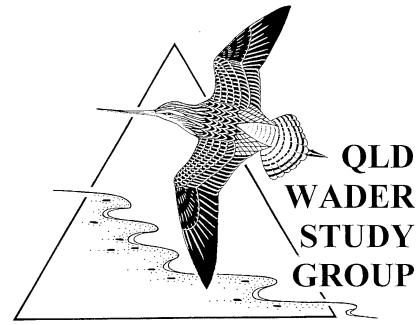


QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue number 43

Autumn 2003

Newsletter of the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG), a special interest group of the Queensland Ornithological Society Incorporated.

Chairperson's report 2002

By Andrew Geering

The year 2002 was another successful year for the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG), with several significant achievements. In reality the leadership of the group was shared, with my major achievement being to ensure that the committee meetings did not extend to the late hours of the night as a result of the frequently congested agendas.

The education program of the group was very strong on a number of different fronts. At the beginning of the year, the QWSG collaborated with the Environmental Protection Agency to produce information signs on waders to be placed at various roost sites around Moreton Bay. These signs contain general information on waders, their migrations, and steps that can be taken to minimise disturbance to the birds. Several common species are beautifully illustrated, and the signs are individualised by the inclusion of site-specific information. The majority of the signs have now been placed, and souvenir-hunting birdwatchers seeking works of art, rather than vandals, pose the greatest risk to their long-term existence. Ivell Whyte made a major contribution to the development of these signs, and on behalf of the group, I thank Ivell for her efforts.

In what has become a tradition, the QWSG held another wader workshop this year, which, in my opinion, was the best ever. For the first time, the workshop was held at the Port of Brisbane Visitor's Centre, and the magnificent facilities provided at the centre contributed to the success of the day. David Edwards, Paul Finn and yours truly presented lectures. Much behind-the-scenes work was done by Arthur and Sheryl Keates and Margaret Bernard, especially in relation to registrations, organisation of the field trip, and liaising with Port staff; thank-you to these people and everyone else that helped on the day. My gratitude also extends to Brad Kitchen and the Port of Brisbane Corporation for allowing use of the centre without charge.

The school education program continued again this year, led by Ivell Whyte, Sheryl Keates, and David Edwards. The QWSG has been successful in a federal government Envirofund grant application to produce a teaching resource kit, and this is an upcoming challenge for 2003, made easier by the production of several high quality PowerPoint presentations in 2002.

Loss of high tide roost sites is a major conservation issue, and the QWSG has had several 'wins' in this area in 2002. Manly roost site is well known in bird-watching circles, but was under threat of destruction from the dumping of dredge-spoil from the harbour, potentially raising the ground level by a couple of metres. In a compromise, half of the site was set aside for a roost site, and the remaining area devoted to the originally intended use of the area. In order to fit more birds into a smaller area, the roost site was remodelled into the shape of a large lagoon encircling an island. The 'new' roost site is supporting a similar number and diversity of birds as previously, and can be considered a great success. The challenge now is to obtain permanent protection for the roost site in the form of a nature refuge. Arthur Keates has played a big part in discussions about the roost site, and I thank him for his efforts.

In 2002, the Kakadu Beach artificial roost site at Pacific Harbour, Bribie Island, was opened. This roost site is the result of a great cooperative effort between the developers of Pacific Harbour and the QWSG,

represented by Jill Dening. To everyone's satisfaction, the roost is being used by many birds, and the display area is going to make a great contribution to educating the local community about the significance of the wildlife show on their doorstep.

Looking ahead to 2003, the QWSG has been awarded a major project, funded by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), to survey the Mackay coastline and promote conservation of waders in this area. As I complete the final touches of this report, a large team is preparing to depart for Mackay to do a major survey and conduct the first of several education nights. Sandra Harding was primarily responsible for preparing the project application, and is the project leader. This project is particularly exciting, and I thank Sandra for her efforts.

We are blessed with a highly talented committee and all have been very dedicated, performing their tasks efficiently and with enthusiasm, and in many cases without fanfare. David Edwards again produced four very interesting newsletters right on time, and the QWSG is now online at www.waders.com.au. Linda Cross continues to excel as count coordinator, performing these tasks often while simultaneously working long hours at the strawberry farm. The group's wader database was developed on a Macintosh platform, and David Milton and the database subcommittee are working towards converting this into a PC-compatible format. Margaret Bernard has diligently kept minutes of meetings.

In January 2003, we sadly said farewell to three long-serving QWSG committee members, Peter Driscoll, and Arthur and Sheryl Keates, who are moving to Townsville and Darwin, respectively. Peter started the group in 1991, and was Chairperson up until last year. Over the years, Peter has been a great mentor to many of us. I can't begin to list all the things that Peter has done for the QWSG, but he can take a fair slice of credit for many of our achievements in the last decade. I have very fond memories of some of our earlier banding expeditions, and it was a very considerable weight on Peter's shoulders to lead these expeditions, especially considering the number of things that could have potentially gone wrong.

The contributions of Arthur and Sheryl Keates to the QWSG have also been magnificent and varied - from ordering fish and chips for the committee meetings to monitoring budgets and preparing business activity statements. As a senior parliamentary counsel, Arthur's intimate knowledge of the law has been a real bonus for the group. Being able to cite specific legislation has added a hard edge to many of our submissions. Sheryl has been incredibly efficient as treasurer through some of the most trying years, covering the introduction of the GST, and several major projects such as the Gulf project. The good news for the QWSG (but maybe not for Arthur!), is that Sheryl will continue as treasurer from Darwin, with able assistance from Margaret Bernard. On a personal note, I would like to thank Arthur and Sheryl for their assistance with the wader workshops, particularly for organising the field trips, for handling registrations, and for preparing the handouts that made the workshop all the more professional.

I look forward to another successful year in 2003, and welcome Judy Caughley into the fray as the newest committee member.

The Mackay Shorebird Conservation Project: Developing partnerships

The first wader survey of the Mackay coast was on! After the reconnaissance trip in November 2002, we were ready for the real thing. The important wader roosts had been identified and realistic ways found to count all the roosts along a 200 km stretch of coastline. QWSG members were all there on the Friday before the count, ready to be briefed by Derek Ball from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service in Mackay on the dos and don'ts of working in wetlands infested with box and Irukandji jelly fish and crocodiles.

The survey of high tide roosts was conducted on the weekend 18 and 19 January. This was the first of three wader surveys to be carried out in the Mackay region. The Mackay Shorebird Project is a partnership between QWSG, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Mackay and the Mackay Conservation Group. What was great was the interest and enthusiasm of the local bird watchers and other conservation-minded people in the project. I particularly enjoyed spreading the word about waders and for QWSG, the concept of developing partnerships with other community groups has suddenly become more real.

The project objectives include training in shorebird identification and improving public awareness of shorebirds. This involved a wader identification activity held at the high tide roost in central Mackay on the Friday. All sorts of people were attracted to attend and we had about 25 participants.

We gave a shorebird presentation on the Saturday night at a surf lifesaving club on the northern beaches. A very relaxed and informative night was enjoyed by the fifty or so people who packed the room.

The success of high tide roost counts was important to the project and of particular concern to Linda Cross and I. It was critical that the different teams of people would all meet up okay, get to their sites in time and find the shorebirds. However, with Linda's behind the scenes preparation and her considerable experience gained from the Great Sandy Straits counts, we did not have to worry. With nine QWSG members from the Brisbane area, the Mackay counters and scribes and QPWS officers venturing out in boats and 4WDs, the surveys on the Saturday and Sunday ran like clockwork. Derek maintained his surveillance of the project from the QPWS office contacting each team on mobile phones and by radio to ensure that they were okay.

I just have to mention my trip on the Sunday to New Beach, which is just south of Proserpine. David Milton and I arrived at the airport at Shute Harbour, and were met by the QPWS officer and were away in a helicopter. This was a new experience for me, and a great way to access remote beaches. Feeling like commandos, we were on a mission and were impressed with our count of 3,018 waders. However, David Edwards and Paul Finn topped the counts with 4,657 waders for Sand Bay. The overall count for the high tide roosts during the weekend was over 18,000 waders. In addition to the main high tide roost counts, some of the group counted a number of freshwater wetlands, which actually still had some water. A further 1,340 waders were counted at these wetlands.

Now we are preparing for the April trip on the weekend of the 12 and 13. Just so we don't get complacent, this trip will involve investigating intertidal feeding areas. This will mean counts at low tide as well as high tide. Another important part of the trip will be to encourage more participation in the counts by locals and getting more of the local and regional decision-makers to the shorebird presentation.

In addition to the participants mentioned, another key person was Maureen Cooper, who accommodated us, drove us around and made sure we were well fed. The participants in the survey were: Maureen Cooper, Marj Andrews, Faye Griffin, Les Thyer, Desley Williams, Del Williams, Judith Wake, Leonie Daws, Tess Brickhill, Dianne Windsor, Elizabeth Sarahan, Edna Barker, Derek Ball, Michael Koch, Andrew Dinwoodie, Mathew Bloor, Maree Cali, Michael Overland, Steve Fisher, Bill Butler, Tina Ball, Barry Nolan, David Milton, Linda Cross, Ivell Whyte, Joyce Harding, Michele Burford, Peter Rothlisberg, David Edwards, Sandra Harding.

The waders seen were: Bar-tailed Godwit, Beach Thick-knee, Bush Thick-knee, Black-fronted Dotterel, Red-kneed Dotterel, Black-winged Stilt, Curlew Sandpiper, Far Eastern Curlew, Little Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Black-tailed Godwit, Great Knot, Red Knot, Greater Sand Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Greenshank, Lesser Golden Plover, Grey Plover, Grey-tailed Tattler, Marsh Sandpiper, Masked Lapwing, Pied Oystercatcher, Sooty Oystercatcher, Red-capped plover, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Terek Sandpiper, Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone, Grey-tailed Tattler, Common Sandpiper.

By Sandra Harding and David Milton



What are you wading for?

Our first long range expedition with the QWSG committee was a trip to Mackay in January 2003. The trip was organised with military precision thanks principally to the efforts of General Sandra Harding and Major Linda Cross. The pre-assault briefing commenced at 1800 hours on Friday 17/1/03 with a rendezvous at Maureen Cooper's place (on the outskirts of Mackay) to discuss sites, tactics and strategies with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife (QPWS) staff, local volunteers and the QWSG committee. The troops were deployed by land, sea and air with a hierarchy of command dictating that upper echelons got helicopter and boat transport to exotic locales. As new recruits and lowly foot soldiers, our mission (which we had no choice but to accept) involved a ground based assault to particularly challenging locations, i.e. Armstrong Beach, Bucasia and Blacks Beach. We were ably supported by a platoon of local new recruits and QPWS intelligence officers.

The upper echelons returned in the afternoon delirious from their helicopter flights and yacht cruises waxing lyrical about the tactical manoeuvres of their support crew to position them for prime viewing of rare and attractive species. Generals Harding, Milton and White saw little curlews, Major Cross saw the sooty oystercatchers and Colonels Edwards and Finn saw beach stone curlews. We, on the other hand, slogged through sand and mud, and waded through crocodile infested creeks and coastal waters thick with toxic jellyfish to mop up the gulls and godwits. As part of our initiation, we were sent to Bucasia where, after waiting several hours for the high tide, we got one Eastern Curlew. However, we were rewarded at Blacks Beach with a wide range of wader species such as sand and golden plovers, knots, curlews and stints. While chuffed with our rigorous mission accomplished, we were reprimanded for endangering the group's liability insurance premium by tempting fate (= hungry crows) looking for leg flags on curlews.

It's said that an army marches on its stomach. Mother (oops, Major) Cross ensured that we ate well with a choice of jams, breads, milks, cereals, drinks, fruits to suit every taste. And rather than command us to take no prisoners, her war cry was 'Take more fruit!' Major Cross also sharpened her troops with midnight drills that required creative thinking by battle weary troops to silence blaring fire alarms in out-of-reach places.

The only battle casualty that we are aware of was Colonel Dave Edwards who returned from the offshore viewing with one hand locked in the shape of the vessel's stanchion (or a XXXX stubby) after hours of sailing the high seas.

All of our efforts we repaid generously by the enthusiasm and hospitality of our local hosts and volunteers and the view from the Eimeo Pub and Surf Lifesaving Club at sunset has to be seen to be believed. We look forward to further reconnaissance missions and intelligence gathering.

By Michele Burford & Peter Rothlisberg

(The true story of the Mackay visit? – Editor)

Some Quick Notes from the QWSG Committee Meeting January 2003

- **Financial Report:** The report was discussed and approved.. An increase in membership fees was suggested and agreed to (see in newsletter).
- **Mackay Trip Report:** Successful trip in January and next trip will be in April.
- **Port of Brisbane project:** It was accepted that QWSG would do a monthly count of the Port for a fee and to have data that is crucial to obtain true values for Moreton Bay.
- **Counts:** We need more monthly counters (see Vacancies article in this Newsletter).
- **Empire Point:** A grant has been approved for a clean-up of the Roost site. At present the date for this will be Saturday May 10th. If you can help please contact one of the Committee members for details closer to the time.
- **Burnett River Project:** Proposal to monitor mouth of Burnett River as a condition of Burnett River Dam development. The committee could not commit to this because of work load, but others are to see if they can undertake the project.
- **Enviro-fund education grant:** Grant application successful to produce Shorebird education kit

**Media Release: Minister for the Environment and Heritage
Dr David Kemp**

2 February 2003

\$1 Million to Conserve Migratory Shorebirds

Federal Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Dr David Kemp, today celebrated World Wetlands Day by announcing \$1 million in Natural Heritage Trust funding to conserve migratory shorebirds.

Dr Kemp said more than two million migratory shorebirds of 36 species each year migrate up to 25,000 kilometres between their breeding grounds in the Northern Hemisphere and Australia and back.

"The birds migrate along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, which starts at breeding grounds in Northern China, Mongolia, Siberia and Alaska and covers twenty countries in East Asia and the Pacific, before arriving in Australia and New Zealand," Dr Kemp said. (See diagram below.)

"Some shorebirds, such as the Red-necked Stint, are as small as 25 grams and make their migration in a series of short flights of 1000-2000 kilometres between stops to rest and recuperate. Larger shorebirds, such as the Great Knot, can fly several thousand kilometres non-stop. The largest of the shorebirds to migrate to Australia, the Eastern Curlew, makes its migration with only one or two stops. The migration takes as long as three to four months each year for most of these birds."

Along the way the birds rely on a network of important wetland sites to stop and feed, to build up stores of fat and protein to fuel the next leg of their flight. The birds are able to adapt to habitats as diverse as the Arctic tundra, the tropical wetlands of Papua New Guinea and cold temperate shorelines of New Zealand and Tasmania.

"Australia is leading international efforts in East Asia to conserve these birds and the habitats vital to their survival. Much of the funding I am announcing today goes towards this effort," Dr Kemp said.

"We are continuing to provide core funding support for the *Action Plan for the Conservation of Migratory Shorebirds in the East Asian - Australasian Flyway*. This work will promote cooperation by all countries in the Flyway to conserve and effectively manage important habitat for shorebirds.

"We are also supporting the implementation of an international partnership to conserve migratory waterbirds established last year under the World Summit for Sustainable Development."

Other projects funded today include:

- An international research program where coloured plastic flags will be attached to the legs of migratory shorebirds to track their movements from country to country, providing more information about migration patterns and the bird's habitats;
- A project cataloguing the features of Australia's internationally important migratory shorebird habitat;
- Education programs, including a sister-schools program across the Flyway, and;
- The final steps in the signing of a bilateral migratory bird agreement with the Republic of Korea.

"We are also actively protecting the birds when they are on Australian shores," Dr Kemp said.

"Australia provides more than 150 internationally important sites for migratory shorebirds, which equates to approximately 25% of such sites in the Flyway. The sites include Port Phillip Bay and Western Port here in Victoria; 80-mile Beach in Western Australia; the Hunter Estuary in New South Wales; the Southern Gulf of Carpentaria in Queensland; Fog Bay, south-west of Darwin in the Northern Territory; Spencer Gulf in South Australia; and the Boullanger Bay area of Tasmania.

"With this funding, a Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds will be developed under the Government's environment legislation the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* to conserve shorebirds in Australia. Improvements will be made to our data on shorebird numbers and movements so we can better enforce the Act's regulations to protect the birds.

"Australian communities living in the Flyway can get involved with practical activities to conserve shorebirds through the Australian Shorebird Conservation Project. The Government is providing funding to the World Wide Fund for Nature Australia (WWF) to coordinate community conservation activities at internationally important shorebird sites around Australia. I cannot emphasise enough the importance of community engagement in this initiative."

World Wetlands Day marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands in Ramsar, Iran, on 2 February 1971. The theme is 'Wetlands, Water and Sustainability'. 2003 is also the International Year of Freshwater.

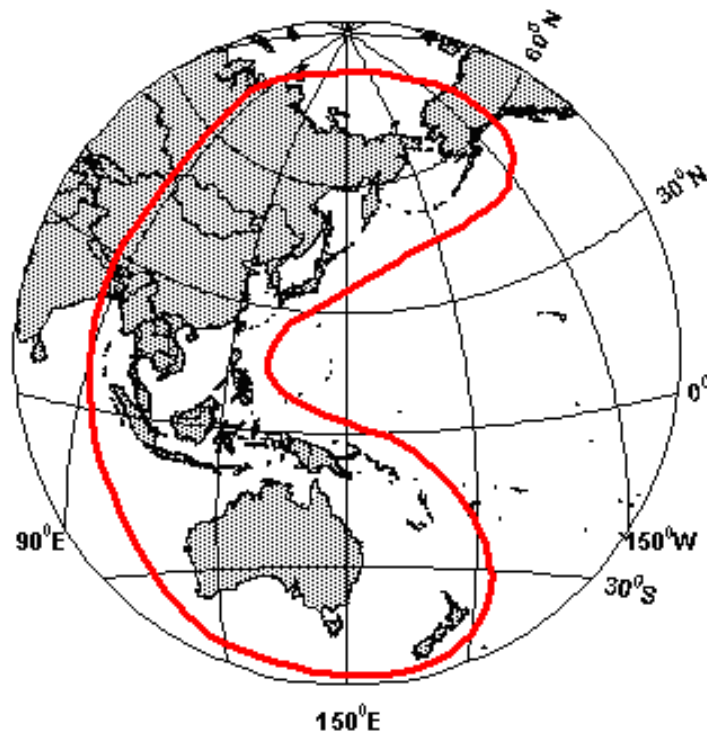
Wetlands are vital parts of a healthy river system as they help to reduce sediment and nutrient loads and provide habitat for birds, fish, frogs, tortoises and other fauna.

For high-resolution photos and further details on World Wetlands Day activities, visit www.ea.gov.au/water/wetlands/bulletin/index.html.

For details on the International Year of Freshwater, visit www.ea.gov.au/water/freshwater/iyf/index.html

Media contact:

Catherine Job 02 6277 7640 or 0408 648 400



AWA Position Paper

We have an electronic copy of the AWA Position paper. This paper is large and we do not have the room in the Newsletter, however, if you would like a copy could you E-mail xxxx xxxx@ xxxx xxxx.com.au with the subject as "AWA position paper". You must have this, if not the message will not be opened!!

FISHERMAN ISLAND – PORT OF BRISBANE COUNTS

We are currently undertaking monthly counts at Fisherman Island for the Port of Brisbane Corporation (POBC).

As some of you are aware, Fisherman Island is a large complex of numerous reclamation sites. A total of seven large reclamation sites within the fenced off area of the island, the water lagoon in front of the visitors centre and a large claypan between the lagoon and the fenced off area have been counted over a number of years.

Fisherman Island is quite extensive, so QWSG have decided that to obtain accurate numbers of wader species using the nine sites we need a large team of counters. In January and February this year nine committee members conducted the counts. The POBC are supplying the vehicles to access the sites and a number of scribes for the duration of the project.

The January survey produced 21 species of waders for a total number of 7445 birds. High lights from the count were 489 Pacific Golden Plover, 99 Red-necked Avocets, 218 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, 3490 Red-necked Stint and 568 Curlew Sandpiper. The February survey was also impressive with 22 species of waders for a total number of 6945 birds. High lights from this count included 2585 Red-necked Stint, 1030 Curlew Sandpiper, 753 Lesser Sand Plover, 53 Grey Plover and 340 Eastern Curlew.

Of great note was the siting of a red-necked stint with an orange leg flag.

In an effort not to burn out all the QWSG committee at once, we are seeking members who would like to assist us during the counts. It is not a requirement that you attend every monthly count. It would be preferable if you have a telescope (but it is not a prerequisite) to joining the team. A good knowledge of a variety of waders (the harder ones can be left to the experienced counters) would be a distinct advantage.

The counts are conducted on the day before or after the QWSG monthly count. The date and times for the POB counts appear below.

If you are interested please contact Michele Burford on xxxx xxxx (Home), xxxx xxxx (Work), or email her at xxxx xxxx @ xxxx xxxx.au If you are unable to contact Michele, please get in touch with me and I will pass on your name to Michele.

Linda Cross.

Calendar and Timetable for Port of Brisbane Visits

Sat 1st March - 07:20 start	Sun 6th April - 10:20 start
Sun 18th May - 09:25 start	Sun 15th June - 08:20 start
Sun 13th July - 07:20 start	Sun 31st Aug - 10:30 start
Sun 28th Sep - 09:20 start	Sun 26th Oct - 08:20 start
Sun 23rd Nov - 07:20 start	Sun 14th Dec - 11:20 start

Future NW Expeditions

The next NWA Wader and Tern Study Expedition will take place from the 28th June to 19th July 2003, with time being spent at Broome and 80 Mile Beach. This date is chosen in order to collect information on the moult and age structure of the immature non-breeding birds which remain behind in northwest Australia during the period when adult birds are away breeding in the northern hemisphere. Although this will be during the breeding season tens of thousands of waders are still present in NW Australia during this time. For those attending the Expedition will be the cool (dry) season.

Data was collected in 2000 on the first half of this May/July period, when only "immature" birds are present, and this Expedition is intended to obtain complementary information in the second half of this period. Again, a team of around 18-20 people is sought. Preference will be given to those who have participated in recent NWA Expeditions. Put your hand up **now!** Or at least give an indication to Clive Minton or Ros Jessop or Pete Collins or Humphrey Sitters of your intention.

Count Programme by Linda Cross

It would appear that the southward migration continued well into November judging from the numbers recorded on count sheets. As with the last newsletter, I have extracted some counts on a number of species, which appear at the bottom of this section.

As the count sheets start to roll in for January and February increasing species numbers would suggest that the birds are already on the move. Mid January counts from Hervey Bay have records of significantly large numbers of Eastern Curlew, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and Terek Sandpiper.

In an effort to make the count co-ordinator and data entry roles easier, I would like to ensure that **every** counter is completing their count sheets correctly as *per* the 'Instruction to counters' information sheets. **Could all counters please check their files and advise if you have a copy of the instructions.** The information is on two sheets of paper, which has back-to-back information on. At the top of the first page it starts with the following: -

QLD WADER STUDY GROUP (*as per* Australasian Wader Studies Group) the '*as per*' has been crossed out and 'based on' has been handwritten above it. When you send your next count sheet/s to me please advise if you have them, or not. I will send copies to those who need them. There are a number of inconsistencies from one count sheet to another and it is very important that we rectify them.

In this issue of 'Qld Wader' there is an article on 'Fisherman Island – Port of Brisbane Counts'. The article has been produced in order to obtain assistance from other counters. If the count site you survey does not have a diverse number of species, joining the team on the POB count day will be beneficial in obtaining that extra knowledge on the ones you don't see. Both Phil and myself don't see Lesser or Greater Sand Plovers very often, so joining the team at the Port is a great way for us to keep up the skills needed to separate these two. Think about coming along as often as you like.

During our travels in November last year we finally caught up with a couple of the northern counters that we missed meeting on previous trips. We had been trying to meet Jon Wren for a couple of years, but it appeared we timed our visits at the same time Jon was away on his holiday.

At long last we met Jon on the 19th November and after meeting his family we headed off to one of his count sites. Unfortunately we were unable to go to the Saltworks at Bowen, so we visited Dalrymple Point to Doherty Creek count site instead, which is situated at Port Denison. We started at the Doherty Creek end of the site first, where a sand bank had a small number of waders roosting on it. Eastern Curlew, Whimbrel, Bar-tailed Godwit and Great Knot were counted before we moved along the sandy foreshore towards the long jetty. Rock walls along the jetty and part of the count site sometimes have Tattler and Sooty Oystercatcher on them, but not this day.

We stopped to observe a group of waders (46 Bar-tailed Godwit and one lone Great Knot) roosting on the Catalina boat ramp. Jon had just finished telling us that he had only ever seen one flagged bird during his counts and that was when he was showing someone else around his sites quite a number of years ago. You can imagine Jon's surprise when Phil informed him that one of the Godwits was sporting an orange leg flag on the right tibia. A few minutes were spent looking at the bird and recording the necessary information that was needed to submit the sighting to AWSG.

We continued on to the boat harbour where we observed a number of Black-naped Tern flying over the water. From here we moved into the proposed Marina site, which currently has ideal habitat for a number of waders. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Common Greenshank, a Red-necked Stint and an Osprey perched on a log on the ground were added to the count list.

Our final destination was Dalrymple Point, which is quite picturesque and certainly a nice spot to sit and enjoy the view. Sooty Oystercatchers were roosting on the rocky shoreline, while Crested, Common and Black-naped Tern chose a rocky area close by to rest. There was also a grey phase Reef Egret wading around the water's edge by the rocks. We spent quite some time looking at the terns before a single Brown Booby and a flock of Black-naped Tern fishing off shore drew our attention.

We returned to Jon's home for a welcomed cup of tea before continuing our journey north. Our thanks to Jon for sharing one of his count sites with us. During our stay we also visited Muller's Lagoon, which is a good birding spot that Jon suggested we take a look.

On our return journey from the north our last night before home was a stopover at Yeppoon to meet John Thomson who surveys two sites, Kinka Beach and creek and Young Avenue, Kinka Beach. Rob Macfarlane, who regularly surveys the site with John was away on holiday and the other helper, Maree Burke, was not able to join us. The plan was to meet the next morning and look at both sites.

On Saturday morning of 30th November we met John and decided to check out the beach and creek site first, but there was only a handful of waders (Eastern Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel and Greater Sand Plover) on the beach with the outgoing tide. Young Avenue site is on private property and consists of a lagoon, which has some tidal influence and extensive fresh water wetlands. Unfortunately the fresh water wetlands were bone dry due to the drought, but John did show us the whole site so we could get an idea on the size of the site, which would be approximately twenty hectares.

Thankfully the lagoon still had some water in it and a count of the birds produced the following: -

c25 Marsh Sandpiper	3 Red-kneed Dotterel
21 Common Greenshank	2 Black-necked Stork (Male & Female)
c54 Red-necked Stint	2 Brolga
13 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	11 Australian Pelicans
17 Black-winged Stilt	c300 Grey Teal
100 Red-necked Avocet	3 Chestnut Teal
2 Red-capped Plover	40 Pacific Black Duck

By late morning it was quite hot when we finished and a cool refreshing drink at John's home was most welcomed. We would like to thank John for spending the morning with us exploring the count sites.

We extend a special thank you to the Young family for their continued support and allowing access onto their property to conduct the surveys.

Happy counting.
Linda Cross.

Black-tailed Godwit

Manly Boat Harbour – 85 on 3.1.03
Pine Rivers North Side – 404 on 5.1.03
Maaroom – 5 on 5.1.03 (unusual at this site)
Toorbul 1 km North – 14 on 9.1.03
(Rare at this site)
Cairns Esplanade – 24 on 1.2.03
Lytton – 25 on 1.2.03
Donnybrook – 22 on 2.2.03

Pacific Golden Plover

Manly Boat Harbour – 56 on 20.10.02
Maroochy River – 127 on 9.11.02
Shellgrit Ck Mackay – 240 on 15.11.02
Deception Bay – 87 on 6.12.02
Fisherman Island – 487 on 4.1.03
Caloundra – 90 on 30.1.03
Pine Rivers North Side – 64 on 1.2.03
Toorbul Sandspit – 26 on 12.2.03
(High number for this site)

Red-kneed Dotterel

Young Ave, Kinka Beach – 6 on 8.12.02
Cairns Esplanade – 2 on 12.12.02
Garnett's Lagoons – 26 on 6.1.03
Pine River North Side – 26 on 1.2.03

Broad-billed Sandpiper

Caboilture River Mouth – 3 on 9.11.02
Garnett's Lagoons – 6 on 8.12.02
Cairns Esplanade – 3 on 12.12.02
Toorbul – 2 on 8.2.02

Bar-tailed Godwit

Amity Point – 1900 on 9.11.02
Manly Boat Harbour – 2934 on 8.12.02
Manly Boat Harbour – 2400 on 1.1.03
Maaroom – 1300 on 5.1.03
Toorbul – 1200 on 25.1.03
Manly Boat Harbour – 2476 on 1.2.03

Red-necked Avocets

Pine River North Side – 50 on 8.9.02
(28 still on site 5.1.03)
Saltworks Bowen – 84 on 7.10.02
Trutes Bay Tweed Heads – 88 on 11.11.02
(68 still on site 8.1.03)
Young Ave Kinka Beach - 85 on 7.12.02
Maaroom – 2 on 8.12.02
Tin Can Bay Sewage Works – 79 on 1.2.03
Donnybrook – 20 on 2.2.03

Common Sandpiper

Dalrymple Ck Bowen – 1 on 16.9.02
Dalrymple Ck Bowen – 2 on 11.10.02
Bribie Passage – 2 on 31.10.02

Marsh Sandpiper

Donnybrook – 54 on 9.11.02
Garnett's Lagoons – 90 on 2.12.02
Maaroom – 85 on 8.12.02
Shellgrit Ck Mackay – 92 on 13.12.02

WADER WATCH *Linda and Phil Cross, Peter Driscoll, Joyce Harding*

Leg Flag Banding Legend (colour = where banded)

- Green = Brisbane/Queensland
- Orange = Victoria
- Yellow = Northern Western Australia
- White = New Zealand (some species banded in New South Wales)
- Blue = Japan

There are more leg flag sightings detailed in the Wader ID Day reports included in this newsletter.

Green leg flag sightings

- 2 Eastern Curlew – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur Keates & David Edwards – 1.9.02
1 Eastern Curlew – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 8.9.02
1 Eastern Curlew – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 5.12.02
2 Eastern Curlew – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 8.12.02
2 Eastern Curlew – Manly Boat Harbour – Sandra Harding, David Milton, Barry & Joanna Morgan – 1.2.03
3 Eastern Curlew – Manly Boat Harbour – Sandra Harding, David Milton, Barry & Joanna Morgan – 1.1.03 & 2 on 3.1.03
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Pine Rivers North Side – David Edwards – 8.9.02
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 15.10.02 & 22.10.02
2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 18.10.02
3 Bar-tailed Godwit – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 22.10.02
2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 9.11.02
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 5.12.02
2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 7.12.02
2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 8.12.02
3 Bar-tailed Godwit – Fisherman Island – David Edwards – 4.1.03
2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 9.1.03
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 8, 11, 13, 21, 23, & 26.1.03
3 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge - 25.1.03
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Phil & Linda Cross – 27.1.03
2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 1.2.03
3 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Boat Harbour – Sandra Harding, David Milton, Barry & Joanna Morgan – 1.1.03 & 2 birds on 3.1.03
3 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Boat Harbour – Sandra Harding, David Milton, Barry & Joanna Morgan – 1.2.03
1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 15.10.02 & 24.10.02 & 8.11.02
1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 8 & 9.1.03
3 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 11, 13, 23 & 25.1.03
2 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 21.1.03
1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Phil & Linda Cross – 27.1.03
1 Ruddy Turnstone – Manly Boat Harbour – Sandra Harding, David Milton, Barry & Joanna Morgan – 3.1.03
1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Lytton – Arthur Keates – 21.9.02
1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 8.12.02
1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Manly Boat Harbour – Sandra Harding, David Milton et al – 1.1.03
1 Lesser Sand Plover – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 5.12.02

Interstate & overseas Green leg flag sightings

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manukau Harbour, Sth Auckland, New Zealand – Gwen Pulham – 24.11.02
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Miranda Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland, New Zealand – Keith Woodley – 1.12.02 & 7.12.02
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 5.12.02
1 Greater Sand Plover – South Beach, Ballina, NSW – Bo Totterman – 1.10.02 & 13.10.02

Orange leg flag sightings

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 15.10.02
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Port Denison Sailing Club, Bowen, NQ – Phil Cross & Jon Wren et al – 19.11.02
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 5.12.02
 1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 15.10.02 & 22.10.02 & 29.10.02
 1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 8.11.02
 1 Great Knot – Kakadu Beach, Bribie Island – Esther Townsend – 6.1.03
 2 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 8.1.03
 1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 9, 11, 13, 21, 23 & 25.1.03
 1 Red Knot – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 29.10.02
 1 Red Knot – Toorbul – Esther Townsend – 8.12.02
 1 Red Knot – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 11, 23 & 25.1.03
 1 Red Knot – Kakadu Beach, Bribie Island – Trevor Ford – 31.1.03
 1 Red-necked Stint – Fisherman Island – Linda Cross – 2.2.03

Japanese (Blue) leg flag sightings

- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 23.1.03
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia and white flag left tarsus – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 26.1.03 (flagged Obitsu Estuary, Tokyo Bay)
 1 Lesser Sand Plover – with blue flag left tarsus and metal band right tibia – Myall Beach, Cape Tribulation, FNQ – Phil Moors – 5.11.02

Other wader leg flag sightings

*We wish to advise that the following sighting below, listed in issue No. 42 of Queensland Wader, was recorded as a Grey-tailed Tattler and was in fact a Greater Sand Plover. **Our apologies for the error.***

- 1 Greater Sand Plover with white flag on left tibia and blue flag on left tarsus – Cape Tribulation, NQ – Judith Wadham – 25.9.02
This tattler was flagged in Taipei, Kaohsiung, Taiwan (exact flagging date is not known).
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag immediately above an orange flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates & David Edwards – 30.11.02
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag immediately above an orange flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 5.12.02 & 8.12.02
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag immediately above an orange flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Sandra Harding, David Milton, Barry & Joanna Morgan – 1 & 3.1.03
The two colour flagged Godwit above was flagged in Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve, Liaoning Province, China during 24 to 28 April 2002.
 1 Great Knot with white flag on left tibia and orange flag on left tarsus – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 25 & 26.1.03
 1 Great Knot with white flag on left tibia and orange flag on left tarsus – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge & Phil & Linda Cross – 27.1.03
The two colour flagged Knot above was flagged in the Korean Peninsula sometime since 1998.

Other leg flag sightings and banded birds

- 1 Pied Oystercatcher with metal ring – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 9.1.03
 1 Caspian Tern with orange flag and metal ring – Buckley's Hole sandspit – Gavin Goodyear – 26.12.02

Interesting sightings

- 4 Wandering Tattler – Hastings Point, Nth NSW – Ian Watson & Eddie Kleiber – 8.11.02
 4 Wandering Tattler – Point Vernon, Hervey Bay – Donald & Lesley Bradley – 2.2.03
 1 Wood Sandpiper – Garnett's Lagoons – John Knight – 30.11.02
 140 Grey Plover – Inskip Point – John Cummings – 2.11.02
 950 Lesser Sand Plover – Point Vernon, Hervey Bay – Donald & Lesley Bradley – 2.2.03
 14 Latham's Snipe – Banora Point Sewage Plant, Tweed Heads – Ian Watson & Matthew Angus 5.12.02
 (6 still on site 10.1.03)
 2 Beach-stone Curlew – Black Soil Creek, Townsville area – Dez Wells – 15.9.02
 1 Beach-stone Curlew – Tweed River, Tweed Heads – Ian Watson – 18 & 27 12.02
 1 Beach-stone Curlew – Tweed River, Tweed Heads – Matthew Angus – 22.11.02 and 21.12.02
 1 Asian Dowitcher – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 8.12.02
 2 Asian Dowitcher – Manly Boat Harbour – Sandra Harding, David Milton, Barry & Joanna Morgan – 3.1.03

Not waders but of interest anyway

1 Musk Duck – Garnett's Lagoons – John Knight et al – 20.10.02

25 Musk Duck – Cooby Dam – Nicci Thompson – 5.1.03

71 Wandering Whistling Duck – Kingscliff Sewage Plant – Ian Watson – 1.11.02

12 Pink-eared Duck – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 8.12.02

8 Pink-eared Duck – Cairns Esplanade – Keith Fisher – 12.12.02 (Standing in the surf!)

2 Pink-eared Duck – Tweed Heads Sewage Plant – Ian Watson & Matthew Angus – 23.12.02

7 Freckled Duck – Brunswick Heads Sewage Plant – Barry Reid via Matthew Angus – 26.1.03

4 Australasian Shoveler – Garnett's Lagoons – John Knight – 8.12.02

2 Australasian Shoveler – Pine Rivers North Side – David Edwards – 5.1.03

1 Australasian Shoveler – Tin Can Bay Sewage Works – John Cummings – 1.2.03

700 Gull-billed Tern – Garnett's Lagoons – John Knight – 27.10.02

1047 Little Tern – Sandbank No. 2 Caloundra – Jill Chamberlain – 9.12.02

800 White-winged Black Tern – Sandbank No 1 Caloundra – Barb Dickson, Judy Caughley and Judy Coles – 30.1.03

11970 Common Tern – Sandbank No 1 Caloundra – Barb Dickson, Judy Caughley and Judy Coles – 30.1.03

4 Yellow-billed Spoonbill – Garnett's Lagoons – John Knight & Peter Royal – 9.11.02

1 Australian Crake – Garnett's Lagoons – John Knight – 28.12.02 (still on site 6.1.03)

2 White-winged Triller – St Helena Island – Andrew Geering – 9.11.02

1 Little Eagle – Garnett's Lagoons – John Knight, Peter & Nathan Royall – 2.12.02

2 Black-tailed Native Hen – Garnett's Lagoons – John Knight – 28.12.02

14 Glossy Ibis – Garnett's Lagoons – John Knight et al – 20.10.02 & 2.12.02

6 Magpie Goose – Trutes Wetlands, Tweed Heads – Ian Watson – 5.11.02

Whiskered Tern – good numbers being recorded at Terranora Broadwater and Trutes Wetlands in Tweed Heads and Garnett's Lagoons in Hervey Bay.

VACANCIES for COUNTERS

We currently have a number of vacancies in our count programme section. An ability to identify most waders seen in Queensland would be an advantage, but not necessary, as your skills will improve during the course of the job.

You will need to have suitable clothing for outdoor exposure, gum boots or dive boots (just for those sites that might be a bit muddy underfoot), binoculars, a telescope would be preferable, but not necessary for some sites and willing to accept a challenge (they all look the same at first).

In return we offer the applicants generous amounts of fresh air and enjoyment during the period of employment (unpaid). Lots of friendship and on board training are available from our large team of skilled and experienced workers.

Some of the Moreton Bay site vacancies are as follows: -

Bray's Lagoon, Kallangur

Point Halloran Reserve

Peel Island

Mirapool, Moreton Island

Pine Rivers Wetlands Reserve

Reeders Point, Moreton Island

Macleay Island

Sandhill, Moreton Island

Other sites available along the Queensland coast include the following: -

A few sites on the Gold Coast.

Boonooroo and others in the Great Sandy Strait.

Numerous sites in the Gladstone, Rockhampton, Mackay and Townsville regions.

We also have sites in the Lockyer Valley waiting for that keen enthusiastic person to come along.

Perhaps you have found your own little piece of coastline or dam that the waders like to roost on. If so, we would love to hear from you, as we are always happy to add another site to the database.

Please contact Linda Cross on xxxx xxxx or email her at xxxx xxxx @ xxxx xxxx.au

ID Day Reports

TOORBUL WADER ID DAY REPORT 8 FEBRUARY 2003

Toorbul continues to draw birdwatchers for great views of waders, which it did for thirty-nine members and guests this day. Among the group, three had travelled from the Gold Coast, three from Toowoomba, one from Warwick and one from Jimboomba. Expectations of seeing the Laughing Gull at Bribie Island prior to the outing, probably accounted for half of the long day-trippers. Some were successful.

Weather conditions were fine, dry and sunny, with light winds.

Twenty species of waders were present at the main Toorbul roost for the whole of the high tide and some breeding plumage was quite evident in a number of them.

A white morph Grey Goshawk over the roost stirred up the waders and was quite a surprise sighting in this habitat.

No individual species counts were conducted because a lot of time was spent trying to put a view of Broad-billed Sandpiper in as many scopes as possible. Staying with the leaders until the end proved very productive for four attendees, who got great views of one of these birds. It was extra special for Julie Moore as it was her 500th bird.

When we arrived at Bishops Marsh we were down to only five birders. Recent heavy rains had filled the site again and it was a pleasure to see a male and female Black-necked Stork in the Marsh. The female was fishing, giving a lovely dancing display. Another surprise was the Wedge-tailed Eagle soaring overhead.

The following leg flagged birds were observed at the Toorbul roost: -

- 1 Red Knot with an orange flag (banded in Victoria) on the upper right leg.
- 1 Great Knot with a green flag (banded in Moreton Bay) on the upper right leg.
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with a green flag (banded in Moreton Bay) on the upper right leg.
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with blue flag (banded in Japan) on the upper left leg.
- 1 Caspian Tern with orange flag (banded in Victoria) on the lower right leg and metal band on lower left leg.

Species seen at and around the main Toorbul roost: -

Australian Wood Duck, Little Pied Cormorant, Australian Pelican, White-faced Heron, Little Egret, Australian White Ibis, Straw-necked Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, Whistling Kite, Brahminy Kite, Grey Goshawk (white morph), Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Common Greenshank, Terek Sandpiper, Grey-tailed Tattler, Ruddy Turnstone, Great Knot, Red Knot, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Pied Oystercatcher, Sooty Oystercatcher, Black-winged Stilt, Grey Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Great Sand Plover, Masked Lapwing, Silver Gull, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern, Crested Tern, Little Tern, Galah, Rainbow Lorikeet, Sacred Kingfisher, Rainbow Bee-eater, Noisy Miner, Magpie Lark, Australian Magpie, Torresian Crow, Mistletoebird (H), Welcome Swallow and Common Myna.

Species seen at Bishops Marsh: -

Australian Wood Duck, Pacific Black Duck, Chestnut Teal, Cattle Egret, Australian White Ibis, Straw-necked Ibis, Black-necked Stork (Male & Female), Whistling Kite, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Marsh Sandpiper, Black-winged Stilt, Masked Lapwing, Whiskered Tern, White-winged Black Tern and Blue-faced Honeyeater.

By Linda Cross.

Your Own Web Site

The address is waders.com.au

Please bear with us as we upload and iron out the bugs. The site is operated by volunteers so please be patient. As with many sites we will be enlarging the site by updating as we have the time and info. At present we are not having an E-mail address so merchandise will only be available via the present arrangements.

WADER ID DAYS for 2003

Sunday 23rd March 2003 at Toorbul

High tide 1.84m at 1304 hours (40 mins later at Toorbul). Meeting time will be 1200 (mid-day). Bring lunch. Some of the birds will be sporting their breeding plumage, which can be helpful for identifying those harder species.

Take the Bruce Highway north from Brisbane to the Donnybrook/Toorbul turn-off near the Big Fish. Turn off here and head east over the highway overpass. Continue on this road to Toorbul. Turn right at the T-junction then first left and then right, which brings you onto the Esplanade. Follow this road to the end (approximately 2kms); we will be on the left.

Phil & Linda Cross xxxx xxxx or David Edwards xxxx xxxx

This will be the last ID Day for the first half of the year because of the extensive commitments of the QWSG Committee to surveys, such as the Port of Brisbane and Mackay. This makes this an important day for all those who want to refresh before the winter break or those who wish to have a good view of the waders as they come into their breeding plumage. (More confusion for you!).

Where are all the Dunlin?

Lower Yangtze Dunlin Survey - January 2003 Mark Barter

Breeding ground surveys have shown that there at least 1 million Dunlin in the East Asian - Australasian Flyway, perhaps as many as 3 million. However, so far we have found only 200 000 in the non-breeding areas, mainly in the coastal regions of Japan, South Korea and southern China. Where are the missing birds?

In recent years, large numbers of Dunlin, estimated to be around 50 000 birds, have been found at the East Dongting National Nature Reserve in Hunan Province. This discovery raises the question of how many more Dunlin may be spending the non-breeding season on the extensive system of lakes in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River. Perhaps this region is the major non-breeding area for the species.

Next January, teams from Wetlands International - China are planning to survey for Dunlin at some of the major lakes in Hunan, Hebei, Jiangxi and Anhui Provinces. Whilst the survey is focussed on Dunlin, the opportunity will be used to count other shorebirds and other waterbirds and thus collect important data for the annual Asian Waterfowl Count.

From: *The Tattler* No 31

Fourth AWSG Conference — Call for papers

The fourth AWSG Conference will be held at the Australian National University in Canberra from 12th to 14th December, in association with the Australasian Ornithological Congress (11 -13th December). The first day (Sunday) will be a combination of invited and selected papers covering research on shorebirds with a focus on Australia and New Zealand and the Flyway. The second day (Monday) will examine issues relating to shorebird conservation in Australia and within the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. This arrangement allows access to staff in state and federal government agencies concerned with Flyway issues who may not be available over the weekend.

It is intended to produce a set of proceedings after the AWSG in order to make information available to a wider audience. Preference will, therefore, be given to speakers able to provide papers for inclusion in the proceedings. Research students are particularly welcome and efforts are being taken to secure some funding to assist those who may not otherwise be able to attend.

Expressions of interest should be sent to Phil Straw, AWSG Conference Convener (contact details PO Box xxx, xxxx xxxx, xxxx xxxx, NSW 2xxx. E-mail xxxx xxxx @ xxxx xxxx.au).

Other Conservation Activities of Interest



QWSG is a special interest group of the Queensland Ornithological Society 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: Peter Crow, President (07) xxxx xxxx; Rod Cox, Secretary (07) xxxx xxxx; Les Taylor, Treasurer (07) xxxx xxxx.

Monthly Meetings

Birds Queensland - 7.45pm Queensland Museum Brisbane

1st Thursday each month except January.

Entry via Dinosaur Garden in Grey Street. Doors open between 7.30 and 8.00pm.

QWSG MERDCHANDISE

Should you wish to purchase any of the QWSG Merchandise, items may be purchased at QOSI meetings held 1st Thursday of the month at the Queensland Museum **OR**...

Contact Linda Cross on 07 xxxx xxxx or E-mail at xxxx xxxx @ xxxx xxxx.au

Postage is not included in the prices quoted.

Polo Neck Shirts

\$30:00 Bottle Green, Maroon, Jade, Navy, Royal Blue, Cream.

Books

\$19:80 Shorebird Conservation in the Asia-Pacific Region.

\$24:00 Simpson & Day Field Guide (2000 print)

\$14:00 Birds of Bribie Island, Pumicestone Passage and Environs

\$15:00 Wildflowers of Bribie Island

\$15:00 Kingfishers and Kookaburras by David Hollands

\$ 3:30 A Guide to Waders of Moreton Bay

\$14:00 A Birdwatcher's Guide to Redcliffe, Pine Rivers and Caboolture Shire. Wildlife Preservation Society of Caboolture.

CD

\$22:00 Bird calls of the Broome region (includes 42 Wader Species).

Cloth Badges

\$8.00 We now have the new bottle green cloth badges, made to same design that appears on our Polo Shirts. They can be sewn onto your cap, hat, jacket, jumper & bag. If you are interested please contact Linda.

Our QWSG logo Polo Shirt stock is very low and we are looking at purchasing more stock in the New Year. A number of members missed out on the size and colour of their choice when we obtained the last stock and asked that we advise them when new stock was to be ordered so they could choose the one they wanted. Here is your chance to get the colour you want in your size by placing an order in advance.

At this point in time we envisage continuing with the colours we had previously: - Bottle Green, Jade, Navy, Royal Blue, Maroon, Grey Marle and Cream. However, if you have a favourite colour that we did not have there is a possibility that we can get it for you. Sizes varied from small through to XXXL in the last stock, but larger sizes were available.

If you are interested in placing an order, or wish to discuss the matter further please contact me by phone or email.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new member who have joined recently :

Judith Coles & Bruce Knuckey

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.

Membership Fees: Increase

The QWSG has managed to keep membership fees static, absorbing inflationary tendencies in the last decade. However, because of increasing costs, most notably those associated with public liability insurance, we are considering a small rise in our membership fees.

The QWSG is a special interest group of Birds Queensland Incorporated (BQI), and as such, is covered by their public liability insurance. There is no obligation for QWSG members to pay a membership fee to BQI, and about half of our members have chosen this option. In effect, QWSG members are automatically members of BQI, without the privileges normally accorded to full fee-paying members, such as voting rights, the BQI newsletter and the journal *Sunbird*. In the past, QWSG has not made any contributions towards the insurance cover provided by BQI.

However, soaring insurance premiums have forced BQI to request a contribution of \$10:00 for every member of QWSG that is not a fee-paying member of BQI. At the QWSG AGM in December 2002, a proposal to make this payment, was unanimously accepted.

As one can imagine, not much is left from the annual QWSG membership fee once insurance costs are deducted. Fortunately, the QWSG is reasonably financially buoyant and can absorb much of this cost. However, the committee has proposed that.

The QWSG Committee has decided that a special General Meeting is to be held in order to discuss and vote on the proposal. To this end the meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th May at 6:00pm at 54, Elliott Street, Clayfield, Qld 4011. This meeting will be followed by the bi-monthly Committee Meeting to which all are welcome to attend.

The proposal:

That the QWSG annual membership fees be raised from \$12 to \$15 for normal members; \$9 to \$10 for students and pensioners and \$22 to \$25 for families. This increase in fees should commence on July 1st 2003.

For those unable to attend the meeting a proxy form is to be found below with a section for comment. This vote must be received by Tuesday 6th May 2003.

Proxy Vote for The Proposal:

That the QWSG annual membership fees be raised from \$12 to \$15 for normal members; \$9 to \$10 for students and pensioners and \$22 to \$25 for families. This increase in fees should commence on July 1st 2003.

I / we wish to vote **for** the proposal.

I / we wish to vote **against** the proposal.

I / we wish to give my / our vote to _____

Please delete those not corresponding to your wish.

My comment on the Proposal:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Post to: QWSG Proxy, xx xxxx xxxx Street, xxxx xxxx, Q 4

QWSG CONTACTS

QUEENSLAND WADER

The Official Quarterly Publication of
Queensland Wader Study Group

MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE QWSG

<u>CHAIRPERSON:</u>	Andrew Geering	(07) xxxx xxxx
<u>VICE CHAIRPERSON</u>	David Milton	(07) xxxx xxxx
<u>TREASURER:</u>	Sheryl Keates	TBA
<u>SECRETARY:</u>	Margaret Bernard	(07) xxxx xxxx
<u>NEWSLETTER EDITOR.</u>	David Edwards	(07) xxxx xxxx
<u>COUNT COORDINATOR:</u>	Linda Cross	(07) xxxx xxxx

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Michele Burford	(07) xxxx xxxx	Judy Caughley	(07) xxxx xxxx
Peter Driscoll	TBA	Jill Dening	(07) xxxx xxxx
Paul Finn	(07) xxxx xxxx	Joyce Harding	(07) xxxx xxxx
Sandra Harding	(07) xxxx xxxx	Ivell Whyte	(07) xxxx xxxx

CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence to:
The QWSG Chairperson,
Xxxx xxxx Street,
Xxxx xxxx,
Q 4xxx

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please notify the Treasurer as soon as possible of any change of address so that your Newsletter can be dispatched correctly.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscription rates:
Single: \$12:00
Student/Pensioner: \$ 9:00
Family \$22:00

Receipt will be forwarded with next edition of Queensland Wader.

Forward application to:
QWSG Treasurer,
Xxxx xxxx Street,
Xxxx xxxx,
Q 4xxx

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. Only one further newsletter will be sent after expiry of your subscription.

Copy Deadline for the next issue of Queensland Wader is February 18th 2002

Contributions should be addressed to:

David Edwards, The QWSG Editor, x Xxxx xxxx Street, Xxxx xxxx, Qld 4xxx
or E-mail to: Xxxx xxxx @ Xxxx xxxx.com.au

Computerised contributions should be in IBM Word, ASCII or Rich Text.

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

Advertising Rates are \$20:00 for one quarter page and \$25:00 for a third of a page.

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Activities 2003

Please note - tide heights for the first three months counts are high. It is **very important** that you get into your sites **well** before the peak to ensure you get a full count of the waders before they are pushed off the roost (particularly so for the national summer count). If you are unsure about the time you should be at your site please contact me for advice.

We have very little information on sites that birds are using during very high or king tides. So if the birds were pushed off the roost before, or at the peak, it would be a good exercise to try to track where they go. Identifying king tide roosts would add valuable information to our data on waders.

PLEASE ALSO NOTE THAT WE HAVE TWO COUNTS FOR MARCH

Sun 2 nd March	High Tide of 2.39m at 09.21am	
Sat 29 th March	High Tide of 2.23m at 07.32am	
Sat 5 th April	High Tide of 1.91m at 11.18am	
Sat 17 th May	High Tide of 1.98m at 10.06am	
Sat 14 th June	High Tide of 1.87m at 08.59am	NATIONAL WINTER COUNT

NO COUNT IN JULY

Sat 30 th August	High Tide of 2.01m at 11.16am
Sat 27 th September	High Tide of 2.16m at 10.14am
Sat 25 th October	High Tide of 2.25m at 09.08am
Sat 22 nd November	High Tide of 2.25m at 08.00am
Sat 13 th December	High Tide of 2.25m at 12.13am

PLEASE CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR RENEWAL IS DUE!



MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

I/We wish to join/renew: (Single \$12; Family \$22; Student/Pensioner \$9)

Title.....Name:.....

Address:.....

Membership: \$.....

..... Postcode:.....

Donation: \$.....

Payment enclosed: \$.....

Phone: (Home) (Work)

Fax / e-mail:

TOTAL \$.....

How did you hear about QWSG

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

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

SIGNATURE:

DATE:.....

Post to: QWSG Treasurer, x Xxxx xxxx Street, Xxxx xxxx, Q 4073

Cheques to be made out to: Queensland Wader Study Group