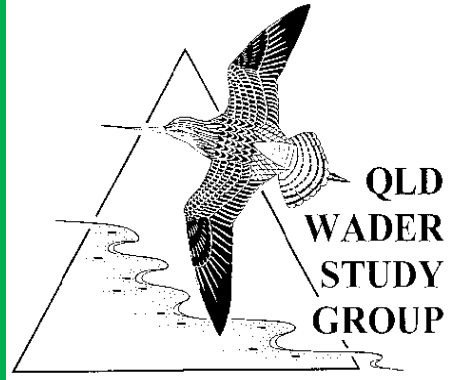


QUEENSLAND WADER - Part 1 Toondah Special



Issue 122

December 2022, January, February 2023

Newsletter of the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG), a Division of *Queensland Ornithological Society Incorporated*. <https://www.facebook.com/QueenslandWaderStudyGroup/>

Toondah Harbour Development EIS Submissions Needed

The Walker Group has released their Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for proposed development at Toondah Harbour and submissions from the public are now open and need to be forwarded to the Walker Group by the 6th of December 2022.

The QWSG Position Statement highlights the following key concerns:

Australia became a signatory to the Ramsar Convention 50 years ago in 1971. The proposal to develop a residential and retail complex over intertidal mudflats to the north of the existing Stradbroke Island Ferry terminal will, if it proceeds, extinguish part of the Moreton Bay Ramsar site. Should it proceed, its lengthy construction period will disturb a wider area of Moreton Bay marine environment.

QWSG recognises that the existing ferry terminal needs renewal to support the economic and social advancement of North Stradbroke Island and supports appropriate and environmentally sound development of the ferry terminal and its links to the island. QWSG does not support the current proposed development that extends well beyond the terminal site to extinguish approximately 44 hectares of marine coastal habitat.

Most of you will be aware of the proposed development at Toondah Harbour by the Walker Group and that this will destroy a part of the Ramsar wetlands. It will have adverse consequences on our shorebird populations, many of which are already under pressure.

It should be further noted that in the 'Hansard records from Queensland State Parliament and information obtained under Freedom of Information confirms both Commonwealth and State governments consider the application of the 'urgent national interest' test to be inappropriate in the Toondah case. This leaves the application of the wise use principle. The description of 'wise use' is contained in the QWSG Facebook post on Toondah.

Given the removal of part of the Ramsar site confirmed by the developer and the impact on waders stated by the developer's consultant, the application of this principle is inappropriate.'

This 'project' was helped along by the issuing of a Priority Development Area (PDA) by the Queensland Government limiting information and questioning of the development. A gag was placed on the elected members of the Redlands Council, once again limiting any vocal questioning of the project. Several drafts of the EIS have been submitted to Government and have been returned to the Walker Group so the EIS can be revised. This could be construed as coaching.

The Walker Group has concentrated its focus on the Far Eastern Curlew but has forgotten the many other waders that use this area to feed and roost. The mudflats around the development will be affected by noise and dredging for a long period of time. Cassim Island is a roost site for many shorebirds and the proximity of the development will affect this site in the short-term with noise, movement and run-off. The development will take up to 20 years to complete and then will overlook Cassim Island. Any shorebirds that use Cassim Island will be forced to leave or their numbers will be greatly reduced. How the shorebirds will cope with these drastic changes is unknown as many of the species are site-loyal.

The overall impact on the local area will be immense. There will be increased traffic, increased demand on the local infrastructure (eg sewerage), and the loss of easy access to the foreshore.

So now is the time to make a submission in response to this EIS with the aims of:

- Stopping this development,
- Ensuring protection for our endangered shorebirds, and
- Providing protection for our Ramsar listed wetlands.

The EIS is over 5,000 pages long and very complex. A community group, Redlands 2030, has prepared a workable copy where you can easily look for areas of special interest and it has a search function for key words ([Unboxing the Toondah Harbour Draft EIS - Redlands2030](#)).

Your submission must go directly to the Walker Group, and they will pass it on to the Federal Government. (<https://www.toondah.com.au>)

A submission is not a waste of time and effort. A large number of individual submissions makes a difference. Your submission is not a waste of time and effort. A large number of individual submissions makes a difference. In addition to sending your submission to the Walker Group we recommend sending a copy to: the Federal Minister of the Environment, the Queensland Premier and the Queensland Minister for the Environment. Names and addresses are below.

Minister for the Environment and Water

Hon Tanya Plibersek MP

minister.plibersek@dcceew.gov.au

Premier of Queensland

Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk

thepremier@premiers.qld.gov.au

Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs

Hon Meaghan Scanlon MP

environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Also consider sending your submission to your local Federal and State members of Parliament.

Here are some links to help you navigate this complex situation

Links:

Birds Queensland - [Toondah Harbour Development EIS - Submissions Needed - Birds Queensland](#)

Redlands 2030 - [Toondah Harbour Archives - Redlands2030](#) – many further links

Redlands 2030 [Unboxing the Toondah Harbour Draft EIS - Redlands2030](#) a great help in finding topics in the EIS

Act for birds (Birdlife) - [Save Toondah Harbour — Act for Birds](#)

Act for birds (Birdlife) Webinar - [Toondah Harbour webinar - Act for Birds - YouTube](#)

Environmental Defenders Office - [Protecting Toondah - Environmental Defenders Office \(edo.org.au\)](#)

Independent Australia News - [Half-baked EIS sells out protected Toondah Harbour \(independentaustalia.net\)](#)

An article from the Guardian (2019) - [To the moon and back with the eastern curlew | Australian bird of the year \(2019\) | The Guardian](#)

ABC News - [Eastern Curlew's 10-day flight to China stuns bird enthusiasts calling for greater habitat protections - ABC News](#)

Redlands City Council - [Have your say on Toondah Harbour EIS | Redland City Council News](#) NO opposition groups linked to this link!

Fact sheet from Toondah Harbour (Walkers) - [Shore bird hand out V5.indd \(toondah.com.au\)](#)

Assessment of Potential Impacts on the Ecological Character of the Moreton Bay Ramsar Wetland - [Microsoft Word - 8444 Att 3 - Toondah Harbour Ramsar Wetland Assessment.docx \(environment.gov.au\)](#)

GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENT IMPACT STATEMENT - [EPBC 2018-8225 \(environment.gov.au\)](#)

**Some articles about Toondah Harbour for you to read, plus some letters.
(Josh Freydenberg to Steve Miles and the reply, plus comment from
Representatives of Ramsar to the Walker Group)**

The Albanese Government and the Toondah scheme

BY **SAVESTRADDIE** MAY 25, 2022

The 2022 Federal Election result means integrity in Government is high on the agenda of change expected by the public. This year, the Toondah Harbour real estate scheme to build 3,600 high-rise apartments on top of Ramsar protected wetlands will be an integrity litmus test for the Albanese Government.

The Federal Labor Party's current national platform includes an unequivocal statement on Toondah Harbour and Ramsar protected wetlands:

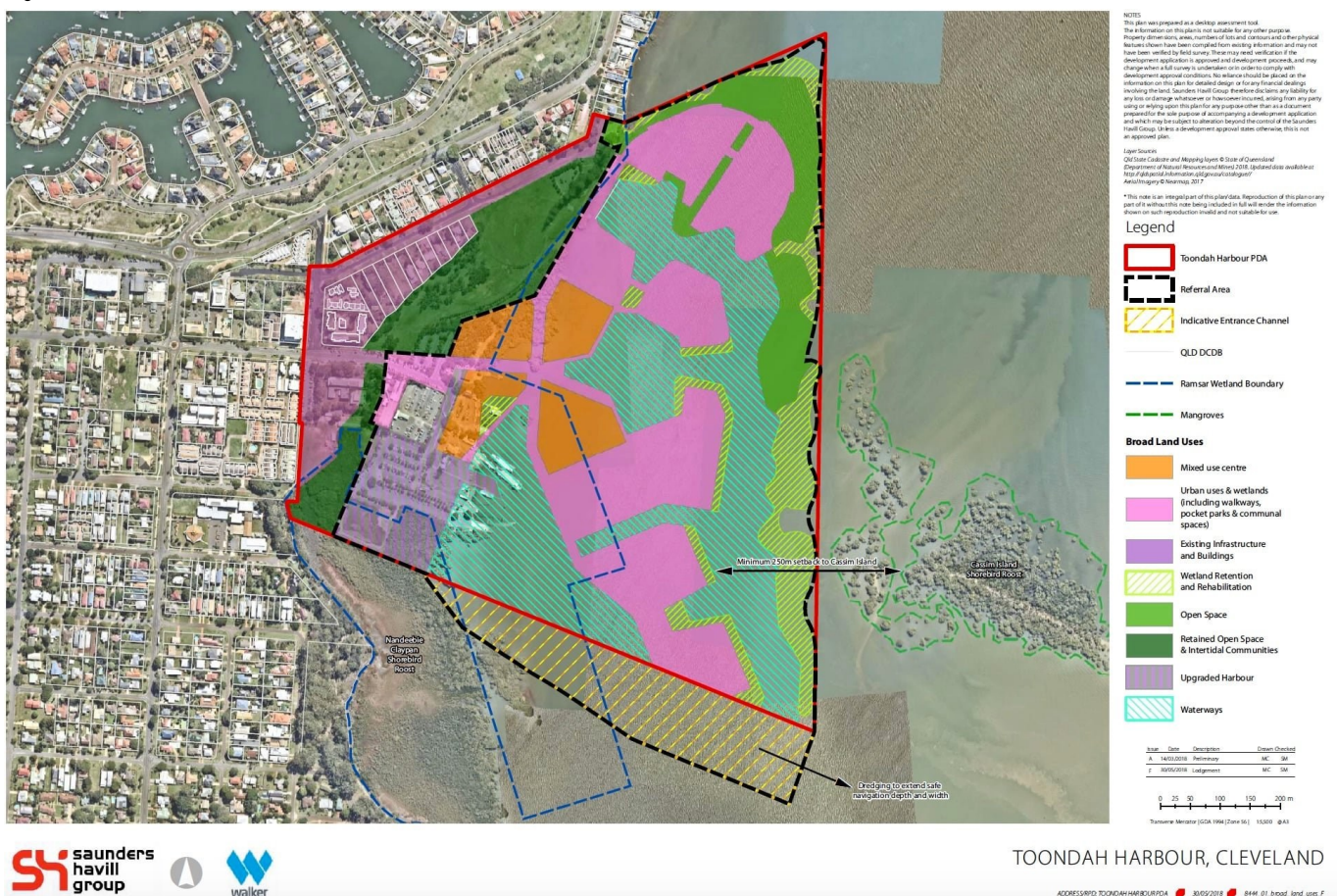
Ramsar Wetlands

This Conference:

- Restates Labor's support for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, to which Australia is a Signatory, and notes that Toondah Harbour is in the Moreton Bay Ramsar-listed wetland;
- Recognises the importance of Ramsar-listed sites to migratory wading birds;
- Acknowledges that migratory wading bird numbers are in steep decline, principally due to loss of tidal roosting and feeding sites along their migratory routes from North East Asia to Australia;
- Commits to protecting Australia's intertidal habitat on which these birds depend, with special reference to Ramsar listed sites; and
- Calls on an incoming Labor Government to fully apply Federal environmental law to protect Ramsar listed sites.

At paragraph 46, Labor's policy also states:

- Labor is committed to making sure that Australia meets its responsibilities under international environmental treaties including the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.



**saunders
havill
group**



TOONDAH HARBOUR, CLEVELAND

Walker Corporation's latest site cover development plan covering 40 hectares (100 acres) of Ramsar protected wetlands



The Toondah wetlands contain seagrass beds, mangrove forests and salt marshes - all important to climate change defence.

Federal Environment law is clear on this issue. In deciding whether or not to approve a plan such as the Toondah real estate scheme:

“the Minister must not act inconsistently with Australia’s obligations under the Ramsar Convention.” (Section 138 EPBC Act)

Our Ramsar Convention obligations are also clear. They include “conservation” of our listed wetlands, and not to “delete or restrict” a Ramsar boundary unless there are “urgent national interests”. For the details, [see this post](#).

Obviously, further enriching a political donor property developer, Walker Corporation (Walker), does not qualify. Walker is a big political donor to Labor and the Liberal/Nationals. Since 2014, when Walker first became publicly associated with a Toondah Harbour scheme, Walker has declared donations totalling \$500,000 to these major parties.

The Toondah Harbour controversy has been on the national stage for seven years now. It should have ended long ago, either through the Queensland Government revoking its 'Priority Development Area' or the Federal Government rejecting the development plan under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act. The proposal remains "clearly unacceptable".

The Toondah issue will come to a head soon, after the release of Walker Corporation's long-overdue Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The public and the new Federal Parliament will be watching closely. By the end of this year, we should know whether Anthony Albanese is to be believed on his promise of integrity in Government.

Who Wants A Bigger Ferry Channel At Toondah Harbour?

October 30, 2022



Vehicular ferry MV Minjerribah departing from Toondah Harbour

You could argue the most telling sentence in Walker Group's draft of its Toondah Harbour Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has nothing to do with the environment at all.

"The vast majority of the economic benefits derived from the Project are accounted for by the economic value of the land created by the development to be used for residential, commercial and retail purposes." ES-38

It follows that when the creation of this new land is finalised, the moment the last truckload of dredge spoil is dumped, Walker Group's profit margin, if it sold its interest in the land and walked away, would never be greater. Why hang around for years of less profitable construction and marketing?

But first, as Walker Group details in the Draft EIS, over half a million cubic metres of landfill is needed. They want to extract it right 'next door' by dredging wider and deeper the Fison Channel in front of the Toondah ferry terminal.

This, in turn, requires Walker Group to come up with pressing reasons why dredging up a public resource, for the exclusive use of a private company, is justified. And that turns the whole Toondah debate on its head.

Walker's argument now is that without "the desired and necessary growth in the tourism industry envisaged for the Redlands Coast" (1-20) the city's economy will suffer badly.

Redlands folk will supposedly be rescued from this looming disaster by Walker Group dredging the Fison Channel, and 'beneficially' using the massive amount of dredge spoil to create a raised foundation, of vast economic benefit, upon which a new suburb can be built.

Walker Group says *The Project will result in the removal of up to 37 ha of seagrass and 3.4 hectares of mangroves* (ES-37) but from Walker Group's perspective this environmental destruction is inconsequential, to be paid for with a proposed \$4.75 million contribution to an offsets fund (ES-49).

This is the 'win-win' scenario which Walker Group wants approved by Tanya Plibersek the Federal Environment Minister.

But where's the proof, in the Draft EIS, that this dredging needs to happen at all?

Without a convincing case for a wider deeper ferry channel, the whole case for Walker Group's proposal collapses – like a house of cards in a gentle breeze.

Walker Group Wants a Bigger Ferry Channel

An integral part of the Toondah Harbour Project is capital dredging to widen and deepen the Fison Channel and extend the turning basin (2-45)

The central argument in the Draft EIS, that the ferry channel must be made deeper, wider and straighter is not substantiated by Walker Group and its hired consultants.

Walker Group's story hasn't changed substantially since its first attempt to get Federal Government environmental approvals in 2015 when it said that "Achieving a net material balance within the development footprint (i.e. volume of dredged material equal to the volume of reclamation) will be a design objective for the project".

No science is invoked anywhere in the 5,400-page document to prove that Walker Group's latest dredging plan is necessary to keep North Stradbroke Island / Minjerribah (popularly known as Straddie) adequately serviced with ferry transport.

Deafening Silence from Ferry Companies

Remarkably, the Draft EIS doesn't include letters of support from the two ferry companies (SeaLink and Stradbroke Flyer) expressing their long-held desire for a wider and deeper ferry channel. Indeed, these companies have been remarkably silent since 2014 when Walker Group was given the Toondah development opportunity.

Why the deafening silence from the ferry companies?

Perhaps they are happy with the way things are at present and are not particularly keen for Toondah Harbour to become a construction site for 20 years.

Toondah Harbour Ferry Channel

The channel leading into Toondah Harbour (the Fison Channel) has been used by ferries for about 50 years. It's a narrow channel that requires maintenance dredging every few years to remain navigable by the ferries which are the main users. While using the Fison Channel, vessels are not allowed to pass while traveling in opposite directions. Ferries only take a few minutes to pass through the channel.

The vehicle ferries currently servicing the Toondah to Straddie route are single ended vessels so they execute a 180 degree turn in the Toondah Harbour turning basin before docking at Toondah Harbour.

Ferry Channel Upgrade Not Needed

Queensland's Department of Marine Safety confirmed in 2020 that no upgrade to the current marine channel at Toondah is necessary to achieve safety requirements for current usage of Toondah Harbour.

To justify its arguments for obtaining 530,000 m3 of fill by dredging the channel bigger, Walker Group has suggested in its Draft EIS that:

- Vessels should be able to pass in the Fison Channel;
- The Channel should be wider to cater for larger vehicular ferries in the future; and
- The Channel needs to be deeper so vessels don't scrape their bottoms, occasionally.

Walker Group's Draft EIS doesn't substantiate any of these claims with detailed evidence and solid arguments. All that can be found in the Draft EIS is a bit of wishful thinking and some anecdotal recollections.

Motorized Yachts Instead Of Tinnies

Apart from ferries servicing Straddie, some small craft such as tinnies (small aluminium boat with outboard motor) and jet skis occasionally use the current Toondah Harbour boat ramp which Walker Group is proposing to close.

The Draft EIS says that Walker Group's proposed development which includes a 200-berth marina for "motorized yachts" would not result in an increase in the current small number of motor driven water craft using Toondah Harbour.

The existing public boat ramp at Toondah Harbour will be decommissioned by the Project. Motorised recreational boat traffic generated by the new 200-berth marina is expected to be the same or less than traffic generated by the existing boat ramp. (ES-18)

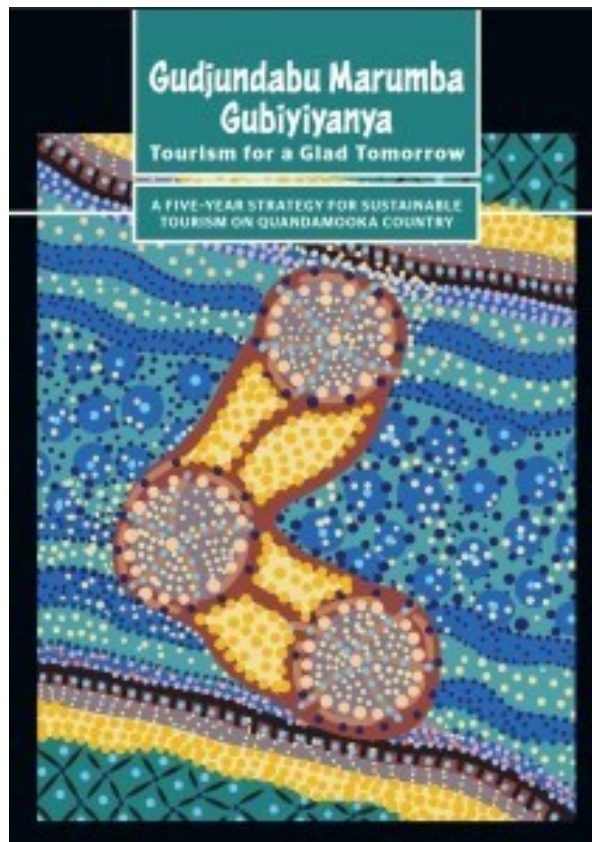
If Walker Group's plan is approved, the number of private motor driven watercraft using Toondah Harbour won't increase, but tinnies will be replaced with motorized yachts.

Owners of these motorized yachts, on the rare occasions that they leave the Toondah Harbour marina, will benefit from Walker Group's wider ferry channel as they cruise comfortably past a ferry traveling the other way.

Future Demand for Ferry Services

The Draft EIS does a very poor job of analysing potential growth in demand for ferry services between Toondah Harbour and Straddie.

There are no detailed forecasts of demand broken down into use of passenger only water taxis and vehicular ferries.



QYAC's tourism strategy

North Stradbroke Island's native title custodians (QYAC) have affirmed "Placing ecological and cultural sustainability as the primary requirement for tourism on Quandamooka Country" in their five-year tourism strategy. This objective appears to have been ignored by Walker Group.

Instead, the Draft EIS includes a few vague statements, for example:

Additional demand for vehicle and passenger ferries is expected to be met through the use of larger vessels that cannot currently be used as the Fison Channel and turning basin are too narrow and shallow. ES-18

Walker Group says that its new harbour and ferry channel is designed for an 80 metres long ferry "based on discussions with SeaLink". (Appendix 1-I page 15)

No details are provided regarding when any communications with 'the ferry operator' took place, the circumstances which might lead to SeaLink introducing larger vessels and the likelihood of this happening in the foreseeable future.

SeaLink's Vehicular Ferries

At this point in the story, it's worth having a look at some of the vehicular ferries that SeaLink operates on services to Straddie, and some similar routes in Australia.

Of the vessels servicing the route from Toondah Harbour to Straddie, the one that carries the most cars is the catamaran Sea Breeze (formerly the Big Red Cat) which is only 49.0 metres in length, much shorter than the Minjerribah and Quandamooka which are both monohulls about 68 metres in length.

Advantages Of Double-Ended Ferries



Double-ended ferry servicing Bruny Island: Photo: SeaLink

For service to Bruny Island in Tasmania, SeaLink has introduced two new catamaran ferries which are double-ended. These ferries can travel in either direction. They don't need to do the 180 degree turns performed by vehicle ferries currently arriving at Toondah Harbour.

Use of double-ended ferries out of Toondah Harbour would reduce travel time and fuel use by avoiding the part of the trip when the vehicle ferries currently in service do their 180 degree turns. This would also reduce mud disturbance in Toondah Harbour.

It would seem quite possible for SeaLink to cater for steady increases in demand for vehicle transport by deploying new ferries that are suitable sized double-ended catamarans up to say 60 metres in length which can operate comfortably within the confines of the current Fison Channel.

Why didn't Walker Group discuss this option in its Draft EIS?

Presumably, because they are only interested in a scenario where they get to dredge lots of mud to create new land upon which they can develop 3,600 dwellings.

Reducing Use of Private Vehicles

Walker Group talks down the additional vehicle traffic that would be caused if its proposed 3,600 dwelling residential development went ahead. For example:

Toondah Harbour presents an opportunity to bring forward sustainable transport for the Redlands Coast including pedestrian and cycle infrastructure to fulfil strategic movements between Cleveland Point, Eddie Santagiuliana Way and Cleveland CBD via Middle Street. To achieve sustainable outcomes, the Project proposes to reduce private vehicle travel and promote public and active transport travel to the site. Use of an autonomous shuttle bus between Cleveland CBD, Cleveland Rail Station and the proposed ferry terminal will be explored. ES-20

But the Draft EIS doesn't extend this thinking to Straddie where reducing private vehicle travel on the island would mean less need for vehicles to be transported by ferry to the island, so less need for larger ferries and a wider ferry channel.

Ferry Channel Depth

Walker Group claims in its Draft EIS that vehicle ferries traveling to Straddie "are regularly observed 'bottoming out' in the channel" (2-16) but no details are provided regarding the frequency of occurrence. We are told that "expenditure on repairs to hulls and propellers are already significant due to vessels bottoming out in the shallow channel" (3-7) but again no evidence is provided.



Big Red Cat aground near Dunwich in 2016 – RCB Geneve Hague

The only time a vehicle ferry has grounded on the route from Toondah Harbour to Straddie was in 2016 when the Big Red Cat (now Sea Breeze) spent a few hours on a sandbank near Dunwich (Gumpi).

The Draft EIS mentions future sea level rises in a few places but not when discussing the depth of the Fison Channel. Obviously, as sea levels increase due to global warming, the ferry channel will get deeper.

Sensible Solution to Straddie Ferry Terminals at Toondah and Dunwich

BY SAVESTRADDIE - NOVEMBER 12, 2022



Federal Government economic policy has changed because of rising interest rates and inflation. We all have to tighten our belts, including the Government, we are told. Ok well there is both a sensible solution to the Toondah Harbour abomination and a way to substantially change a ridiculous plan to spend \$41 Million of public funds, as part of the 'SEQ City Deal', on the Dunwich ferry terminal.

Spending that amount would turn Straddie's ferry terminal (pictured above) into an unwanted commercial and retail nightmare, instead of simply a place to board or disembark vehicular and passenger ferries. A modest upgrade is all that is needed. Why not also use the funds for a modest upgrade to the ferry terminal at Cleveland's Toondah Harbour as well?

The Toondah Harbour Priority Development Area (PDA) is a disgrace. It also has delayed an upgrade to the ferry terminal. Since the PDA was declared in 2013 and a (secret) development agreement signed with Walker Corporation (Walker) in 2016, every other ferry terminal in Moreton Bay has been or is being upgraded using State Government and Redland Council or Sealink ferry company funds – as is normal.

New terminals everywhere else

The State Government and Redland City Council are jointly funding four new Moreton Bay ferry terminals on Russell, Karragarra, Macleay and Lamb Islands. A new ferry terminal also has been built at Victoria Point for travellers to Coochiemudlo Island. And Sealink is upgrading the Redland Bay ferry terminal.

So, doesn't this illustrate the utter BS we have all been told about the Stradbroke ferry terminal at Cleveland? That it can't be upgraded unless Walker is permitted to build 3,600 high-rise apartments on protected tidal wetlands in order to fund it? Even if the Federal Government approved the disingenuous scheme, we wouldn't see a new Cleveland ferry terminal for years.

Federal Government must say 'no' to Toondah real estate scheme

Walker (absurdly) claims in its Toondah Harbour Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (eg Executive summary at ES-8 & 9) that there are no feasible alternatives to its real estate scheme. It is also claimed money is needed from the sale of apartments for Walker to 'upgrade' the Cleveland ferry terminal. Walker also claims that there is a need to widen the ferry channel from 45m to 75m when that would only be required if Walker's plan, which includes marinas for 200 yachts, is approved.

Many of Walker's claims are nonsense and based on self-interest. The Federal Government needs to honour Australia's Ramsar Convention obligations and knock back Walker's real estate scheme asap. Then apply the sensible solution proposed in this post.



The Stradbroke ferry terminal at Cleveland's Toondah Harbour

Use the SEQ City Deal funds on upgrading both ferry terminals

Before the current economic times arrived, in the SEQ City Deal (see page 22), the State and Federal Government, when Scott Morrison was PM, agreed to spend an absurd amount of money – \$41 Million – building a new ferry terminal at Dunwich with commercial and retail aspects. All that's needed there are some decent toilets, a café, improved all weather waiting area for water taxis, the potholes permanently fixed – and improved parking.

A few \$Million would do the trick. That's all that is really needed at Cleveland's Toondah Harbour as well. These are ferry terminals! People catch ferries there! Making them into 'tourist destinations in themselves' is silly.

People catch the Stradbroke ferries to get to and from the island. They go for the beaches, the relative peace and quiet, the wildlife and the natural beauty. People who go to Straddie (in increasing numbers) don't want razzamatazz. That's why they choose Straddie!

Put the community first

In tough economic times, genuine leaders would rewrite the 'SEQ City deal' for the Dunwich ferry terminal. Spend say \$10 million upgrading both Stradbroke ferry terminals, and either save \$30 Million or spend it on much needed community facilities on Straddie.

A few things come to mind – decent toilets at Cylinder Beach, reinstating toilets at Amity Park (recently bulldozed by the Council), bicycle tracks between the three townships, youth facilities, drug and alcohol addiction support and treatment, organised car-parking to remove the unsightly mess that currently exists on the Dunwich foreshore.

Time to put the communities of Straddie and Cleveland first, not the private profit interests of property developers and their 'mates'.

Ministers' Letters Expose Fatal Toondah Flaw

BY [SAVESTRADDIE](#) - NOVEMBER 6, 2022



A letter from former Federal Environment Minister, Josh Frydenberg, to then Queensland Environment Minister Steven Miles, in effect identifies the fatal flaw in Cleveland's Toondah Harbour real estate scheme. Frydenberg, a former lawyer, understood the significance of Australia's obligations under the Ramsar Convention and an Australian legislative requirement on him not to act inconsistently with those obligations.

Frydenberg's letter, (**Editor's Note:** see following article for full letter) released under Freedom of Information laws, was sent to Miles shortly after Frydenberg controversially decided to ignore Departmental scientific and legal advice and personally declare a second referral of the Toondah scheme a 'controlled action'. This meant that further assessment would occur, instead of immediate rejection. A first referral by Walker Group/Corporation (Walker) in 2015 was withdrawn in 2017.

In 2018, a third referral (the current one) was made by Walker. Walker's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) relates to this referral. Essentially it is the same scheme in terms of proposed destruction of Ramsar wetlands and restriction of Ramsar site boundaries. It also was declared a 'controlled action' under Frydenberg.

Josh Frydenberg's letter to Steven Miles

These are key extracts from Frydenberg's 4 August, 2017 letter to Miles, with my underlining:

"I am writing further to my recent letter notifying you of my controlled action decision for the proposed Toondah Harbour development (EPBC 2017/7939).

In that letter, I mentioned that there are significant challenges relating to the approval of this project. These relate to the proposal being located substantially within the Moreton Bay Ramsar wetland boundary and my obligations, under s.138 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, not to act inconsistently with Australia's obligations under the Ramsar Convention.

One option that may arise is for a case to be developed to amend the boundary of the Ramsar wetland. To meet Australia's obligations under the Ramsar Convention, any such proposal is required to demonstrate that the change is in the 'urgent national interest'.

Steven Miles, in **his reply**, indicated the Queensland Government "acknowledges that any such amendment needs to be in the "urgent national interest".



Eastern curlew, whimbrels and terek sandpipers foraging in Toondah Harbour (2021)

Fatal flaw exposed

Frydenberg's letter and Miles' reply primarily were about Australia's obligation in Article 2.5 of the Ramsar Convention not to "*delete or restrict*" a Ramsar site boundary unless for "*urgent national interests*".

The context of this obligation includes the Convention's general obligations of '*conservation*', '*wise use*' and maintaining the '*ecological character*' of wetlands.

Importantly, a primary purpose of the Ramsar Convention is "*to stem the progressive encroachment on and loss of wetlands now and in the future*".

Article 2.5 reinforces, in a very specific way, the general obligations and this is why it is so important. There is no wriggle room.

At the domestic level, as Frydenberg's letter states, Section 138 of the EPBC Act requires, in a straightforward way, that in deciding whether or not to approve a proposal impacting a Ramsar wetland:-

".. the Minister must not act inconsistently with Australia's obligations under the Ramsar Convention."

Article 2.5 and section 138 together create the fatal flaw in the Toondah scheme.

It is of course an absurd proposition to suggest that a private profit real estate scheme on top of publicly owned, internationally recognised and protected wetlands could be in our urgent national interests. It appears an attempt was made to convince Frydenberg that it was at a meeting between Walker and Frydenberg in Melbourne in August, 2016. The meeting occurred two months after Walker donated \$200,000 to the Federal Liberal Party in the lead up to the 2016 Federal Election.

But Frydenberg wasn't convinced at the meeting, nor by a letter from the Queensland Government, sent to his Department, shortly after the meeting with Walker – the letter was exposed by the Guardian in 2019.

The Ramsar Secretariat also **informed Walker** that 'urgent national interests' had never been invoked by any signatory nation to delete or restrict a Ramsar site boundary. Conference of Parties resolutions confirm that signatories consider it to be a very high bar.

Walker and the Queensland Government also tried another angle – that there was a mistake in the drawing of the Ramsar boundaries at Toondah and/or these wetlands had completely lost their environmental attributes. The two claimed Australian precedents for developments in Ramsar wetlands referred to by Walker in its EIS fit into these categories, but neither applies at Toondah, as confirmed by the Queensland Government.

No justification to amend Ramsar boundary

In February, 2019, the then Queensland Environment Minister, Leanne Enoch, was asked a question on notice in parliament by Michael Berkman MP about the Guardian report. In her written answer, after confirming the Queensland Government letter exposed by the Guardian, the Minister backed away from the letter's claims and said:

"However, a subsequent comprehensive mapping review, which included consultation with other Queensland Government departments and local governments, concluded that there was no justification to amend the Ramsar boundary."

That State Government position was confirmed by the current Environment Minister, Meaghan Scanlon at a Parliamentary Committee hearing in December, 2020.

As expected, in its Draft EIS, Walker makes no attempt to bring its scheme within Article 2.5. Walker's strategy seems clear. It wants the Albanese Government simply to ignore Australia's Ramsar Convention obligations.

Frydenberg kicked can down the road

Josh Frydenberg didn't approve the Toondah scheme. But his controlled action decision flew in the face of advice from his Department's scientific experts that the scheme was "clearly unacceptable".

That advice was backed up by legal advice, from senior Government lawyers. The legal advice was leaked to the ABC (see the Background Briefing interview with ANU Professor of Law Andrew Macintosh). Frydenberg was advised that if he approved the scheme, he would be acting inconsistently with Australia's obligations under the Ramsar Convention, in breach of his duty under section 138 of the EPBC Act.

Frydenberg's letter to Miles, which also reflects the legal advice to him, exposes the political nature of the 'controlled action' decisions. Instead of doing the right thing and rejecting the scheme, Frydenberg kicked the can down the road. The can has landed at the feet of Tanya Plibersek.

Now it's up to Plibersek to do the right thing

In the circumstances, if Plibersek were to approve the Toondah scheme, apart from other consequences, she would trash her reputation and that of the Albanese Government – and create a dangerous precedent for Ramsar sites.

There are so many valid reasons to oppose the proposed building of what would amount to a densely populated small town in protected wetlands of Moreton Bay. It makes no sense whatsoever. Not only would it breach Article 2.5, it also clearly seems to breach the Ramsar Convention's general obligations.

The final date for comments and submissions on Walker's EIS is 6 December. Under the EPBC Act, they are required to be sent to Walker (which is required to send copies to the Minister with its final EIS), but there is nothing to stop the public from sending copies of submissions directly to Minister Plibersek to ensure she receives them.

Tell Tanya you know about the fatal flaw

In conclusion, if you want to let the Minister know you are aware of the fatal flaw in the scheme described in this article, please include reference to it in your comments and submissions on the Draft EIS, along with your other comments and objections. Feel free to include a copy of this article or a link to it.

Article's author: Richard Carew (Environmental Consultant, retired lawyer)
Secretary,
Stradbroke (Terrangeri) Environmental and Cultural Protection Association Inc.

Josh Frydenberg's Letter to Steven Miles

Document 7

THE HON JOSH FRYDENBERG MP
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY
MS17-000835

The Hon Steven Miles MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection
GPO Box 2454
BRISBANE QLD 4001

(Date Stamp)04 AUG 2017

Dear Minister

I am writing further to my recent letter notifying you of my controlled action decision for the proposed Toondah Harbour development (EPBC 2017/7939). I am writing to you as the Queensland Minister responsible for the management of the Moreton Bay Ramsar wetland as well as the Moreton Bay Marine Park (which shares a largely similar footprint).

In that letter, I mentioned that there are significant challenges relating to the approval of this project. These relate to the proposal being located substantially within the Moreton Bay Ramsar wetland boundary and my obligations, under s.138 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, not to act inconsistently with Australia's obligations under the Ramsar Convention. Under the Ramsar Convention, Australia has a responsibility to maintain or enhance the ecological character of its Ramsar-listed wetlands.

I am now writing to seek your agreement to Queensland working with the Commonwealth to inform the development of proposals to ensure that the proposed Toondah Harbour development can maintain the ecological character of the Moreton Bay Ramsar wetland.

One option that may arise is for a case to be developed to amend the boundary of the Ramsar Wetland. To meet Australia's obligations under the Ramsar Convention, any such proposal is required to demonstrate that the change is in the 'urgent national interest', and that additional areas of compensatory habitat could be included in a revised boundary. Such a proposal would need to be substantial in terms of scale (hectares to be protected), quality (of new protected habitat), management (such as measures to minimise threats to migratory birds), and could include proposals to enhance public awareness of the ecological values of the site (such as an interpretive centre). Any proposed boundary change would need to have a clear benefit to the ecological character of the wetland as a whole.

I have asked officers of the Ramsar Administrative Authority, in the Department of the Environment and Energy, to provide information to and cooperate with Queensland officials to allow these matters to be fully considered. Any proposed case would need to be assessed and endorsed by Queensland, as the property manager, prior to submission to the Commonwealth. Through this process, I would expect that Commonwealth officials would provide advice to Queensland on the capacity of any developed proposals to fully address Australia's international obligations, in advance of any case being presented for my consideration.

Questions about this process can be directed in the first instance to Mr David Papps, the Ramsar Administrative Authority, by email: David.Papps@environment.gov.au or phone: 02 6275 9245.

Yours sincerely
JOSH FRYDENBERG

Reply to Josh Frydenberg's Letter by Steven Miles

LEX-21841 14

Document 8

Hon Dr Steven Miles MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and
Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef

Ref CTS 22263117
GPO Box 2464 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7330
Email environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au
25 AUG 2017(Date stamp)

1 William Street Brisbane Old 4000

The Honourable Josh Frydenberg MP
Minister for the Environment and Energy
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister (Crossed out Josh in writing)

Thank you for your letter of 4 August 2017 concerning the proposed Toondah Harbour development.

The Queensland Government will continue to work with the Australian Government on the maintenance and enhancement of its Ramsar sites, including Moreton Bay. Specifically, the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection will work with the Australian Government to inform the assessment of the proposal with respect to the maintenance of the ecological character of the Bay's Ramsar-listed wetland.

You may be aware that the Queensland Government is working with the proponent to provide technical information on the Moreton Bay Ramsar site. Additionally, the department has prioritised updating of the Moreton Bay Ramsar Sheet to ensure the most accurate information is available on the site's ecological character. The first draft of this information will be provided to the Australian Department of the Environment and Energy for initial review in the near future.

Finally, the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection will await further information from the Australian Government regarding any boundary amendment proposal associated with the Toondah Harbour, and acknowledges that any such amendment needs to be in the "urgent national interest".

Any questions in relation to this letter should be directed to Ms Cohen, Chief of Staff in my office on (01) 3719 7330.

Yours sincerely

(Signature)

Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and
Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef

Notes from the Meeting with the Developer and Consultant for Toondah Harbour Project

(Editor's Note: -with representatives of the Ramsar Secretariat)

Present: Stephen Davis, Peter Saba, Rob McInnes
Martha Rojas-Urrego, Lew Young, Yai Akoijam

Date: Thursday 7 September 2017

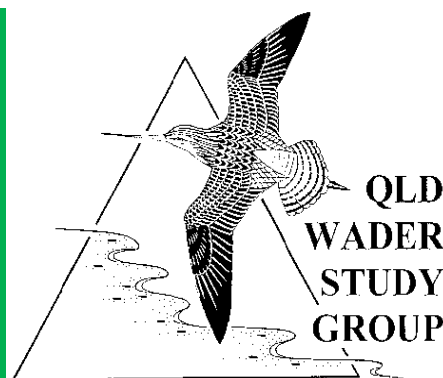
Purpose: The meeting was organised as a result of the developer and consultant for the Toondah Harbour Project wishing to meet with representatives of the Ramsar Secretariat to introduce the Toondah Harbour Project and present their suggestions on how to move ahead with the project by adopting the best possible approaches to minimize the impacts on the Moreton Bay Ramsar Site.

Summary notes:

- After a brief introduction from the participants, the developer began by sharing with the Secretariat the background to the Toondah Harbour Project. They explained that the harbour and port facility development was needed due to the increasing number of people (including tourists) and vehicles using the ferry crossing to North Stradbroke Island. The housing development part of the proposed project was needed to fund the harbour and port improvement. The project is part of the overall development plan for the region, including that for infrastructure and tourism.
- The developer further explained that the project was conceptualised 50 years ago even before the area was designated as a Ramsar Site but the design was never finalized and so the work was not begun. The proposed development area was selected after reviewing the feasibility of different areas for the development, as well as after consultation with various stakeholders. As a result, it would not be an option for the project to be moved elsewhere.
- As a result, the Queensland Government designated the area as a Priority Development Area (PDA) under the Economic Development Act.
- Through a tender process, the Walker Group was hired as the developer of the project. Walker then developed a draft plan for the project (which they said may be subject to change). During the development phase of the project, they became aware of the concerns over the serious impacts that the project will cause to the ecological character of the Ramsar Site.
- The Secretariat confirmed that if the State and the Federal Government were to approve the project in its present form and restrict the boundary of the Ramsar Site under "urgent national interest", then the case will have to be presented and discussed in front of the other Contracting Parties at the upcoming COP13. Previously, such "urgent national interest" cases have never been discussed at Ramsar COPs. If the proposed Toondah Harbour development were to be presented at COP13, then it would be the first time that such a case will be discussed at a Ramsar COP.
- The developer mentioned that they would not press on with their plan if there were going to be impacts on the Ramsar Site. They asked for alternatives on best possible approaches for the development that works for both the project and the Ramsar Site.
- They said that they could possibly reconfigure their plan so that it follows a sustainable and wise-use approach that substantially minimizes the physical and ecological impacts of the project on the Ramsar Site. This could involve restricting the development to the parts of the PDA that lies outside of the Ramsar Site boundary or to look for other suitable development areas nearby and then to compensate.
- The Secretariat said that the starting point for the proposed project should be to avoid any impacts to the Ramsar Site rather than to cause impact and then compensate afterwards.
- The Secretariat stated that it is difficult to fully understand the possible impacts from the proposed project because the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) for the Moreton Bay Ramsar Site has not been updated since 1999 and that an Ecological Character Description (ECD) has not been completed for the Site. It was suggested that the developer could support the updating of the RIS and drafting of the ECD for the Site.
- Furthermore, a management plan should be formulated for the Ramsar Site to help with proper long-term conservation and wise use of the Site.

- The Secretariat stated that from their past experience of how to resolve conflicts over proposed developments, it is important as a first step to set up a mechanism (which can be informal), whereby representatives from the developer, government, NGOs and community groups can meet to air their views and to discuss possible options for going forward.
- There was finally discussion on developing an Information Paper or a Draft Resolution for COP13 on "best practices for developments in and around Ramsar Sites". The Information Paper would contain case studies from around the world of developments that have taken place alongside but outside of Ramsar Sites which have adopted best practices to avoid impacts on the ecological characters of the Ramsar Site

QUEENSLAND WADER – Part 2 Regular edition



Issue 122

December 2022, January, February 2023

Newsletter of the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG), a Division of *Queensland Ornithological Society Incorporated*. <https://www.facebook.com/QueenslandWaderStudyGroup/>

MANLY HARBOUR SHOREBIRD ROOST UNDER THREAT

The Manly Harbour shorebird roost site is on land set aside as a Reserve for Strategic Land Management and Environmental Purposes under the *Land Act 1994 (the Land Act)* on 9 December 2005.

With a view to ensuring its long-term protection, on 10 November 2021, QWSG wrote to the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Transport and Main Roads requesting it be set aside as a nature refuge under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992 (the NCA)*.

In making the request, QWSG submitted the roost site is critical habitat for migratory shorebirds, citing evidence in support of the request based on over 28 years of counts of shorebirds using the site:

- during the austral summer, over 4,000 migratory shorebirds have been recorded using the roost site along with 9 resident shorebird species, waterbirds and terns; and
- the diversity of species using the roost site is very high:
- 27 species falling within the definition *listed migratory species* under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*, including the Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* and Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) both critically endangered under that legislation; and
- the following species, as classified under the NCA regularly use the roost site:
- the critically endangered Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*) and Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)
- the endangered Lesser Sand Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*)
- the vulnerable Greater Sand Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*) and Western Alaskan Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica baueri*); and
- the roost site provides habitat for shorebirds throughout the year (not just the austral summer) and at least 3 resident species of shorebird have been recorded as breeding at the roost site.

The request stressed the roost site is critical habitat for migratory shorebirds, a fact acknowledged by the Department of the Environment in late 1999.

Initial responses from the Department of Environment and Science (DES) were encouraging, including by letter dated 25 March 2022 from the Deputy Director-General, Queensland Parks and Wildlife (QPWS) in which it is stated:

I am pleased to advise that the discussions with the other government agencies have been extremely positive and that both DTMR and the Department of Resources (DoR), as the administering authority for reserves under

the *Land Act 1994*, have indicated their in-principle support to progressing measures to increase the protection and management of the roost site.

I am advised that the discussions between the three agencies with primary interests in the site have also identified that the long-term interests of the integrity of the roost site would be best served by measures that do not simply impose another form or tenure over the site but which would better provide for the long-term management of the site. This would make sure threats to the site were effectively managed and thus ensure the site's unique values are maintained in perpetuity.

Eventually, in late July a meeting was convened with representatives of the government agencies, Brisbane City Council, Healthy Land and Water. Regrettably, the positivity of securing permanent protection of the site faded as bureaucratic obstacles were raised, some based on a clear misunderstanding of the legislation administered by the agencies.

In late October, QWSG finally received minutes of the meeting including updates on some discussions. There are 3 elements to the situation.

Protected status under the NCA

The minutes of the meeting (with updates) dismissed QWSG's original request repeating the misconceived reason for not declaring the site as a nature refuge under the NCA.

Master planning for boat harbour

Of further concern, the minutes note the discussions about the master planning process for the boat harbour being undertaken by TMR. That planning process started in mid-2020 with an invitation for submissions from stakeholders. On 1 August 2020, QWSG made its submission asserting it is imperative to secure the long-term protection of the roost site.

On 13 September, Place Design Group, consultants to TMR held an information session for stakeholders. The session was more "spin" than substance and indeed stated that the master plan objectives are "not for assessing any of the proposed uses of the Harbour against potential impacts".

Clearly, most of those present at the information session represented boating and sailing organisations pushing the need for improvements in, and additional, marine infrastructure and support services. However, QWSG did have the support of QPWS officers and representatives of the Discovery Centre, Manly.

The slick presentation contained a lot of the usual jargon, including "outcomes", "drivers" and "options". Two of the slides indirectly referenced the roost site by stating:

- "significant environmental influences" as one of the 10 drivers
- "the significant environmental values offering opportunities and constraints for the Harbour" with 8 others under the heading "What is the information telling us?"

Of the 10 options for the harbour, one is stated as a "Purpose-built migratory bird habitat", although it is not clear whether this involves enhancement of the roost site (which is unlikely) or construction of a roost site elsewhere. Ominously, another option states "Utilisation of dredge spoil ponds for marine uses and infrastructure", presumably involving works to the dredge spoil pond adjacent to the roost site and included in the declared reserve under the Land Act.

2032 Olympics

The last issue, and potentially the most serious threat to the protection of the roost site, is the impact of the 2032 Olympic Games. Apparently, Manly Harbour has been confirmed as a proposed venue for sailing events during the Games.

Clearly, the master planning for the Manly Boat Harbour and the planning for Manly as an Olympic sailing venue have significant implications for the future tenure and management of the roost site.

The Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning is the government agency charged with the planning and delivery of Olympic Games venues. The involvement of the State Development agency in relation to any project is cause for concern; invariably to facilitate a desired result.

In summary, QWSG has a fight on its hands to ensure the protection of what is arguably the most critical shorebird roost site in southern Moreton Bay.

For now, this is not a "call to arms" but merely to inform members of the struggles faced.

Fewer than 500 Left: Why Saving Spoonie is a Race Against Time

Birdlife 6 MAY 2022

The world's cutest wader – the unique, enigmatic Spoon-billed Sandpiper – is in severe trouble. A fleet of conservationists across Asia and beyond is striving to reverse its fortunes, but the battle is not yet won.



A Spoon-billed Sandpiper in its winter plumage © Butterfly Hunter/Shutterstock

It is a nervy wait for fieldworkers painstakingly scanning Myanmar's Gulf of Mottama – vast, sheeny, tidal mudflats equivalent to the area of Greater London. Has one of the world's rarest, most charismatic waders safely returned to overwinter? Then, as the bird's unmistakable form scurries into view, there comes an excited shout: "Spoon-billed Sandpiper!"

With its unique spatula-shaped bill, there is no shorebird remotely like Spoon-billed Sandpiper. Summer-plumaged adults are gorgeous, their flaming head and breast offset by strikingly white, black-spotted underparts. Accordingly, it has a place in the heart of any birdwatcher who has come across it, whether in life or through images. Which makes it all the more disconcerting that 'Spoonie' is considered Critically Endangered, with a population of fewer than 500 adult birds and continuing to decline, despite intensive conservation activity spanning Asia and beyond.

The Spoon-billed Sandpiper breeds exclusively in the wildest of places – a small area of north-east Russia, between the evocatively named peninsulas of Chukotka and Kamchatka. Come autumn, it wings along Asia's Pacific coast, refuelling at traditional stopover sites in various countries, eventually migrating 8,000 kilometres to reach its winter haunts in Bangladesh, Thailand, Myanmar, Vietnam and south China.



Spoon-billed Sandpiper breeding plumage with leg-tag visible, Siberia. © GRID-Arendal_Flickr

This trajectory makes it unequivocally a denizen of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, a migration superhighway followed by an astounding 50 million waterbirds that pause their journeys at 900 wetlands across 22 countries. The BirdLife International Partnership has long been steeped in the flyway's conservation, a commitment now accelerated by the Asian Development Bank's promise to invest \$3 billion in 10 years to help protect 50 priority wetlands.

Dramatic decline

Spoon-billed Sandpiper certainly needs all the help it can get. This century has seen several attempts to quantify its rapidly withering population: all make for worrying reading. The most recent, published in 2021 from research led by Rhys Green of the RSPB (BirdLife in the UK) and Cambridge Conservation Initiative, suggests that just 773 birds remain (490 being breeding adults), and calculates an annual reduction of 9 per cent per year during 2009-2016.

Green's calculations actually imply that the decline has slowed since the early 2000s, when Spoon-billed Sandpiper was losing half its population every two years – a terrifying rate that warranted its uplisting from Vulnerable to Endangered in 2004, then to Critically Endangered in 2008. In 2010, when a key paper charting the sandpiper's decline was published, "it looked like we were staring extinction in the face," says Christoph Zöckler, Co-ordinator of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force, "and there would be no Spoon-billed Sandpipers left by the end of the decade."

How did it ever come to this? The explanation is complex. One element is problems on the breeding grounds, whose remoteness confer no guarantee of safety. One in six breeding sites has suffered significant habitat degradation, while nests near villages can be destroyed by dogs. Furthermore, both bad weather and heavy predation (from foxes and jaegers) make it hard for adults to raise chicks. Hunting also exerts pressure: a survey in Kamchatka suggests that 6,000 small shorebirds – potentially including Spoonies – were killed in 2019. Climate change could be the biggest threat of all, Zöckler says, "squeezing the species out of options". Modelling suggests that more than half the sandpiper's breeding terrain could become unsuitable within 50 years.

Dangerous Journey

This is surely trauma enough, but it is along its migratory route that Spoon-billed Sandpiper most keenly encounters problems. The severe population decline of the 2000s was driven by young birds dying on migration: the proportion of fledged birds that returned to nesting grounds was unsustainably low. Habitat loss and degradation have proved key issues, particularly the draining and reclamation of intertidal staging sites on the Yellow Sea. A single example speaks volumes. Hundreds of Spoonies used to gather at Saemangeum in the Republic of Korea. Since the world's longest sea wall was built in the 2000s, reclaiming 400 square kilometres of mudflats, just one individual has been seen there. With fewer places to feed during their exhausting journey, Spoon-billed Sandpipers are literally flying themselves to death.

Ding Li Yong, BirdLife Regional Flyways Co-ordinator, thinks that trapping on passage and wintering grounds is "the greatest threat" to Spoonies. Most immature individuals apparently remain on non-breeding grounds for two years, rendering them particularly vulnerable to entanglement in nets set to catch large waders for food. A survey in Bangladesh revealed that eight of 53 hunters interviewed reckoned they had caught 22 Spoon-billed Sandpipers between them the previous winter.

Troubling though this finding is, it has an upside. "Saving any threatened bird relies on knowing what threats it faces and then being able to implement appropriate solutions," the RSPB's Guy Anderson says. Once conservationists learn of a threat to Spoonies, they can act on it. They have already joined forces through the Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force, which co-ordinates the implementation of the internationally agreed Species Action Plan. The Task Force, Christoph Zöckler says proudly, comprises "a team of like-minded people that work tirelessly for a common goal, conserving the species across the many cultural, religious and political borders along the flyway and beyond".

Conservation activities range widely and impressively. Enforcement against illegal trapping has been stepped up. Outreach programmes have targeted the next generation – schoolchildren. In Bangladesh, China and Myanmar, hunters have been supported to switch to alternative activities. This works. Of 15 Gulf of Mottama hunters helped by BANCA (BirdLife in Myanmar), nine reported improved livelihoods and the other six no downturn. More than 80 per cent of hunters there have now agreed to cease hunting.



Mist nets stretched across the shoreline at Tra Co, Vietnam © Le Trong Tra

Helping Hand

In 2011, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust launched an ex-situ conservation breeding programme – the ultimate backstop. The captive population peaked at 25 birds (although sadly only seven remain), with successful breeding in 2019. Allied to this, since 2012 Birds Russia has counteracted nest failure by ‘headstarting’ around 200 young Spoonies. This involves moving eggs from nests into incubators, raising chicks in aviaries and, upon fledging, releasing them to migrate south. This approach is calculated to boost productivity five-fold, and should offer longer-term benefits: the first headstarted pair bred successfully in 2017.

Conservationists have also marked birds with numbered leg flags to track individuals throughout their lives. By 2019, such birds had been sighted 800 times across seven countries, offering insights into migration routes and wintering grounds. This understanding has been deepened by fitting 15 Spoonies with tiny satellite tags, which have revealed “an astonishing amount of critically important data about migration routes and timing, previously unknown stopover sites, fine detail on habitat selection and even responses to changes in environmental conditions,” Guy Anderson explains.

Gathering intelligence via technology and fieldwork is critical because “large gaps remain in our knowledge about the sandpiper’s distribution along the entire flyway,” says Graeme Buchanan of the RSPB. Indeed, the Task Force reckons that we still don’t know where three-quarters of Spoon-billed Sandpipers breed or where half of the birds winter. In Vietnam, for example, “they have received very little attention in recent years,” says Ding Li Yong. Fortunately, BirdLife, Viet Nature, Wild Tour and others are redressing the balance by “expanding survey effort to determine the country’s most important sites” for the species, as well as other migratory waterbirds including Black-faced Spoonbill (Endangered).

Once important locations are known, protection becomes conceivable. In 2019, the Bird Conservation Society of Thailand (BirdLife Partner) bought Pak Thale, the country’s most important shorebird site, to help Spoon-billed Sandpipers. In Myanmar’s eastern Gulf of Mottama, Ding Li Yong says: “BANCA is building capacity for monitoring through participatory approaches in local communities.” Assuming further funding, “BANCA will expand work into the western Gulf”.

Furthermore, in Vietnam, BirdLife and its counterparts will “work with local authorities to protect three wetlands where Spoon-billed Sandpipers have been discovered since 2019”.

Advocacy, meanwhile, is raising the profile of critically important Yellow Sea wetlands. In major successes, further land reclamation and habitat destruction has been halted in China, and the BirdLife Partnership has helped Republic of Korea authorities secure World Heritage Site status for vital tidal flats, including the Geum estuary, now Korea’s most important staging site for Spoon-billed Sandpiper. Endeavours to save the species, Christoph Zöckler judges, are “showcasing best practice in sustainable coastal zone management”.

"All this work throughout the flyway," he explains, "has reduced the rate of Spoon-billed Sandpiper population decline from 26 per cent per year to 7-10 per cent". He lauds this as a phenomenal achievement, but then cautions that it is not enough. This is because the latest exhaustive winter surveys impart deeply worrying news.

Spoon-billed Sandpiper numbers are dropping at many passage and wintering sites – in some places by more than 40 per cent in the last year. And after rising late last decade, the core breeding population at Meinypil'gyno in Russia has slumped to 2014 levels. "Overall, the news is not good," Zöckler says. The population continues to decline, and he fears that "no more than 330-340 birds" may actually be left. "We will lose Spoonie if we do not redouble efforts to find the causes of the continuing decline and act immediately. We need a new plan of action."

From headstarting on the Russian tundra to better protecting Vietnamese wetlands, from curbing illegal trapping in China to forging local partnerships on the Gulf of Mottama, one thing is clear: 'Spoonie' needs our help more than ever.

Queensland Chief Scientist Hugh Possingham Retires

The Queensland Wader Study Group would like to give a heartfelt vote of thanks to Hugh Possingham for his incredible work as Queensland Chief Scientist and wish him well in his retirement from the essential role for Queensland. Professor Possingham has been an incredible and practical advocate for the environment throughout his career, tirelessly giving of his time to promote its essential role in creating healthy, resilient, liveable regions. Hugh has been instrumental in championing science across all levels of government and community in his tenor as Chief Scientist, and his passion for the environment will endure in everyone he has reached.



Global Changes in Wetlands Help Clarify the Decline of Shorebirds

by University of Lisbon NOVEMBER 10, 2022

Over a half of all shorebird populations—sandpipers, plovers, avocets, oystercatchers, among others—are currently declining, according to scientific publications and reports of several Environmental NGOs, such as BirdLife International. The decline of shorebirds is a global phenomenon for which the causes are not yet fully understood.

A team of researchers of the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon (Ciências ULisboa) quantified for the first time global environmental changes that may help understanding the declines of shorebirds. Using products of remote sensing, the team quantified habitat changes in 907 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) relevant for non-breeding shorebirds over the last two decades.

The researchers focused on changes in intertidal feeding areas used by shorebirds during the low tide, as well as high tide roosting areas. The results are now published in *Science of The Total Environment*.



On the image, sanderlings (*Calidris alba*) and one dunlin (*Calidris alpina*). The decline of shorebirds is a global phenomenon for which the causes are not yet fully understood. Credit: Paul F. Donald.

Global changes were particularly significant at roosting areas, where there have been a propagation of vegetation and the expansion of urban infrastructures. Feeding areas changed dramatically in the East Asian—Australasian Flyway due to land reclamation for urban and industrial uses, and the development of aquaculture.

The study stresses that these changes may be critical for the conservation of shorebirds, in particular to some species of the East Asian—Australasian Flyway that are facing population collapses due to habitat loss.



On the image, short-billed dowitchers (*Limnodromus griseus*). Over a half of all shorebird populations - sandpipers, plovers, avocets, oystercatchers, among others - are currently declining, according to scientific publications and reports of several Environmental NGOs, such as BirdLife International. Credit: Paul F. Donald.

"This global approach is a step forward to understand the causes of shorebird declines, a group of birds that is already threatened", states Carlos David Santos, leading author of this study, researcher at Ciências ULisboa. "Many species of this group are long-distance migrants, some moving more than 20,000 km annually, thus they can be affected by environmental changes occurring at different regions of the world—this is why a global analysis of such changes was so important", adds the researcher.

More information: Carlos D. Santos et al, Global changes in coastal wetlands of importance for non-breeding shorebirds, *Science of The Total Environment* (2022). DOI: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2022.159707

Journal information: Science of the Total Environment

Provided by University of Lisbon

Watch Out for Wing-tagged Australian White Ibis

Moreton Bay Regional Council are working with the University of the Sunshine Coast and hope to learn more about their habits and movement within our region and possibly wider SE Qld to better inform out management of the species. One aspect of the research is to tag and track Australian White Ibis from breeding colonies within our region. The project aims to tag up to 500 individual birds from various nesting colonies across the region and attach a unique identification wing tag and leg bands to each bird.



We are using the 'Big City Birds' App to report and track the tagged ibis. The App is very user friendly and free to download. To get you started please see below some simple steps to get you started:

Step 1 - Download the free 'Big City Birds' app by Spotteron



Step 2 - Register the account and you're ready to go!!

How to report the location of a tagged ibis:

1. In the app - select add spot
2. Select ibis, then wingtag and from all the tag ID and colour. It allows you to add a picture and record additional information such as what the bird was doing, location and some free text (if you wish).
3. The recent update has 2 (two) blue colours, for our ibis they have 'Blue' wingtags not "Light Blue".

The latest observations from the project is the movement of Ibis - Blue Wingtag 025.

- Date tagged - 30 August 2022
- Tagging location - Humpybong Creek, Redcliffe
- Last reported date at Redcliffe Humpybong Creek site - 8 November 2022
- Latest sighting report - 14 November 2022 at Centenary Lakes, Caboolture
- Distance between the sights as the ibis flies is 22.5km

For additional information people can either refer to our webpage <https://www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/Services/Environment/Local-Wildlife/White-Ibis> or contact Environmental Services on 07 3205 0555.

New Life Member of the Queensland Wader Study Group

The Queensland Wader Study Group was honoured to bestow a Life Membership to Hitoshi Akutsu 阿久津 齊 on his recent visit to Brisbane with a group from Yatsu-higata Nature Observation Centre.

Hit was awarded life membership:

In recognition of the outstanding contributions, Hitoshi has made towards the friendship, goodwill and exchange of information between the shorebird watchers of Narashino and Brisbane. In particular, the close ties he has built, over many years, between Yatsu-higata Nature Observation Centre and the Queensland Wader Study Group.



Hit has a passion for waders and a way of making friends with everyone he meets; combined that is a force that drives the us all to strive harder to make the East Asian-Australasian Flyway safe for waders.

The Australasian Shorebird Virtual Flyway Conference

Congratulations to all the hard workers behind the scenes that made this AWSG Shorebird Conference so enjoyable.

It must have been nerve-wracking hoping that the links would work and a great relief when the speakers faces and voices appeared. Many thanks to the MCs who asked the questions for us and thought of the great intros for each speaker.

A conference is as good as its speakers and we were blessed with so many wonderful and talented presenters on so many varied topics. I was pleased to see all the young presenters being so passionate and eloquent. I commend to organisers for going down this tack. These scientists are the way into the future.

There was only one thing that could have made the Conference better and that was Face-to face contact.

So, let us all cross our fingers that we will all be able to meet up to learn even more about wonderful Waders of our flyway

Count Programme by Linda Cross

Thank you for your patience during my 2 months absence from the QWSG work desk. With a large volume of counts to check and validate on my return and a newsletter deadline to reach, I only had time to extract information from the August, September and October counts as many of the November counts are not yet entered.

The 2023 count dates have been selected and appear in the back section of this issue. Remember to mark your calendar (particularly the National Summer and Winter count dates). The tides are very favourable in 2023 with many to choose from, and if spaced correctly we could fit in 13 counts for the year! As there is a suitable tide for July, I have selected a date making 12 counts for 2023. The best tide and time for April is the Easter weekend which is not ideal or suitable which unfortunately means we had to select 1 April with an early start. If the early tide time is problematic for you, the tide time improves on 2 and 3 April, so please do the count then rather than NOT doing a count at all. I have included an optional additional count on 2 September to allow for recording of Far Eastern Curlew arrivals and the passage of Red Knot because it will be 6 weeks between 5 August and 16 September count dates. If you can do this optional additional count, it will add important information to the database.

We were saddened to hear that Greg Miller passed away on 27 October 2022. Greg and his partner Leanne Bowden hailed from the early days of our organisation and although their contribution to the count programme was short (1995 to 1997) Greg contributed 54 counts during this period. Greg was also involved in the management of QWSG and related wader issues (disturbance) as well as editor, with partner Leanne Bowden, of this newsletter. Greg was committed to the natural environment and had a long association with the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland. We extend our condolences to his wife Leanne and Greg's family.

Site	Date	Qty
Geoff Skinner Reserve	08.10.22	22
Geoff Skinner Reserve	10.09.22	8
Wave Break Sand Island Gold Coast	15.08.22	7
Port of Brisbane complex	14.08.22	17
Kakadu Beach Bribie Island	14.08.22	4
Geoff Skinner Reserve	13.08.22	19
King Street Mudflat Thornlands	12.08.22	4
Maroochy River north shore	11.08.22	4

The last of Double-banded Plover have made their way across the Tasman to their New Zealand breeding grounds. There were a few records entered after the last newsletter deadline which I have included in the table to the right. As you will see, 22 decided to linger on our shores until early October.

The southward migration for some species of migratory waders appeared a little earlier than normal, which is reflected in the counts. Looking for juvenile birds within flocks can give an indication for the breeding success of individual species. Our thanks to the following counters for recording this information during their counts: John Bell, Vicki Campbell, Linda Cross, Phil Cross, Gus Daly, David Edwards, Arthur Keates, Dr. Elliot Leach and Michael Strong.

In the table below are records for juvenile/immature waders recorded within flocks.

Site	Species	Date	Flock size	Juv/imm in flock
Caboolture River mouth	Pied Stilt	12.08.22	14	14
Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve	Pied Stilt	13.08.22	73	47
Maaroom	Pied Stilt	13.08.22	61	59
Godwin Beach	Pied Stilt	14.08.22	11	4
Port of Brisbane complex	Pied Stilt	14.08.22	186	40
Manly Harbour	Pied Stilt	17.08.22	56	11
Port of Brisbane complex	Pied Stilt	09.10.22	2	1
Manly Harbour	Eurasian Whimbrel	03.10.22	77	2
Manly Harbour	Eurasian Whimbrel	10.10.22	78	2
Manly Harbour	Eurasian Whimbrel	15.10.22	81	2
Manly Harbour	Eurasian Whimbrel	17.10.22	84	3
Manly Harbour	Eurasian Whimbrel	21.10.22	88	2
Manly Harbour	Eurasian Whimbrel	29.10.22	87	1
Manly Harbour	Eurasian Whimbrel	31.10.22	91	2
Manly Harbour	Bar-tailed Godwit	03.10.22	1371	7
Lytton No. 1 Claypan	Bar-tailed Godwit	08.10.22	696	6
Manly Harbour	Bar-tailed Godwit	10.10.22	1120	14
Manly Harbour	Bar-tailed Godwit	15.10.22	920	25
Manly Harbour	Bar-tailed Godwit	16.10.22	800	20
Manly Harbour	Bar-tailed Godwit	17.10.22	740	8
Manly Harbour	Bar-tailed Godwit	21.10.22	850	31
Manly Harbour	Bar-tailed Godwit	24.10.22	810	32
Manly Harbour	Bar-tailed Godwit	29.10.22	1710	30
Manly Harbour	Bar-tailed Godwit	30.10.22	238	8
Manly Harbour	Bar-tailed Godwit	31.10.22	1490	32
Manly Harbour	Great Knot	15.10.22	88	1
Luggage Point	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	09.10.22	38	15
Manly Harbour	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	15.10.22	145	2
Manly Harbour	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	16.10.22	120	2
Manly Harbour	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	17.10.22	140	3
Manly Harbour	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	24.10.22	55	1
Manly Harbour	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	29.10.22	230	2
Luggage Point	Curlew Sandpiper	09.10.22	134	90
Manly Harbour	Curlew Sandpiper	21.10.22	105	1
Luggage Point	Red-necked Stint	09.10.22	47	10
Manly Harbour	Grey-tailed Tattler	03.10.22	475	2
Manly Harbour	Grey-tailed Tattler	17.10.22	570	4
Manly Harbour	Grey-tailed Tattler	21.10.22	520	4
Manly Harbour	Grey-tailed Tattler	24.10.22	445	2
Manly Harbour	Grey-tailed Tattler	29.10.22	682	2
Manly Harbour	Grey-tailed Tattler	31.10.22	670	4

Pacific Golden Plover made a slow start back on the southward migration with 6 sites recording a total of 43 birds for the August count and improving in September with 230 birds from 12 sites. In October, 11 sites recorded the species with a final total of 728 birds. Of these, the Port of Brisbane complex recorded (447) on 09.10.22 and Manly Harbour (94) on 31.10.22.

Eurasian Whimbrel numbers in August totalled 154 from 6 sites. During the September count 26 sites reported the species for a total of 829 birds, which increased to 949 birds from 27 sites in October. High counts included Geoff Skinner Reserve (232) on 10.09.22, Port of Brisbane complex (164) on 09.10.22, Toorbul (141) on 08.10.22 and Shellgrit Creek entrance Mackay (104) on 12.09.22.

Far Eastern Curlew started to arrive in August and were recorded at 44 sites from August to October. A tally of their numbers produced 1,560 in August, 1,479 in September and 1,470 in October. The highest count recorded was Lytton No. 1 claypan (410) on 19.08.22 followed by Boonooroo (264) on 10.09.22, King Street mudflat Thornlands (260) on 10.09.22, Toorbul (251) on 13.08.22 and Geoff Skinner Reserve (206) on 08.10.22.

Red Knot have been recorded at 11 sites from the middle of August with most counts being less than 20. In October, 9 sites recorded a total of 508 for the month. The highest 3 counts came from Port of Brisbane complex (186) on 09.10.22 followed by Maaroom with (165) on 08.10.22 and Manly Harbour (72) on 17.10.22. These numbers are woefully low in comparison to some of the numbers I have reported during my time as count coordinator.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper started slowly returning with 6 birds recorded in total from 4 sites in August. There was a considerable improvement in September with birds being recorded at 9 sites with a combined total of 646 birds. However, 438 of those were counted at the Port of Brisbane complex on 11.09.22 and 160 at Manly Harbour on 18.09.22. The numbers doubled in October to 1,394 birds reported from 16 sites with Port of Brisbane complex taking out top count again with (691) on 09.10.22 followed by Gregory Road Hay's Inlet with (290) on 08.10.22 and Manly Harbour with (230) on 29.10.22

Curlew Sandpiper were reported at 8 sites in September with a combined total of 753 birds being recorded and then increasing to 12 sites in October with a combined total of 2,088 birds. The site with the highest count and favoured by this species was the Port of Brisbane complex with (510) on 11.09.22 and (1,576) on 09.10.22.

There are currently 3 vagrant wader species in Brisbane (Semipalmated Sandpiper) which is probably the same one as recorded last summer, (Ruff) that was first recorded on 14.08.22 and an (Asian Dowitcher) recorded on 31.10.22. Thankfully the 3 vagrant species are favouring sites with restricted access, which is beneficial for the wader flocks at those sites, as unfortunately they have been subjected to a barrage of people wanting to photograph and view them with little consideration for the disturbance created in doing this. This is unacceptable practice by people who are not abiding by the rules of conduct laid down by QWSG and other birding organisations, and they are also entering private land without permission.

Numbers for some of our resident waders (stilts, avocets and dotterels) along with many waterbirds have reduced significantly (particularly since the September count) which is probably due to ideal wet conditions in parts of inland Australia. During our 2 months of travel, we certainly saw lots of water in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, making for ideal breeding conditions for the birds.

A few interesting sightings extracted from August, September and October counts appear below. Additional extracts (migratory and resident) can be found in the "Interesting wader sightings" section of the newsletter. Order as per IOC species list July 2021.

Pied Oystercatcher: Oyster Point (154) on 19.10.22 and Manly Harbour (138) on 17.08.22

Grey Plover: Port of Brisbane complex (20) on 09.10.22, Shellgrit Creek entrance Mackay (15) on 12.09.22 and Boonooroo (5) on 10.09.22 and 07.10.22

Lesser Sand Plover: Port of Brisbane complex (841) on 09.10.22 and Shellgrit Creek entrance Mackay (258) on 14.09.22

Greater Sand Plover: O'Regan's Creek westside Hervey Bay (85) on 09.10.22 and Port of Brisbane complex (72) on 09.10.22

Comb-crested Jacana: Garnet's Lagoon 1 and 2 combined Susan River (11) on 14.08.22 and (10) still on site on 10.09.22 and 08.10.22

Bar-tailed Godwit: Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (c 2,400) on 23.10.22, Toorbul (1,901) on 08.10.22 Manly Harbour (1,710) on 29.10.22 and Port of Brisbane complex (1,017) on 09.10.22

Black-tailed Godwit: Manly Harbour (34) on 30.10.22, Port of Brisbane complex (18) on 11.09.22, Gregory Road Hay's Inlet (12) on 13.08.22 and Maaroom (12) on 13.08.22

Ruddy Turnstone: Gables Point Rocks Hervey Bay (10) on 08.10.22 and Manly Harbour (36) on 31.10.22

Great Knot: Maaroom (478) on 17.08.22, Manly Harbour (205) on 03.10.22, Shellgrit Creek entrance Mackay (192) on 14.09.22 and Maaroom (172) on 13.08.22

Broad-billed Sandpiper: Manly Harbour (2) on 29.10.22

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper: Manly Harbour (17) on 28.05.22

Red-necked Stint: Port of Brisbane complex (2,752) on 09.10.22, Geoff Skinner Reserve (1,212) on 08.10.22

Sanderling: Shellgrit Creek entrance Mackay (1) on 14.09.22 and Noosa River mouth sandbanks (1) on 17.10.22

Latham's Snipe: Garnet's Lagoon 1 Susan River (4) on 10.09.22

Terek Sandpiper: Peter's Island north bank east Burdekin region (51) on 14.08.22 and Manly Harbour (51) on 31.10.22

Wandering Tattler: Manly Harbour (1) on 31.10.22

Grey-tailed Tattler: Manly Harbour (682) on 29.10.22

Marsh Sandpiper: Manly Harbour (8) on 29.10.22

Common Greenshank: Manly Harbour (16) on 29.10.22, Redcliffe Airport northside (12) on 08.10.22 and Geoff Skinner Reserve (11) on 08.10.22

Breeding records:

It was very pleasing to extract such an extensive number of breeding records for our resident waders (particularly Pied Oystercatcher).

Beach Stone-curlew: Tip of Bribie Island (possibly nesting) viewed from Sandbank No 1 Caloundra on 10.08.22. Noosa River mouth sandbanks (nest with 1 egg) on 04.09.22. Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (making a scrape) on 14.08.22 (maybe nesting) on 30.09.22 (nesting) on 11.10.22 and (mating behaviour) on 30.10.22.

Bush Stone-curlew: Endeavour River claypan Cooktown (1 downy chick with adults) on 12.08.22 and Queensland Aluminium Limited (nesting) on 07.10.22.

Pied Oystercatcher: Noosa River mouth sandbanks (1 chick) on 14.09.22. Queensland Aluminium Limited (2 chicks) on 07.10.22. Toorbul 1 km North (1 bird sitting on eggs) on 08.10.22. Port of Brisbane complex (1 juvenile) on 09.10.22. Manly Harbour (nesting) on 02.10.22, (1 juvenile) on 24.10.22 and (2 juveniles) on 29.10.22. Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (nesting) on 11.09.22, (3 chicks) on 24.09.22, (3 chicks) on 02.10.22, (1 pair with 4 chicks and 1 pair with 3 chicks) on 11.10.22, (2 chicks) on 23.10.22, (3 chicks) on 30.10.22.

Pied Stilt: Kinka Wetlands Yeppoon (bird nesting in an old Black Swan nest) on 10.09.22. Queensland Aluminium Limited (1 nesting) on 07.10.22. Manly Harbour (pair nesting) on 18.09.22, (2 pairs nesting) on 30.09.22, (a pair with a chick only a few days old) on 02.10.22, (3 chicks and 2 birds on nests) on 10.10.22, (2 on nests) on 21.10.22, (1 bird on nest) on 29.10.22.

Masked Lapwing: The Crescent Toorbul (1 chick) on 13.08.22. Lota (1 bird sitting on nest) on 10.09.22. Noosa River mouth sandbanks (bird sitting on nest) on 14.09.22. Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (pair nesting) on 11.09.22, (1 chick) on 30.09.22, (3 chicks about a day old) on 14.08.22, (4 small chicks) on 11.10.22, (2 pairs each with 3 chicks of different ages) on 23.10.22 and (2 adults with 3 chicks) on 30.10.22. Manly Harbour (4 chicks) on 10.09.22 and (1 juvenile) on 29.10.22.

Red-capped Plover: Port of Brisbane complex (1 chick) on 11.09.22. Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (1 newly hatched chick) on 11.09.22 and (1 chick) on 30.09.22. Queensland Aluminium Limited (1 chick) on 07.10.22. Noosa River mouth sandbanks (nest with 2 eggs) on 17.08.22 and (broken wing display) on 14.09.22. Manly Harbour (pair with 2 chicks 1 -2 days old and another pair with a chick a few days old) on 02.10.22, (2 pairs, each with 1 runner), (4 runners) on 10.10.22, (3 runners) on 21.10.22.

We would like to remind members that the counter for Tweed Heads (Erina Forrest) 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

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 Mobile: 0490 080 340

A reminder that Leg flag sightings must not be entered online during count entry. Please note that you can now enter flagged and banded sightings on the new website. If you prefer, you can email sightings to Jon Coleman (email address legflags@waders.org.au . You can also contact Jon, Phil or I for the Leg Flag Observation Report Form.

Happy counting.
Linda Cross.

Interesting Sightings

Interesting resident wader sightings

Bush Stone-curlew: Seaforth Beach town and gardens area north of Mackay (64) on 15.09.22

Beach Stone-curlew: Numerous records Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (2) August, September and October, Noosa River mouth sandbanks (2) on 17.08.22, Buckley's Hole Bribie Island (2 overflying from the beach) on 14.08.22, Boonooroo (2) on 13.08.22, Point Vernon Hervey Bay (1) on 14.08.22, Sandbank No 1 Caloundra (1) on 19.09.22 and St. Helena Island north (1) on 14.10.22

Sooty Oystercatcher: Wickham Point (2) on 21.09.22, Port of Brisbane complex (1) on 09.10.22, Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (1) on 30.10.22 and Scarborough to Clontarf (1) on 12.08.22 and (1) on 12.09.22

Pied Stilt: Kedron Brook Wetlands (325) on 11.09.22, Port of Brisbane complex (261) on 14.08.22, Gregory Road Hay's Inlet (221) on 13.08.22 and Toorbul 1 km north (106) on 13.08.22

Red-necked Avocet: Port of Brisbane complex (149) on 14.08.22 and Gregory Road Hay's Inlet (128) on 13.08.22
Masked Lapwing: Deception Bay claypan (56) on 13.08.22 and Redcliffe Airport northside (38) on 15.08.22
Red-kneed Dotterel: Garnet's Lagoon 1 Susan River (5) on 14.08.22 and Bishop's Marsh Toorbul (5) on 08.10.22
Red-capped Plover: Port of Brisbane complex (82) on 14.08.22 and O'Regan's Creek westside Hervey Bay (74) on 09.10.22,
Black-fronted Dotterel: Queensland Aluminium Limited Gladstone (18) on 12.08.22, Port of Brisbane complex (12) on 11.09.22, King Street mudflat Thornlands (9) on 10.09.22 and Kedron Brook Wetlands (8) on 14.08.22

Not waders but of interest anyway

Magpie Goose: Luggage Point (87) on 13.08.22
Wandering Whistling Duck: Garnet's Lagoon 2 Susan River (10) on 08.10.22
Raja Shelduck: Buckley's Hole Bribie Island (2) on 11.09.22 and (2) on 09.10.22, Endeavour River mouth claypan Cooktown (5) on 09.10.22 and Seaforth township north of Mackay (8) on 15.09.22
Chestnut Teal: Port of Brisbane complex (170) on 14.08.22 and Gregory Road Hay's Inlet (134) on 13.08.22
Buff-banded Rail: Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (8 – includes 3 adults and 5 chicks) on 11.10.22
Dusky Moorhen: Port of Brisbane complex (158) on 11.09.22
Spotless Crake: Luggage Point (1) on 13.08.22
Brolga: Kinka Wetlands Yeppoon (19 – includes 1 chick about a month old) on 10.09.22 and single birds recorded at Garnet's Lagoon 2 Susan River on 10.09.22, Bishop's Marsh on 10.09.22 and Nathan Road Redcliffe on 15.08.22
Australasian Grebe: Port of Brisbane complex (46) on 14.08.22 and Garnet's Lagoons 1 and 2 combined Susan River (34) on 14.08.22
Silver Gull: Scarborough to Clontarf (178) on 12.08.22 and Port of Brisbane complex (157) on 09.10.22
Australian Tern: Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (165) on 30.09.22
Greater Crested Tern: Noosa River mouth sandbanks (1,063) on 14.09.22, Maroochy River sand bar (740) on 12.09.22 and Scarborough to Clontarf (737) on 12.08.22
Lesser Crested Tern: Gable's Point Rocks Hervey Bay (5) on 10.09.22, O'Regans Creek westside Hervey Bay (4) on 09.10.22 and Manly Harbour (4) on 18.09.22
Little Tern: Port of Brisbane complex (132) on 09.10.22, O'Regan's Creek westside Hervey Bay (130) on 10.09.22 and Manly Harbour (120) on 24.10.22
Common Tern: Buckley's Hole sandbar Bribie Island (43) on 09.10.22
White-winged Tern: Garnet's Lagoon 1 and 2 combined Susan River (9) on 08.10.22
Black-necked Stork: Queensland Aluminium Limited Gladstone (1) on 12.08.22 and 07.10.22 and Kinka Wetlands Yeppoon (1) on 10.09.22 and 08.10.22
Australasian Gannet: Wickham Point (4) on 10.08.22
Australian Pied Cormorant: Queensland Aluminium Limited Gladstone (150 including 100 nests, some with young) on 12.08.22
Australian White Ibis: Pelican Waters Lamerough Creek (99) on 19.09.22
Glossy Ibis: Nathan Road Redcliffe (20) on 15.08.22 and Garnet's Lagoon 1 and 2 combined Susan River (6) on 10.09.22
Royal Spoonbill: Port of Brisbane complex (134) on 14.08.22
White-faced Heron: Port of Brisbane complex (57) on 14.08.22
Little Egret: Port of Brisbane complex (47) on 14.08.22
Pacific Reef Heron: Port of Brisbane complex (3) on 12.09.22 and (2 – 1 was a juvenile) on 09.10.22
Brown Goshawk: St. Helena Island homestead (2) on 14.10.22
Collared Sparrowhawk: Kinka Wetlands Yeppoon (2) on 13.08.22 and Queensland Aluminium Limited (2 displaying) on 07.10.22
Swamp Harrier: Oyster Point (1) on 19.10.22
Black-shouldered Kite: Kedron Brook Wetlands (1) on 11.09.22
Australian Hobby: Garnet's Lagoons 1 and Susan River (1) in August, September and October, and Boonooroo (1) on 10.09.22
Brown Falcon: Kedron Brook Wetlands (1) on 11.09.22
Azure Kingfisher: Acacia Street Wellington Point (1) on 11.09.22.

The following was reported in the QWSG newsletter No. 119

Peregrine Falcon: Luggage Point (1 calidus – migratory spp. Known as northern or tundra type from northern hemisphere) on 09.01.22. To be submitted to BARC.

We have been advised that this record has been accepted by BARC. It is the first Queensland record.



Photograph to the right by QWSG counter Gus Daly.

Wader Watch by Jon Coleman

Hi everyone, welcome to Wader Watch covering the period July to mid-November 2022. As you'll see from a quiet start things are back in full swing with large numbers of leg flags being reported from a wide range of locations.

Please remember if your submitting sightings there a Leg Flag Observation Report Form is available for capturing ad hoc sightings which will help ensure you provide all the correct information and you can email these to Legflags@waders.org.au.

However, we really prefer it if you use our web site and enter your records there as we can process them online, they're easy to enter and far easier to manage through that way. The web site is www.waders.org.au and click on the Report a Banded/ Leg Flagged Bird link on the home page. When completing a report only record what you see and don't assume anything in terms of which leg the flag is on, or any other details, we'll work with what you provide.

From July to mid-November 2022 the following records were received.

Green Leg Flag sightings seen in QLD

With returning birds there were lots of green leg flag reports with 842 individual resightings involving 19 species of shorebird across 25 locations. Not directly flag related, but of interest, we also saw our satellite tagged godwit BYX, banded at Lytton Claypan in February 2021, return to Australia in September.

For BYX, northward migration started on the 5th or 6th April with a 6-day flight of 7,000km direct to South Korea. After feeding up there BYX flew to Alaska and then went to the northernmost point to breed, the same location used last year. The journey home commenced on 2nd September with a direct trans-Pacific flight to Brisbane, 10,800km in 10days. The migration track is below and BYX can be seen in the Wynnum Manly area so do keep an eye out for him.



BYX 2022 Migration Track

Green Leg Flag Sightings seen Interstate

Nil Reports

Green Leg Flag Sightings seen Overseas

Bar-tailed Godwit

AJN – 29/10/2022, Miranda, New Zealand: Adrian Riegen

BDE – 27/10/2022, Miranda, New Zealand: Tansey Bliss

FPU – 23/10/2022, Nelson Haven, Tasman Bay, New Zealand: Peter Field

FPU – 26/10/2022, Rabbit Island, Tasman Bay, New Zealand: David Melville, W. Cook

Yellow (WA) leg Flag sightings in QLD

Nil Reports

Orange (Vic) Leg Flag sightings seen in QLD

Caspian Tern

1H – 12/09/2022, Urangan Boat Harbour: Jack Worchester

3H – 16/07/2022, Lytton Claypan: Arthur Keates

3H – 14/08/2022, Lytton Claypan: Arthur Keates

Curlew Sandpiper

DBT – 20/09/2022 Port of Brisbane: Penn Lloyd

Bar-tailed Godwit

CWC – 02/10/2022, Toorbul: Michael Strong & Terry Burgess

CNP – 25/09/2022, Toorbul: Helen Leonard

CNP – 02/10/2022, Toorbul: Michael Strong & Terry Burgess

ZT – 01/10/2022, Toorbul: Terry & Audrey Burgess

ZT – 02/10/2022, Toorbul: Michael Strong & Terry Burgess

Plain – 03/10/2022, Geoff Skinner Reserve: Tony Cotter

Plain – 08/10/2022, Acacia St. Wellington Point: Nicola Udy

DX – 03/10/2022, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates

CNP – 01/10/2022, Toorbul: Terry & Audrey Burgess

CNP – 08/10/2022, Toorbul: Terry & Audrey Burgess

CWC – 01/10/2022, Toorbul: Terry & Audrey Burgess

Plain – 02/11/2022, Kakadu Beach: Penn Lloyd

Great Knot

Plain – 02/10/2022, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates and Melissa Whitby
 Plain – 15/10/2022, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates
 Plain – 16/10/2022, Manly Harbour: Sheryl Keates
 Plain – 24/10/2022, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates
 Plain – 29/10/2022, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates
 Plain – 31/10/2022, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates

Yellow over Blue leg flag sightings (Northern Territory)**Curlew Sandpiper**

SC – 20/09/2022 Port of Brisbane: Penn Lloyd

OVERSEAS FLAGGED BIRDS SEEN IN QLD**White over blue (Taiwan) leg flag sightings****Red-necked Stint**

559- 16/10/2022, Cairns Esplanade: Sally Sheldon

Curlew Sandpiper

6T- 01/10/2022, Wynnum Esplanade: Tony Cotter
 6T- 06/11/2022, Wynnum Esplanade: Tony Cotter
 6T- 07/11/2022, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates
 ## - 21/10/2022, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates

Black over white or white over black (Shanghai, China) leg flag sightings**Great Knot**

J62 – 14/09/2022, Wynnum Esplanade: Tony Cotter
 J62 – 18/09/2022, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates
 J62 – 30/09/2022, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates
 J62 – 02/10/2022, Wynnum Esplanade: Tony Cotter
 J62 – 03/10/2022, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates
 L75 – 18/09/2022, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates
 L75 – 25/09/2022, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates

Red Knot

- 09/10/2022, Lytton Claypan: Arthur & Sheryl Keates

Blue over White and Blue (Japan) leg flag sightings**Grey-tailed Tattler**

56# - 18/09/2022, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates
 Plain – 20/09/2022, Victoria Point: Penn Lloyd
 ### - 03/10/2022, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates
 ### - 17/10/2022, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates
 H06 - 17/10/2022, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates
 Plain - 17/10/2022, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates

Black (Alaska USA) leg flag sightings

Nil Reports

White (New Zealand) leg flag sightings**Bar-tailed Godwit**

Right Leg, Right tibia metal band. Right tarsus yellow band over blue band
 Left Leg, Left tibia white flag. Left tarsus red flag over blue band over red band :-
 01/10/2022, Toorbul: Terry Burgess & Audrey Burgess
 02/10/2022, Toorbul: Michael Strong & Terry Burgess
 09/10/2022, Toorbul: Terry Burgess & Audrey Burgess

Red Knot

DCP – 07/11/2022, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates

Yellow Flagged Pied Oystercatchers from NSW

C4 – 01/08/2022. St Helena Pier: Arthur Keates

The following people and organisations contributed the data used in this report with apologies for any inadvertent omission:

Adrian Riegen, Arthur Keates, Audrey Burgess, Campbell Paine, Cecile Espigole, Cheryl Ponter, David Melville, Graham Ponter, Helen Leonard, Jack Worcester, John Lowry, Jon Coleman, Julie Cass, Kasia Ganderska-Someya, Melissa Whitby, Michael Strong, Michele Burford, Michele Mathieson, Mick Barker, Nelle Mawson, Nicola Udy, Ofalia Ho, Penn Lloyd, Peter Field, Peter Rothlisberg, Roland Odsey, Sally Sheldon, Sandra Harding, Scott Lenton, Sheryl Keates, Shota Sawamoto, Tansy Bliss, Terry Burgess, Tony Cotter, Tony Habraken, W. Cook, Wayne Cass

Every record received is incredibly valuable so thank you to everyone who contributed their sightings.

Wader ID Days

Shorebird ID Days - Manly Boat Harbour

Saturday 28 January 2023 - meeting time 1430

Sunday 26 February 2023 - meeting time 1345

Meeting place: At the end of Davenport Dr, on the southern boundary of the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron Clubhouse. The gate will be locked after we enter the site and late arrivals will not be able to enter.

Shorebird ID Days - Toorbul

Monday 13 March 2023 - Meeting time 12 noon. 1.89m high tide at 13:23

Take the Bruce Highway north from Brisbane to the Donnybrook/Toorbul exit. 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.

Shorebird ID days – Kakadu Beach Bribie Island

Monday 23 January 2023 - Meeting time 09:30 onwards. 2.79m high tide at 10:50.

Tuesday 21 February 2023 - Meeting time 09:30 onwards 2.74m high tide at 10:30.

Take the Bruce Highway north from Brisbane and take the Bribie Island exit. Continue on this road to Bribie Island and follow the signs to Banksia Beach. When you arrive at the T-junction at Banksia Beach turn left and after a short distance turn right into the car park for the roost. A bird hide is positioned at both ends of the roost. Please contact Linda and Phil Cross 0490 080 340 (or leave a message on 5495 2758) if you have any

To register for an outing, please send a text message to the leaders. Participants must comply with, the COVID-19 safe practices outlined in BQ's website:

<http://www.birdsqueensland.org.au/covid-19.php>

In addition to the COVID-19 safety practices applicable at the time, under the conditions of the access agreement for the roost, participants must wear enclosed footwear and are responsible for their own health and safety, including:

- wearing protective clothing at all times (eg. hat, enclosed footwear, sunglasses) and using sunscreen
- drinking water to avoid dehydration
- using insect repellent if necessary
- telling a leader about any health issues that may affect taking part in the field trip
- if feeling unwell, or concerned about someone else being unwell, immediately telling a group leader or another participant
- immediately telling a group leader or another participant about any injury suffered (including a slip, trip, fall and snake bite) or hazard that may cause injury to someone.

Anyone who does not comply with these conditions will not be allowed to enter the site or asked to leave.

Bring morning tea and a chair. It is a good idea to have a hat, sunscreen and insect repellent. Most importantly bring your binoculars or telescopes. Hopefully we can provide the answers to all your questions.

Participation in this field trip is strictly limited to those whose registration with the leaders is confirmed by the leaders.

PLEASE NOTE: As the outings are subject to any restrictions applying in relation to COVID-19, please confirm attendance with the leaders the day before the outing.

Leaders: Arthur and Sheryl Keates 0490 951 661.

ID Day Reports

Manly Boat Harbour Shorebird Roost Reports

by Arthur Keates

17 September 2022

A fine sunny day with a gentle northerly breeze provided ideal conditions for those taking part in this field trip. With migration from the breeding grounds well under way, participants observed 14 species of migratory shorebirds, many showing varying degrees of remnant breeding plumage, notably Bar-tailed Godwit, Great Knot and Curlew Sandpiper. Interestingly, among the small flock of Eurasian Whimbrel were at least 2 juveniles.

In addition, 4 species of resident shorebirds were observed.

16 October 2022

Because of the moderate ENE wind, the vast majority of the roosting shorebirds were facing into the wind with their backs to the observers. Nevertheless, observers persevered and with continual movement in the flock had good views of most of the 14 species of migratory shorebirds showing varying degrees of remnant breeding plumage, notably the Red Knot.

Juveniles of Bar-tailed Godwit, Eurasian Whimbrel, Grey-tailed Tattler and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper were found among the flock of c 2,000 birds.

In addition, 4 species of resident shorebirds were observed.

13 November 2022

On a fine sunny day with a moderate northerly wind, a large flock of shorebirds were roosting at the southern end of the island with others scattered around the site. Far Eastern Curlew were absent but the “usual suspects” of migratory shorebirds, and 3 species of resident shorebirds, were observed.

The following shorebird species were observed at the roost during the field trips mentioned:

Pied Oystercatcher (all), Pied Stilt (all), Masked Lapwing (Sep/Oct), Pacific Golden Plover (all), Red-capped Plover (all), Lesser Sand Plover (all), Greater Sand Plover (Oct/Nov), Black-tailed Godwit (all), Bar-tailed Godwit (all), Eurasian Whimbrel (all), Far Eastern Curlew (Sep/Oct), Marsh Sandpiper (Oct/Nov), Common Greenshank (all), Grey-tailed Tattler (all), Terek Sandpiper (all), Ruddy Turnstone (all), Great Knot (all), Red Knot (all), Red-necked Stint (all) and Curlew Sandpiper (all).



Photo of large flock (AK photo)

Chairperson Note re: AGM and New Committee Members

It is coming up to that time of year for the AGM and leading up to this period the Committee is looking to find out who wishes to stay or leave. As ever we are hoping to get new blood on to the Committee.

I sound as if I am continually repeating myself but, we are finding that we are an ever-aging group and have a concern about the future running of our group. It is not just the Committee that is giving us concern but the running of the various events that the group arranges is in jeopardy.

There are three major arms to the QWSG 1) Counts 2) Education and 3) Banding. At the moment counts and banding are very strong while the education section needs more drive. However, the position of Count Coordinator NEEDS to be filled / covered. Linda has done an amazing job over many years and needs to stand down. If this were to happen with no one to take over one of the core elements of QWSG would cease to exist!!!

Please consider joining us either on the committee or as a helper with counts, ID Days, educational talks, write articles for the Newsletter or even attend meetings as a QWSG Rep.

It might seem to be a daunting prospect to join a group of people who have been working together for a long time. We would really like to see some new faces with new ideas and experiences. You are not expected to be thrown in at the deep end but can learn on the job.

Please note that under the rules we operate, no nominations for a committee member can be taken from the floor once the AGM has started, so send you nomination ASAP.

If you are interested, please contact one of the Committee to see what is involved in being part of the Committee. All are welcome.

In anticipation
David Edwards, Chairperson QWSG

Notice of the QWSG's AGM for 2022

The 2022 QWSG AGM will be held on Sunday 11th Dec 2022 at 8:00am at Swan Lake Parking Area at the Port of Brisbane, on Lucinda Way.

If the weather is bad, we will make arrangements for another time or a Zoom meeting

Please email the chairperson if you are coming along, plus let me know if you require a nomination form for a committee position. chairperson@waders.org.au or secretary@waders.org.au

NOMINATION FOR POSITION ON QWSG MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Name of Nominee: _____

Signature of Nominee _____

Position: _____

Name of Proposer: _____

Name of Seconder: _____

(Note: Nominees, proposers and seconders must have current QWSG membership).

I accept the nomination for the position on the management committee of the Queensland Wader Study Group as indicated.

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, Andrew Thelander president@birdsqueensland.org.au

Secretary, Janette Thurley secretary@birdsqueensland.org.au

Treasurer, Wayne Lock treasurer@birdsqueensland.org.au

Shorebird Education Program at Port of Brisbane's Artificial Roost for Year 3 Students

For just over 5 years, a group of birding volunteers from Queensland Wader Study Group, Birds Queensland and BirdLife Southern Queensland have assisted with the Moreton Bay Environmental Education Centre's Year 3 'Birds and Beaches, Dogs and Leashes Program'. Over the 5 years, 3,975 students from many different schools have visited the Port Roost to look for shorebird and waterbird species which may be found there.

More volunteers are needed for the 2023 year to assist the year 3 students when they visit the Port of Brisbane Roost and Hide in terms 1 (February and March) and 4 (October and November). There could be up to 12 groups coming through over both terms and with a pool of volunteers it is not envisaged that you would be required for all of the visits. Those volunteers participating in the program would need to be at the Port Roost from 12.45 - 2.15 p.m.

For any member interested in becoming involved, you will need –

- A knowledge of shorebirds (although you don't need to be an expert)
- You must have a telescope
- You must have, or be prepared to obtain, a Blue Card

Retired teachers are ideal but any member who wants to encourage Year 3 aged children to learn more about shorebirds and has the requirements above, will be very welcome. Four volunteers are required for each visit with two at each Hide.

If you would like to volunteer or should you require more information, please contact Rae Clark on (07) 3391 1642 or email rae.clark@bigpond.com.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined recently:

Terry and Audrey Burgess, Kathleen Catalan,
 Daniel Delany and Emma Fitzsimmons
 Liz Gould, Nga Yee Lai, Dan O'Neill, Alice Skehel

Have you renewed your subscription by direct deposit into the QWSG bank account recently?

We have payments in September and October that have no details attached.

If you paid by direct credit in November, can you let Brenda Smith, Membership officer know: Your name and your bank name, date and amount of deposit, and breakdown e.g. 1 yr sub renewal, Renewal plus donation.

Just a reminder to all who are renewing their membership - your bank may only put a numeric reference for your payment - so please email Brenda with details of the deposit as above and the reference number.

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!

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

<u>CHAIRPERSON:</u>	David Edwards	(07) 3262 2017	chairperson@waders.org.au
<u>TREASURER</u>	Judith Giles	0428 545 801	treasurer@waders.org.au
<u>SECRETARY:</u>	Peter Rothlisberg	(07) 3822 3759	secretary@waders.org.au
<u>MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY</u>	Brenda Smith		membership@waders.org.au
<u>NEWSLETTER EDITOR:</u>	David Edwards	(07) 3262 2017	gouldian6@bigpond.com

QWSG COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Robert Bush	0404 805 558	Dierdre Chrzescijanski	0439749149
Jon Coleman	(07) 3299 2780	Peter Driscoll	0418 212 627
Paul Finn	0480 177 792	Andy Jensen	0404 348638
Ross McMillan		Brad Woodworth	0439 577 551

Note that QWSG AGM takes place after the issuing of this Newsletter

<u>COUNT COORDINATOR:</u>	Linda Cross	07 5495 2758	Email	counts@waders.org.au
<u>LEG FLAG COORDINATOR</u>	Phil Cross	07 5495 2758	Email	legflags@waders.org.au

BQ PRESIDENT Andrew Thelander Email president@birdsqueensland.org.au

CORRESPONDENCE All correspondence to:
The QWSG Secretary,
PO Box 3138,
SOUTH BRISBANE,
QLD 4101.

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 **February 14th, 2023**

Contributions should be addressed to:

David Edwards, the QWSG Editor, 54 Elliott Street, Clayfield, Qld 4011
or E-mail to: gouldian6@bigpond.com

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

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Count Activities – 2022-23

QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Program 2022-23

Sat 10 Dec	2.41m at 10:46				
Sat 14 Jan	2.09m at 14:01	Nat Summer Count	Sat 5 Aug	2.05m at 12:18	
Sat 11 Feb	2.17m at 12:43		Sat 2 Sep	2.19m at 11:08	Add. opt count see Linda
Sat 11 Mar	2.18m at 11:40		Sat 16 Sep	2.03m at 10:10	
Sat 1 Apr	2.12m at 06:29	Ask for message from Linda	Sat 14 Oct	2.13m at 09:12	
Sat 6 May	2.07m at 09:38		Sat 11 Nov	2.15m at 08:08	
Sat 3 Jun	1.97m at 08:29	Nat Winter Count	Sat 9 Dec	2.06m at 06:55	
Sat 8 Jul	1.91m at 13:34				

Counters Rockhampton and north – please select a date as close as possible to the count programme Sat day with suitable tides to enable you to complete your counts.

Port of Brisbane Count Dates 2022-23

Sun 11 Dec	2.36m at 11:21	Meet	10:00				
Sun 15 Jan	1.98m at 14:54	Meet	13:30 Nat Summer Count	Sun 9 Jul	1.94m at 14:33	Meet	13:00
Sun 12 Feb	2.03m at 13:20	Meet	11:50	Sun 6 Aug	2.06m at 13:08	Meet	11:40
Sun 12 Mar	2.04m at 12:14	Meet	10:45	Sun 17 Sep	2.07m at 10:45	Meet	09:15
Sun 2 Apr	2.20m at 07:15	Meet	06:00	Sun 15 Oct	2.20m at 09:46	Meet	08:15
Sun 7 May	1.98m at 10:18	Meet	08:45	Sun 12 Nov	2.27m at 08:45	Meet	07:15
Sun 4 Jun	1.92m at 09:15	Meet	07:45 Nat Winter Count	Sun 10 Dec	2.22m at 07:38	Meet	06:10

Because of the ever-present worry of Covid please check to see what Government restrictions apply

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

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 :.....)

You will receive your newsletter (colour version) by E-mail.....

Signature Date:.....

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

Direct funds transfer to:
Qld Wader Study Group
BSB: 313 140 (Bank Australia)
Account number: 08305297

OR Please post this form to: QWSG Membership Secretary
PO Box 3138,
SOUTH BRISBANE,
QLD 4101.

PLEASE CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR RENEWAL IS DUE!