and Rob advised there was someone (Erina Forrest), willing to continue in their footsteps. Unfortunately for Erina, her first count (National Summer Count), was the weekend of torrential rain in south-east Queensland and northern New South Wales, which resulted in all sites being swamped and little or no waders to record. Just prior to the weekend of the February count the Tweed region experienced more torrential rain and Erina has informed me that counts were not conducted due to high water levels at the sites. Not a particularly good start for Erina but I am sure things will improve for her.

As Erina has 7 sites to count, she is looking for anyone in the Gold Coast/Tweed Heads area that would be willing to help her conduct the counts. Please contact Erina by email at erina.forrest@gmail.com

I am pleased to welcome a second new counter (Phillipa Cannon), who has joined the count programme, and has also resurrected one of the older sites (Barron River), in Cairns. Phillipa conducted her first count at the end of December 2019 and has completed 3 more counts since then. Having Barron River again in the programme will be important because during the last 20 years we have received just 1 count in 2011 for the site. It will be interesting to compare the species now with the records from the earlier year's counts.

We extend a warm welcome to both Erina and Phillipa into the count programme and hope they will find counting waders rewarding.

In the table below are the remaining records for juvenile Bar-tailed Godwit that Arthur Keates and Jun Matsui have reported since the last newsletter.

Site	Date	Bar-tailed Godwit flock size	Juveniles in flock	% of juveniles
Lytton	16.11.19	4	2	50
Cairns Esplanade	16.11.19	46	25	54
Port of Brisbane complex	17.11.19	167	3	< 2

The National Summer count was conducted during a weekend of adverse weather conditions in south east Queensland and northern New South Wales, with some areas receiving hundreds of millimetres of rain. Surprisingly most counts were completed within a day or two of the actual count day. Unfortunately, Tweed Heads sites were inundated, and the low count of waders is reflected in the table below. Two counts (Cairns Esplanade and Dunwich, North Stradbroke Island), were conducted a week prior to the set count day, and seasonal counts for St. Helena and Moreton Island sites, along with Shellgrit Creek entrance in Mackay, were conducted 10 days later.

Thank you everyone for entering and sending your counts early so that I was able to extract the relevant information for the results of the count.

In the table below are the results for the National Summer count. Species listed as per IOC checklist.

Species	FNQ	CQ	GSS	SC	NMB	CMB	SMB	TH	Totals
Bush Stone-curlew						4			4
Beach Stone-curlew				2	8	2			12
Pied Oystercatcher	2	4	169	4	197	178	120		674
Sooty Oystercatcher		2	2	8		3	2		17
Pied Stilt		39	241	29	1027	1456	363		3155
Red-necked Avocet					34	313			347
Masked Lapwing	8	2	58	3	122	66	8		267
Red-kneed Dotterel	1		16		1	7			25
Pacific Golden Plover	51	2	15	109	19	424	43		663
Grey Plover	8	1	4		36	41	1		91
Red-capped Plover	1	160	102	49	155	197	60		724
Lesser Sand Plover	4		247		70	830	141		1292
Greater Sand Plover	27		5		1	25	2		60
Black-fronted Dotterel			2		2	2			6
Comb-crested Jacana				1					1
Latham's Snipe			6		5				11
Black-tailed Godwit	1		9		4	389			403
Bar-tailed Godwit	31	165	1084	67	5837	1930	3601	9	12724
Whimbrel	32	113	58	84	343	316	331		1277
Far Eastern Curlew	23	102	180	10	395	326	866	1	1903
Marsh Sandpiper			9		9	30	3		51
Common Greenshank	5	9	18		11	27	38		108
Grey-tailed Tattler	15		43	11	19	782	1079		1949
Terek Sandpiper	8					1	100		109
Common Sandpiper	3								3
Ruddy Turnstone	2		3	2		42	47		96
Great Knot	58	96	189		65	368	197		973
Red Knot			10		2	16			28
Sanderling				1	20				21
Red-necked Stint	252	120	366		734	1673	1288		4433
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	164	12	11		151	971	92		1401
Curlew Sandpiper	24		45		10	1388	239		1706
Broad-billed Sandpiper						2			2
Total Wader Species	21	14	25	14	26	29	21	2	33
Total Wader Numbers	720	827	2892	380	9277	11809	8621	10	34536

FNQ – Far North Queensland. Total for 4 sites, 2 at Cairns and 2 at Cooktown.

CQ – Central Queensland. Total for 8 sites at Gladstone, Yeppoon and Mackay.

GSS – Great Sandy Strait. Total for 10 sites at Boonooroo, Maaroom and Hervey Bay.

SC – Sunshine Coast. Total for 11 sites at Caloundra, Maroochy River and Noosa River.

NMB – North Moreton Bay. Total for 24 sites at Redcliffe, Deception Bay, Bribie Island, Toorbul and Moreton Island.

CMB – Central Moreton Bay. Total for 12 sites at St. Helena Island, Port of Brisbane complex, Luggage Point and Pine River.

SMB – Southern Moreton Bay. Total for 17 sites at Victoria Point, Thornlands, North Stradbroke Island, Wellington Point, Thorneside, Manly and Lytton.

TH – Tweed Heads. Total for 7 sites at Tweed Heads, NSW.

It should be noted that there are 15 sub sites within the Port of Brisbane complex, but recorded as 1 site in the above table.

A total of 22 migratory and 11 resident species were recorded during the summer count. Central Moreton Bay sites recorded 34% of the total summer count, followed by Northern Moreton Bay sites with nearly 27% and Southern Moreton Bay sites with close to 25%. The combined total for Moreton Bay was 86% of the total summer count.

Bar-tailed Godwit numbers were close to 37% of the total count, Red-necked Stint were nearly 13% and Pied Stilt were just over 9%.

The first record for Double-banded Plover (1) was reported from Manly Harbour on 10 February 2020. Look out for Double-banded among sand plovers.

A few extracts from counts are listed below. Additional wader counts can be found in the "Interesting wader sightings" section which may not appear in the paper version of the newsletter due to lack of space.

1 Asian Dowitcher – Kakadu Beach roost on Bribie Island – 01.12.19.
 4 Pectoral Sandpiper – Garnet's Lagoon No. 1 Hervey Bay – 16.11.19
 570 Far Eastern Curlew – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – 27.11.19
 4,692 Bar-tailed Godwit – site 1 Boonooroo, Great Sandy Strait – 12.12.19
 431 Black-tailed Godwit – Pine River Wetland Reserve – 16.11.19
 8 Sooty Oystercatcher – Wickham Point – 18.01.20
 1,219 Pacific Golden Plover – Port of Brisbane complex – 17.11.19
 14 Latham's Snipe – Garnet's Lagoon No. 1, Hervey Bay – 16.11.19
 42 Common Greenshank – Garnet's Lagoon No. 1 and No. 2, Hervey Bay – 16.11.19
 697 Pied Stilt – Luggage Point – 15.12.19
 116 Marsh Sandpiper – Maaroom – 14.12.19
 723 Great Knot – site 1 Boonooroo – 12.12.19
 190 Ruddy Turnstone – Port of Brisbane complex – 15.12.19
 703 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Cairns Esplanade – 16.11.19
 1 Wandering Tattler – Port of Brisbane complex – 17.11.19
 1,672 Lesser Sand Plover – Port of Brisbane complex – 15.12.19
 1,455 Curlew Sandpiper – Port of Brisbane complex – 17.11.19
 1,434 Grey-tailed Tattler – Port of Brisbane complex – 15.12.19
 128 Terek Sandpiper – Manly Harbour – 04.02.20
 171 Red-capped Plover – Queensland Aluminium Limited (Ashpond), Gladstone – 12.12.19

Unfortunately, it is not always possible to include all articles in the paper version of the newsletter as there is a page limit for posting, so "Interesting wader sightings" and "Not waders but of interest anyway" sections may not appear. However, if you have an email address please ask for the electronic version, which has all the articles that could not be included in the paper version. The electronic version is also in colour.

Breeding records:

Beach Stone-curlew – 1 bird sitting on nest next to the oval at Maaroom on 16.11.19 (however, there was no sign of bird, egg or chick during the December count).

Pied Oystercatcher – 2 immature at Manly Harbour on 07.01.20 – nest with 3 eggs at Kinka Beach on 16.11.19.

Masked Lapwing – 1 juvenile at Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island on 24.11.19 – 4 eggs at Maaroom on 16.11.19 – 1 chick at Toorbul north sandspit on 18.10.19.

Red-capped Plover – 1 chick and 1 juvenile at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 26.01.20 – 2 chicks Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 12.01.20 – 2 runners at Manly Harbour on 07.01.20 – 1 bird sitting on 2 eggs Kinka Beach wetlands on 16.11.19 – 6 chicks at Queensland Aluminium Limited (ashpond), Gladstone.

Counters not entering their counts online, please continue to send them to me at my email or postal address as follows: xenus69@bigpond.com

Snail mail: 40 Thompson Road, Bellmere. Qld 4510 Phone: 5495 2758

A reminder that Leg flag sightings must not be entered online during count entry. Please also note that flag sightings emailed to Phil should be sent to his new email address phillipcros50@gmail.com
 Please contact Phil or myself for the Leg Flag Observation Report Form.

Happy counting. Linda Cross.

Interesting wader sightings

4 Beach Stone-curlew – Reeder's Point, Moreton Island – 29.01.20
 4 Beach Stone-curlew – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – 19.01.20
 544 Far Eastern Curlew – Geoff Skinner Reserve East – 14.12.19
 226 Whimbrel – Toorbul – 18.10.19
 220 Whimbrel – Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay – 26.11.19
 2,890 Bar-tailed Godwit – Mirapool Beach, Moreton Island – 29.01.20
 2,500+ Bar-tailed Godwit – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – 26.01.20

2,321 Bar-tailed Godwit – Geoff Skinner Reserve West – 18.01.20
 385 Black-tailed Godwit – Gregory Road, Hay's Inlet – 19.01.20
 2 Sooty Oystercatcher – Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay – 30.01.20
 2 Sooty Oystercatcher – Gable's Point Rocks, Hervey Bay – 19.01.20
 2 Sooty Oystercatcher – Dunwich, North Stradbroke Island – 11.01.20
 40 Grey Plover – Port of Brisbane complex – 15.12.19
 268 Red-necked Avocet – Luggage Point – 19.01.20
 580 Pied Stilt – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – 10.01.20
 45 Masked Lapwing – Bishop's Marsh, Toorbul – 18.01.20
 49 Marsh Sandpiper – Pine River Wetlands Reserve – 16.11.19
 680 Great Knot – Maaroom – 16.11.19
 3 Common Sandpiper – Endeavour River mouth, Cooktown – 15.01.20
 2 Common Sandpiper – Dohle's Rock's Road pond, Pine River – 19.01.20
 795 Grey-tailed Tattler – Manly Harbour – 14.12.19
 808 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Port of Brisbane complex – 15.12.19
 147 Greater Sand Plover – Port of Brisbane complex – 15.12.19
 18 Sanderling – Mirapool Beach, Moreton Island – 29.01.20
 1 Sanderling – Noosa River Sandbanks – 30.01.20
 1,170 Curlew Sandpiper – Luggage Point – 15.12.19
 40 Red-kneed Dotterel – Garnet's Lagoon No. 1 and No. 2 combined, Hervey Bay – 16.11.19
 194 Red-capped Plover – Port of Brisbane complex – 15.12.19
 38 Broad-billed Sandpiper – Port of Brisbane complex – 15.12.19
 2,218 Red-necked Stint – Port of Brisbane complex – 17.11.19

Not waders but of interest anyway

1,396 Silver Gull – Luggage Point – 19.01.20
 1,981 Little Tern – Port of Brisbane complex – 15.12.19
 539 Whiskered Tern – Luggage Point – 15.12.19
 290 Common Tern – Sandbank off Amity Point – 29.01.20
 409 Australian Tern (*Gelochelidon macrotarsa*) – Queensland Aluminium Limited (Ashpond), Gladstone – 14.11.19
 1 White-winged Black Tern – Gregory Road, Hay's Inlet – 19.01.20 (first for the site and uncommon in south east Queensland for many years)
 1 Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica* subspecies *affinis*) – Gregory Road Hay's Inlet – 14.12.19
 2 Black Bittern – Endeavour River claypan, Cooktown – 20.01.20
 6 Magpie Goose (includes 2 juvenile and 2 pairs nesting) – Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island – 26.01.20
 6 Cotton Pygmy Goose – Ewan Maddock Dam – 09.12.19
 2 Australasian Shoveler – Garnet's Lagoon No. 1, Hervey Bay – 16.11.19
 371 Chestnut Teal – Port of Brisbane complex – 17.11.19
 242 Black Swan – Toorbul (at the roost) – 18.01.20
 3 Great Crested Grebe – Ewan Maddock Dam – 09.12.19
 209 Australian White Ibis – Beck Road, Caloundra – 16.12.19
 20 Glossy Ibis – Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island – 16.12.19
 1 Brown Goshawk – Manly Harbour – 07.01.20
 1 Brolga – Pine River Wetlands Reserve – 14.12.19
 1 Eastern Grass Owl – Kedron Brook Wetlands – 07.10.19
 2 Pied Heron – Endeavour River claypan, Cooktown – 20.01.20

Wader ID Day Reports

Wader ID Report – Kakadu Roost, Bribie Island 12th January 2020

Days before the outing the weather was hot and humid, so a cool southerly change overnight was welcomed on the day. However, the wind was very strong and at times sandblasted the birds on the roost and tunnelled into the bird hide making it a little chilly at times, particularly under full cloud cover.

The outing to this site was selected to make the most of the high tide (2.66m), which we hoped would bring a variety of waders to the roost, and it did. Only 4 people (Zena Dinesen, Erina Forrest, Stuart and Kathryn Pell), joined Phil and I for the outing.

Erina being particularly keen, drove all the way from Tweed Heads to hone her skills on waders as she is taking over counting 7 sites in Tweed Heads. The counter for Kakadu Beach roost (Michael Strong), also arrived at the site a little later to do a count.

Our small group observed 9 migratory and 4 resident wader species. Thankfully everyone saw the lone Grey-tailed Tattler but finding the single Whimbrel and Black-tailed Godwit and 2 Red Knot within the flock was more challenging.

A few other people arrived in the hide during our visit, including a group from the Brisbane National Parks Association and we spent some time sharing our knowledge and scopes with them.



A Lesser Sand Plover with a white engraved flag (A08), over a blue flag on the left tibia and a metal band on the right tibia (banded in Northern Taiwan), was seen and photographed.

Other species with flags included Lesser Sand Plovers, Bar-tailed Godwits and the single Whimbrel, all with engraved green flags (banded in south-east Queensland).

A count was conducted between a group of us (myself, Michael Strong, Phil Cross, Jan Nargar and Julian Foster), with the numbers appearing below and added to the database. An additional 8 Red-capped Plover and a Red-necked Stint arrived at the roost at 12:25 after the count was completed and are not included.

Photograph by Linda Cross

Birds seen:

23 Chestnut Teal, 1 Striated Heron, 1 Little Egret, 2 Australian Pelican, 2 Buff-banded Rail, 3 Beach Stone-curlew, 4 Pied Oystercatcher, 410 Pied Stilt, 4 Red-capped Plover (includes 2 small chicks), 37 Lesser Sand Plover, 1 Black-tailed Godwit, c1600 Bar-tailed Godwit, 1 Whimbrel, 184 Far Eastern Curlew, 1 Grey-tailed Tattler, 62 Great Knot, 2 Red Knot, 17 Red-necked Stint, 9 Silver Gull, 32 Gull-billed (Australian), Tern, 1 Caspian Tern, 8 Greater Crested Tern and 40 Little Tern.

Linda Cross.

Manly Shorebird Roost Report 4 January 2020

by Arthur & Sheryl Keates

Viewing conditions were good even with a fairly strong NE wind that eased slightly as the day progressed. The small group attending had very good views of 17 species of migratory, and 3 species of resident, shorebird.

The majority of the shorebirds was made up of Grey-tailed Tattler (c 500) and in excess of 200 of each of Bar-tailed Godwit and Curlew and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers. The presence of several Black-tailed Godwit roosting with the Bar-tailed Godwit allowed observers to compare the respective diagnostic features of these species.

After disturbance caused by a kite surfer coming close to the eastern rock wall, at least 3 Red Knot joined a flock of Great Knot and started to feed along the water's edge providing very good views and comparisons with the Great Knot. About equal numbers of Greater and Lesser Sand Plovers, also allowed observers to compare these sometimes hard to distinguish species.

Several species fitted with leg flags were seen, including:

- a Curlew Sandpiper with black over white flags on left tibia and a blue flag on right tibia (banded at Chongming Is, China)
- a Great Knot with black over engraved yellow flag ZB on left tibia (banded when aged 1 at Kamchatka on 10 August 2017 and interestingly was observed at this site on 2 January 2019)
- several species with green engraved leg flags (banded in south-east Queensland) including a Grey-tailed Tattler fitted with a geolocator.

The following species were seen at the roost site:

Black Swan, Eastern Great Egret, Australasian Darter, Little Pied Cormorant, Australian Pelican, Pied Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt, Red-capped Plover, Greater Sand Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Far Eastern Curlew, Marsh Sandpiper, Common Greenshank, Grey-tailed Tattler, Terek Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Great Knot, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Silver Gull and Australian Gull-billed, Caspian, Little and Whiskered Terns.

Toorbul Wader ID Day Report 1st February 2020

A total of 9 other attendees (which included new QWSG/BQ members Patrick and Wendy Shanley), joined Phil and I at the main Toorbul roost to view the waders. Weather conditions were hot and humid with a breeze from the north east.

At the request of the Queensland Wader Study Group, Moreton Bay Regional Council have kindly erected two large signs at the northern part of the roost highlighting that it is a shorebird sanctuary. It is hoped that these signs will deter the many people who have continued to cause disturbance to the birds.

Unfortunately, species diversity was again low for this site with 5 migratory and 4 resident waders, which included



a single Sooty Oystercatcher. However, the count for some species was quite high, particularly the Far Eastern Curlew, Whimbrel and Pied Oystercatcher.

No Black-tailed Godwit were observed within the flock of Bar-tailed Godwit and it took quite some time to get everyone to see the 2 Red Knot within the flock.

No overseas flagged birds were observed, but many engraved green leg flags were seen on 3 species of waders (Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel and Great Knot), with some of the group reading the leg flags and giving the details to Phil to record in the leg flag database.

Sarah Beavis conducted a count at the roost site which will be added to the QWSG database. The number of Far Eastern Curlew recorded during the count was 155. The 350 listed in the species below were seen and counted after the ID session had finished and most people had left.

Birds seen Toorbul: (F/O – fly over). (H - Heard).

3 Black Swan, 5 Australian White Ibis (F/O), 5 White-faced Heron (F/O), 1 Little Egret, 1 Australian Pelican, 2 Eastern Osprey (F/O), 1 Whistling Kite, (F/O), 1 White-bellied Sea Eagle (F/O), 29 Pied Oystercatcher, 1 Sooty Oystercatcher, 192 Pied Stilt, 2 Masked Lapwing, c920 Bar-tailed Godwit, 255 Whimbrel, 350 Far Eastern Curlew, 68 Great Knot, 2 Red Knot, 3 Gull-billed (Australian), Tern and 11 Caspian Tern.

Bishop's Marsh had quite a bit of water on site and Sarah stopped and conducted another count after we left Toorbul, which will also be added to the QWSG database. Many thanks for your work Sarah.

Birds seen Bishop's Marsh:

8 Maned Duck, 5 Pacific Black Duck, 19 Chestnut Teal, 1 White-faced Heron, 1 Pied Stilt, 49 Masked Lapwing and 2 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

Linda Cross.

A new Committee Member

The QWSG Committee is very pleased to welcome a new member to its ranks.

Ross McMillan, who has been very involved with the banding of waders has joined our number. It is good to see a younger member of QWSG putting their hand up to help on Committee.

If you wish to know more about the committee's activities or even join please contact us:
chairperson@waders.org.au
secretary@birdsqueensland.org.au

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined recently:

Bill ALCORN, Sally ANTHONY, Lucas BIRD, Rhianna BOYLE, Paul DUTHIE,
 Nancy FITZSIMMONS, Karen HUME, John O'SHEA, Jan PARR, Ian PARSONS,
 Brendan ROUSE, Sarah ROWE & Andrew SUGDEN, Rosemarie SEVERIN,
 Patrick & Wendy SHANLEY, Samantha TRAYHURN, Marie TURNER,
 Alexandra WINTER & Ms Margaret HENDERSON,

A reminder to members, please let the Treasurer know if you change your email address. If you do please make sure that it does allow delivery and not send downloads to spam.

Many thanks too to those who have included a donation with their renewal or membership fee. This is greatly appreciated as such donations make on-going work possible

PLEASE CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR RENEWAL IS DUE!

Other Conservation Activities of Interest



QWSG is a special interest group of the Birds Queensland Inc. whose object is:
 "To promote the scientific study and conservation of birds by all means possible, with particular reference to the birds of Queensland".

Separate membership is required.

Contacts: President, Rae Clark

president@birdsqueensland.org.au

Secretary, Robert Bush

secretary@birdsqueensland.org.au

Treasurer, Judith Giles

treasurer@birdsqueensland.org.au

Please not that there is to be an AGM in December 2019 so positions and names might change

Monthly Meetings

Birds Queensland

1st Thursday each month except January, when there is no meeting.

Brunswick Room, Merthyr Road Uniting Church, 52 Merthyr Road, New Farm.

Arrive after 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start.

Dog Disturbance on Shorelines

When people see dogs chasing or disturbing shorebirds,
 Phone the BCC Call Centre 3403 8888 and request a RAPID RESPONSE TEAM be sent.
 Add the number to your mobile

QWSG CONTACTS

QUEENSLAND WADER

The Official Quarterly Publication of Queensland Wader Study Group

Website www.waders.org.au

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/QueenslandWaderStudyGroup/>

MEMBERS of the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE of the QWSG

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Paul Finn	(07) 3219 4219	Sheryl Keates	(07) 3843 1874
Ross McMillan		Brad Woodworth	0439 577 551

<u>COUNT COORDINATOR:</u>	Linda Cross	07 5495 2758	Email xenus69@bigpond.com
<u>LEG FLAG COORDINATOR</u>	Phil Cross	07 5495 2758	Email phillipcross50@gmail.com

BQ PRESIDENT Rae Clark Email president@birdsqueensland.org.au

CORRESPONDENCE All correspondence to:
The QWSG Chairperson,
54, Elliott Street,
CLAYFIELD,
QLD 4011

CHANGE OF ADDRESS Please notify the Membership Secretary as soon as possible of any change of address so that your Newsletter can be dispatched correctly.

SUBSCRIPTIONS Annual subscription rates:
Single: \$15:00
Student/Pensioner: \$10:00
Family: \$25:00
A receipt will be forwarded if required.

Forward application to:
Membership Secretary or QWSG Treasurer,
PO Box 3138,
SOUTH BRISBANE,
QLD 4101.

Members are reminded their membership expires on the date shown on the newsletter address label, and the membership joining/renewal form is now on the back page. **Note:** that your subscription will fall due twelve (12) months after date of joining the QWSG or date of renewal, and only one further newsletter will be sent after expiry of your subscription.

Copy Deadline for the next issue of Queensland Wader is **May 18th 2020**

Contributions should be addressed to:

David Edwards, the QWSG Editor, 54 Elliott Street, Clayfield, Qld 4011
or E-mail to: gouldian@ozemail.com.au

Opinions expressed in Queensland Wader are those of the individual contributors and are not necessarily those of the Queensland Waders Study Group, nor Birds Queensland.

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admin@jrdsons.com.au



Count Activities – 2020

QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Program 2020

Sat 14th Mar	2.09m at 12:59
Sat 28th Mar	2.02m at 11:37
Sat 11th Apr	2.10m at 11:51
Sat 9th May	2.07m at 10:44
Sat 6th Jun	1.98m at 09:38
Sat 25th Jul	1.94m at 13:03
Sat 22nd Aug	2.10m at 11:55
Sat 19th Sep	2.27m at 10:49
Sat 17th Oct	2.39m at 09:44
Sat 7th Nov	2.12m at 13:47
Sat 5th Dec	2.32m at 12:39

****Optional second count****

National Winter Count

****Easter** If you cannot do the count on the Easter weekend please conduct the count on the alternative date of 28 March instead. You can of course do both if you are keen.**

Normally we have a rest month (either June or July) depending on the tides, but this year there are suitable tides for both months. June will be the National Winter Count. Obviously, the Winter Count is more important, but if you can do a count in July as well, that would be very much appreciated. However, the July count is optional.

Port of Brisbane Count Dates 2020

Sun 15th Mar	1.86m at 13:49	Meet	12:00
Sun 29th Mar	1.90m at 12:09	Meet	10:20
Sun 12th Apr	1.90m at 12:37	Meet	10:45
Sun 10th May	1.92m at 11:30	Meet	09:40
Sun 7th Jun	1.89m at 10:26	Meet	08:35
Sun 26th Jul	1.95m at 13:59	Meet	12:10
Sun 23rd Aug	2.11m at 12:45	Meet	10:55
Sun 20th Sep	2.30m at 11:36	Meet	09:45
Sun 18th Oct	2.46m at 10:30	Meet	08:40
Sun 8th Nov	2.11m at 14:52	Meet	13:00
Sun 6th Dec	2.28m at 13:28	Meet	11:50

****Optional second count****

National Winter Count

PLEASE CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR RENEWAL IS DUE!

MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

A reminder to members: please check to see if your renewal is due and please let the Treasurer know if you change your contact details.

I / We wish to join / renew: (Single: \$15; Family: \$25; Student/Pensioner: \$10)

Title:..... First name:Surname:

Address:..... Membership: \$.....

..... Postcode:..... Donation: \$.....

Payment enclosed: \$.....

Do you require a receipt? Yes / No

Phone: (Home) (Work) (Mobile).....

Email Fax.....

How did you hear about QWSG?.....

Are you a member of Birds Queensland?

What activities do you wish to participate in? (Please circle)

WADER COUNTS, FIELD TRIPS, SCIENTIFIC DATA COLLECTION, SURVEYS, CLERICAL,
OTHER (specify :.....)

Would you like to receive your newsletter (colour version) by E-mail?.....

Signature Date:.....

Please email this form to: membership@waders.org.au

Direct funds transfer to: **OR** **Please post this form to:** QWSG Membership Secretary

Qld Wader Study Group

BSB: 313 140 (Bank Australia)

Account number: 08305297

PO Box 3138,

SOUTH BRISBANE,

QLD 4101.