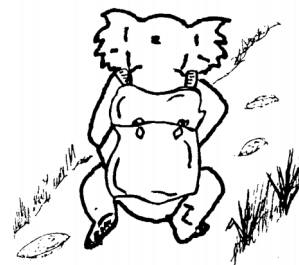


# BANKSTOWN BUSHWALKING CLUB INC.

THE OUTDOORS CLUB THAT DOES IT ALL!

## BUSH TELEGRAPH

2019—2020 No. 4  
SUMMER



### A birder's trip to Gluepot

by Louise & Peter Harvey

Our original intention for our October short break, was to do the Queensland scenic rim for the rainforest pigeons. With recent fires in and around that area we instead headed south ending up in Gluepot Reserve, a 1 ½ hour drive north of Waikerie, South Australia.

The name of Gluepot Reserve apparently derives its name from the soil, that is a dusty coat on everything when dry but when wet, sticks to everything.

Gluepot Reserve is world famous as a place to see some rare and endangered birds. Birdlife Australia purchased the 54,390 ha (134,000 acres) Gluepot Station in 1997 in an effort to preserve the largest block of intact mallee left in Australia and the threatened birds within it. Six nationally threatened bird species are found there and a further 17 regionally threatened bird species. <https://gluepot.org/introduction/>

On our visit, the country's drought was very much in evidence. Bird numbers are affected by this as fewer trees and shrubs are flowering and numbers were low on our Spring trip, generally the best season to visit. It was still worth the two day drive and we enjoyed ourselves immensely. Barely able to call ourselves 'birder's', we would settle for just seeing and identifying some birds, hopefully some we had not seen before.

Camping is very reasonably priced at \$10/night with three basic campsites to choose from. There are four bird hides set up in the reserve, each with a south facing view to a water trough. These troughs are connected to larger tanks set up for fire fighting. For our visit, the troughs were the only water sources available as the dams were dry. Three hides could be driven to, and the other accessed by a 2.5km walk. Various walks are marked throughout the reserve, with pamphlets available to indicate which birds might be found.

Generally the best routine for the day was to do a hide first thing of a morning (e.g. 7am or earlier) then either do some walks or drive to check out other spots. The Spiny Cheeked Honeyeaters and Red Wattlebirds were common of a morning, as well as flocks of Mulga Parrots, Yellow Rosellas and Australian Ringneck (Mulga variety) Parrots. It was fascinating to see the pecking order at the hides and the squabbles that broke out.

(cont'd pg 2 & 3)



Australian Ringneck Parrot & Spiny Cheeked Honeyeaters

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All opinions and recommendations contained in this magazine are the individual authors' alone, and do not constitute official endorsement by the executive or members of the Bankstown Bushwalking Club Inc.

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## PRESIDENT'S PIECE

BY THAÏS TURNER

As we head into the warmer (no! quite a lot hotter) weather of another Australian Summer we have many canyons, and walks including swims, and other activities involving water, on our Summer Activities Program. Enjoy the respite these cooling activities can provide to you, and always take care of yourselves and others while participating in Club activities.

I'll repeat a warning that appears on the current Activities Program: Members are reminded that the bushfire risk this Summer is high. In times of high fire danger, please remember to check your email or contact your trip leader the evening before a programmed activity, as park closures are usually not announced until mid-afternoon the day before. Also note Club walks **MUST** be cancelled or moved to another location in the event of a park closure.

Please also take note of Total Fire Bans in the places you are walking and camping. Carrying a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) is also a good safety measure, and remember to keep your details up to date with the co-ordinating body – AMSA - to ensure it's effectiveness in an emergency situation.

We are gearing up for our annual Club Christmas

party – to be held on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December at the new Star Buffet at Bankstown RSL, meeting at 12noon so we can all eat together. Please contact Thaïs or Barbara by 24<sup>th</sup> November so we can make our group booking. See our Summer Program for full details.

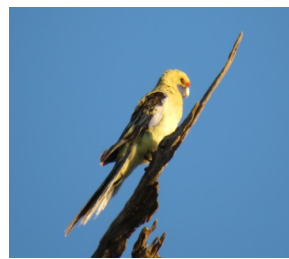
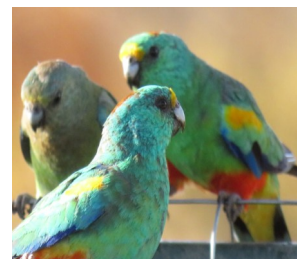
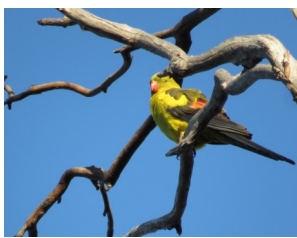
The Social Committee is also looking forward to as many people as possible (past and present Club members) coming along to our celebratory 'picnic in the park' for the Club's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, at lunchtime on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020. To be held at Chipping Norton Lakes near Liverpool. Please BYO food and drinks and other items to make your picnic outing comfortable. If a total fire ban is declared, cold cuts may be the order of the day. Please contact Thaïs or Barbara with any contact details of past Club members so we can spread the word and invite them along too.

I look forward to meeting you soon on a Summer Program trip, at our Christmas party, or particularly at the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary picnic.

See you on the track,  
Thaïs

## BIRDS OF GLUEPOT

(CONT'D FROM PG 1 AND ONTO PG 3)



Column 1 (left to right, top to bottom):  
Australian Ringneck Parrots  
Brown Headed Honeyeater  
Common Bronzewing Pigeons  
Male Regent Parrot  
Masked and Dusky Woodswallows  
Mulga Parrots

Column 2 (left to right, top to bottom):  
Nankeen Kestrel at nest  
Red Wattlebird  
Striated Pardalote at nest  
White Browed Woodswallow  
Yellow Rosella



## A BIRDER'S TRIP TO GLUEPOT

(CONT'D FROM PG 1 &amp; 2)

A late afternoon pre-dusk hide could be added also. Bird numbers were lower, but different birds might come in. The one late hide we did had a dozen Common Bronzewing Pigeons. Around that hide we saw a large mixed flock of Woodswallows that always took flight seeming too nervous to venture in for a drink.

Perhaps my most enjoyable moments were two unexpected finds, even though they are rated as common birds. The first was hearing the bird call then searching for and finding the nest hollow for a Striated Pardalote. It was a small opening at about head height in a mallee tree. We were fortunate to see it enter and leave its hollow. Such a sweet, pretty little bird. Later we found another nest hollow with three Striated Pardalotes close by.

On the start of another walk Peter spotted a female fairy wren and on following its quick, erratic movements in and about the shrubbery, we were rewarded with the brilliant blue flash of the male Splendid Fairy Wren in his breeding plumage. We never did finish that walk but were immensely pleased with our circle following this little blue wren and the duller coloured females.

We will definitely have a return visit again in Spring, hopefully after the drought breaks and do more of the walks and see and learn more birds. It is fairly flat terrain, almost semi arid. Experienced birders would have located and identified a lot more than we did, but each trip we do we learn a couple more birds. We did see two old nest mounds of Malleefowl but not the birds as it was too dry for them to breed. We were told that rainfall had been exceedingly low last summer too and when the temperatures got to 50C, the Rainbow Bee-eaters dropped dead to then be eaten by the goannas.

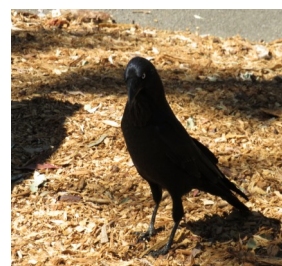
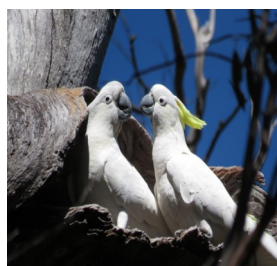
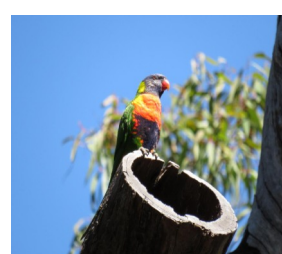
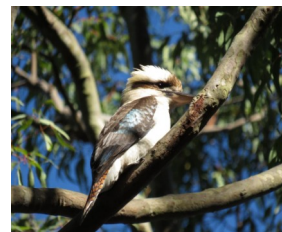
We learnt about other nearby birding spots at <http://www.waikerie.com/waikerie-bird-watching-trail-riverland> and we were lucky enough to see one male Regent Parrot at Hogwash Bend on the Murray River on our way home. They normally flock in larger numbers at Gluepot in favourable years before nesting along the Murray in River Red Gums. It is listed as vulnerable in South Australia, threatened in Victoria and endangered in NSW but thankfully the population in the south west of Western Australia is thriving well. In what we thought might be a fruitless search, we were pleasantly surprised with our find of one bird. These are lovely parrots worthy of future searches as is a repeat and longer visit to Gluepot.

Birds seen over the whole trip:

- A thornbill of some sort!
- Weebill
- Little Corella
- Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
- Galah
- Raven
- Currawong
- Nankeen Kestrel
- Red-kneed Dotterel
- Purple Swamphen
- Eurasian Coot
- Black Swan
- Pelican
- Lots of kites/falcons seen from the highways and others I can't identify!

### Birds of Oatley Park.

Pics by Peter Harvey.



## The BNSW 2019 AGM (including talk on *Growing your Club*)

by Jon Gray

The Bushwalking NSW AGM was held on 20 August and Thaïs and I attended. The meeting featured a talk titled “*From 50 to 300 members and 365 activities a year*” by Bill Boyd, recent past President of Northern Rivers Bushwalkers Club. He discussed the philosophy and approach the club has taken to bring about such a rise in club membership.

His key message seemed to be not worrying about the age range of members and accepting that the club will have few if any members less than 50. The club is open about attracting members of senior age levels, knowing that people at this stage of life have more time available for bushwalking club activities.

They adopt a “soft management” approach, where they keep bureaucratic style meetings to a minimum, even within the Management Committee. Their club gatherings focus on activities, not Committee meetings. The Committee has the authority to make day-to-day decisions for the club, without having to seek approval from the wider club membership. They endeavour to avoid bureaucratic obstacles that hinder people joining the club.

Their club aims for a diverse program with a wide range of activities and grades. They offer more than just outdoor activities and believe that creating opportunities for socialising is a priority. One such semi-social activity they all enjoy is an annual “cake walk”! They email out programs on a monthly basis rather than quarterly, meaning leaders don’t have to

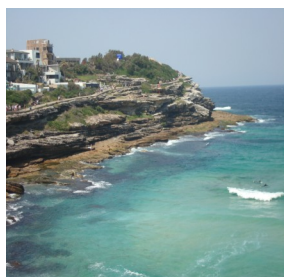
commit themselves up to 5 months out. A summary of Bill’s talk is given on the BNSW website at: <https://www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au/tips-for-growing-your-club/>.

The talk was followed by other AGM matters. The election of Office Bearers was undertaken. A few key position holders were stepping down and these positions were not immediately filled, but thankfully they have been since. President Alex Allchin is staying on as President, even though terms do not normally extend for more than 3 years. I myself accepted a position on the Committee in a newly formed “Young People in Clubs” (YPIC) Working Group.

The Chardon Award for the most notable contribution to the bushwalking movement in NSW was co-awarded to Linda Groom (Canberra Bushwalking Club) for her role in organising and leading the Sydney to Kosciuszko Walk to protest against mismanagement of the KNP. The late Jim Callaway (Catholic Bushwalking Club) was a co-recipient of the Award, recognising his substantial contribution to BNSW during from the early 1990s to recently. Mention was made of a proposed “Great West Walk” extending from Parramatta to the foot of the Blue Mountains and possibly beyond (see <https://greatwestwalk.com.au/>).

The next ordinary general meeting of BNSW is on Tues 19 November, Redfern Town Hall, to which all are welcome.

## Sculpture by the Sea Walk from Clovelly to Bondi 1 Nov 2019. Pics by Abdul.





## October 26-27 Camping at Bents Basin

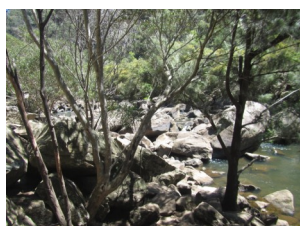
By Carol Weston

Organiser: Thaïs

Participants: Thaïs, Laslo, Nahed, Leo, Carol (and Rob - Missing In Action at THE Basin instead of BENTS Basin!! We missed you Rob! Hope you still had a good night!).

A fun, relaxed weekend was enjoyed on a total fire ban weekend. We set up our tents on a quiet, but slightly WINDY, plateau away from the crowds. We went on short, picturesque walks to the swimming hole, to Caley's Lookout, and along the swimming hole to explore the rocks and river entry. A couple of enjoyable swims to cool down. Sundowners and dinner were eaten under the lovely gazebo kindly supplied by Les. It was lovely to be visited by wombats at night, and the blue fairy wrens, kookaburras and willy wagtails were a joy to watch playing around our tents and cars in the morning. A special congratulations to Nahed for attending her first camping adventure! What a lovely way to spend a weekend, relaxing within an hour of Sydney! Thanks for organising a great weekend Thaïs.

(Pics by Thaïs)



## Sculpture by the Sea Walk from Clovelly to Bondi 1 Nov 2019.

Pics by Thaïs.



**CLUB NIGHTS EVERY MONTH****Social Evenings or Meetings**

USUALLY HELD ON 2ND MONDAY OF MONTH—  
EXCEPT JANUARY

**Georges Hall Community Centre**  
188 Birdwood Road  
Georges Hall NSW 2198

**Club email address:**  
**bankstownbush@gmail.com**

Contributions to this newsletter are always  
welcome & can be emailed to Thaïs .

**Deadline for Autumn issue is: Mon 3 Feb 2020**

**Club Nights coming up in 2020:**

January		No meeting
February	10th	General Meeting
March	9th	AGM

**We're on the Web!**

**http://  
www.bankstownbushwalkingclub.  
org.au**

**BBC Life Member  
Tim Fox retires  
from Fire and Rescue NSW**

From the Torch newspaper Wed 14 Aug 2019:

**Gearing up for retirement after coming to rescue for 35 years by Kim Palmer**

Retiring after nearly 35 years as a firefighter and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) instructor with Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW), Superintendent Tim Fox has plenty to keep him busy.

A long-time member of the Bankstown Bushwalkers, the Sefton resident is looking forward to taking part in more of the club's activities, and has also joined the Bankstown State Emergency Service (SES) as a volunteer.

He is also planning a "relaxed" 1,000 km bike ride from Adelaide to the Flinders Ranges with his brother who is a paramedic. "We are just going to take our time and enjoy the trip," he said with a laugh.

Originally trained as a nurse at St Joseph's Hospital in Auburn where he met his wife Justine, he switched jobs to become a firefighter at the age of 25 and admits his family have put up with a lot to accommodate

**NEW MEMBERS**

Please welcome our new members when you next see them on an activity.

**Nahed Sukkurieh**

**Natalie Sukkurieh**

**Rob Partridge**

**Dennis Fourtounis**

his career.

"It's been a fantastic career and I have loved being part of a great team," he said.

"In a nutshell you have to make positive memories out of confronting situations."

A seminal event in his career was the response to the Thredbo landslide in 1997, which killed 18 and included the difficult rescue of Stuart Diver which tested FRNSW's building rescue capability.

"I had done my course 12 months earlier and we were just building up our equipment level when the landslide occurred," he said.

"It was good to be able to put that skill to work, and the network we had built up during that (earlier) multiagency training all came together."

While the response to big incidents makes the news such as the fatal Glenbrook Train crash in 1999, the 2004 South East Asian tsunami and the 2011 Christchurch earthquake, he said some of the hardest work he had done was at smaller jobs.

"When you are the first crew at a house fire or a road crash rescue," he said.

"Then it's just you and your crew and that's when you work the hardest.

"Your crew rely on each other and that's the fabric of the fire brigades and that's what makes great teamwork."



Pic 1: Superintendent Tim Fox and his wife Justine are looking forward to spending more time together following his retirement from Fire and Rescue NSW after nearly 35 years of service responding to incidents including the 1997 Thredbo Landslide, the Glenbrook train crash in 1999, the South East Asian Tsunami in 2004 and the Christchurch earthquake in 2011.



Pic 3: Retiring from Fire and Rescue NSW after nearly 35 years, Superintendent Tim Fox is looking forward to sharing his skills and experience with his fellow volunteers at the Bankstown State Emergency Services (SES).



Pic 2: In a sign of respect and in recognition for his achievements within Fire and Rescue NSW, Superintendent Tim Fox and his wife Justine were farewelled by staff at Greenacre forming a guard of honour.



**SNIPPETS**

Compiled by Thaïs Turner

- You may have heard of the Great West Walk – 65km from Parramatta to Penrith – which opened recently. It joins the Great Western Walk which runs from Penrith to Flagstaff at Bathurst. Do them both as an epic trip! Actually you may look out for some sectors to appear on the Club's program in the future.
- Great news! – Radiata Plateau at Katoomba has been saved after over 30 years of campaigning. It has recently been purchased by the NSW government for addition into the national park system.
- The Southwest Sydney koala population is facing extinction due to planned development in the Greater Macarthur Growth Area, where some 69,000 more houses are planned. You could write to the Premier of NSW with your concerns. There is a NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Koala populations and habitat in NSW.
- The Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife are aiming to prevent many other Australian native species heading for extinction and are now in the process of creating a new National Park in South Australia, having raised the necessary funds to do so. Sadly, Australia has the highest rate of mammal extinctions in the world, and over the past 200 years more than 75% of our native vegetation has been destroyed or degraded. Shockingly, of all the animal emblems used to promote our eight States and Territories, four of them are listed as threatened.
- The Gardens of Stone Alliance groups are continuing to promote the Destination Pagoda vision for a state conservation area north-west of Lithgow - a win/win solution for stakeholders.
- Climate Action is being demanded more loudly, as climate change and its effects on current and future generations and populations continues to gather momentum, with strikes by schools and workplaces, young and old alike, as well as protests by Extinction Rebellion groups, joining this global movement. Bushfires, heatwaves, drought and water disasters are but some of the effects we cannot ignore as we see them impacting us more and more each day. One effect is that the Bushfire Season was declared a month earlier (on 1 Sep) in many areas this year.
- Reminder to all – printed topo maps for sale, are being phased out. They will soon become digital only. (The Club Map Library is still available however, and is brought to each general meeting and social evening, by Thaïs).
- Anyone interested in the History of Bushwalking can find an excellent 2 part series in Caro Ryan's blog [lotsafreshair](#). Check it out soon. There are also videos and articles covering a myriad of other topics to do with the outdoors, bushwalking, camping, food, etc etc.
- A new Woodford Reserve Heritage Trail (Layers in Time) has opened around the grounds of the Woodford Academy, so you can explore the bush areas surrounding the historic buildings.
- Similarly in Parramatta, a poetry trail around CBD and Parklands (Parracons) provides an interactive and exciting way to explore the city on foot.
- Frog ID week runs from 8 - 17 November. Australia's frogs need your help, so please do whatever you can to help.
- Lynda has reminded Club members that there's a possibility the current status of Wollemi NP campgrounds not requiring pre-booking, may change in the future.
- The new [National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019](#) commenced on 1 September 2019, replacing the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2009*. The Regulation is the principal statutory rule made under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NPW Act)*. Broadly, the role of the Regulation is to assist in achieving the objectives of the NPW Act, which are focused on the conservation of biodiversity and cultural heritage values in national parks and reserves, promoting public understanding and enjoyment of these values, and ensuring appropriate management of land reserved under the NPW Act. The new Regulation has only minor changes relative to the old Regulation. These include:
  - removing duplication of provisions now covered by other legislation
  - clarifying certain aspects of park management, including definitions
  - simplifying some provisions to ensure consistency with existing legislation and policy
  - reorganising content to improve flow and readability.
- The Blue Mountains National Park continues to attract record numbers of visitors – in fact it topped the 8 million mark in 2018. The survey was commissioned by NPWS and conducted by Roy Morgan Research. Of all the NSW National Parks, Blue Mountains is still the most popular. 15645 people were interviewed about their park visitation in the survey and randomly selected through both mobile and landline phones.
- Keep an eye on your emails to see how you can give practical support to the Maili Village School in the lower Solukumbu region of Nepal. Ambar Tamang (our guide of choice in the Himalaya) has identified this school as most in need of support.
- Most will have heard of the keen and experienced bushwalker from Brisbane Bushwalkers who crawled for 2 days with a fractured leg after falling 6 metres down a Queensland waterfall. Neil Parker learned vital survival skills through his time in the bushwalking community. In a recent incident 2 other walkers were not so fortunate in their falls from Queensland waterfalls, as they were fatally injured. Reminders: tell someone where you are going, and carry an emergency beacon.



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