

BirdLife Melbourne Newsletter



Volume 3 Number 3 September 2014



The Mallee: A bird's-eye view of Joab's PhD study area

Meet our new Conservation Officer

Joab Wilson has recently taken on the role of Conservation Officer for the Melbourne branch of BirdLife Australia.

He writes about his background in conservation ecology and his work so far as Conservation Officer.

I was drawn to the role of Conservation Officer from my background in bird conservation and urban/landscape ecology. I recently completed a PhD project, which investigated bird communities, their resources and disturbances in a Mallee environment. The project yielded many interesting results, which I am likely to be presenting in Balwyn early next year. Prior to that I conducted a study for my Honours year at RMIT, which modelled the potential impacts of climate change and urban development on frog populations over the next 30 years in Melbourne's urban fringe. The results of this study showed that in the short-term, urban and industrial growth is likely to have a greater impact on the frogs than climate-related increases in temperature and drying of ponds for breeding. It would also be reasonable to assume that many birds inhabiting Melbourne's urban habitats may also be negatively affected by a loss of green space as we seek to accommodate a growing population.

Since taking on the role of Conservation Officer, I have looked into a number of potential projects and several

worth investigating. Most notably, I have been in contact with two people who are concerned about housing developments in their neighborhoods (Pahran and Dingley areas) and the loss of large trees and bird habitat. I have been assisting them with advice about approaching their local Councils with objections to the removal of vegetation. I highlighted two main reasons that they will encounter difficulties relating to their objections. Firstly, the vegetation proposed to be removed are in urban environments, and are not indigenous remnants or of a protected EVC. Therefore, they are not considered to be of high conservation value. Secondly, none of the bird species that have been reported to be using the habitats are considered rare or threatened.

Most of us Birdlife members value vegetation in Melbourne as habitat for wildlife and would be concerned about any loss of green space. However Councils are unlikely to be sympathetic about these issues from an environmental conservation perspective. Therefore I encouraged the two people to approach the issue from a social perspective. I recommended that they investigate their local Council's 'aspirational goals' for maintaining green space and look at whether the removal of the vegetation goes against any of these goals. There is a lot of current research and publications (see links to articles below) discussing the importance of maintaining and enhancing green space in cities for the health and wellbeing of people and wildlife.

With projected large increases in Melbourne's population over the next couple of decades, green space is likely to be gobbled up rapidly and inefficiently. Correspondingly, there is also likely to be an increase in complaints from concerned residents. Therefore, I think it could be useful to create

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Activities Calendar

ACTIVITIES FOR BIRDLIFE MELBOURNE SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2014

This calendar includes field activities for BirdLife Melbourne including the monthly meetings held at Balwyn and Carlton. Should you have any ideas for an activity, or would like to volunteer as a leader, please contact the BirdLife Melbourne Activities Co-ordinator, Tim Bawden at tbawden@live.com.au or on 0488 017 781.

Wednesday 3 September 2014	Weekdays Outing	Yan Yean area 10am – 3pm. Leader: John Prytherch. Melway 391 D1. From Plenty Road turn into Arthurs Creek Road, then left into Recreation Road. Entrance on first right. Turn next left and park in first car park. Toilets available. Contact Diane, 9836 8692 or melbourne@birdlife.org.au
Saturday 6 September 2014	Boneseeding & Birding	You Yangs Regional Park. Meet at 10am in the car park just past the Park Office, approx 300 m from the Branch Rd entrance to the park. Melway Key Map Page 11 C12. Until late afternoon the day is spent birding and removing the invasive weed Boneseed. Bring all you need for a normal days birding plus gardening gloves and a trowel for Boneseed removal. Contact Merrilyn, 9889 4924 or merrilyn@wirejunkie.com
Sunday 7 September 2014	Yellingbo Birdwalk	Yellingbo Reserve. Melway 305 G11. Warburton Hwy to Woori Yallock, turn right to Yellingbo. At Yellingbo, turn right towards Seville, then left into Macclesfield Rd. After 2.5km turn right at large pine trees. Gate opens 10am. Walk starts 10:30am. Due to Parks Victoria operational requirements the gate will be closed at 10.30am and not opened until after Bird Call at approximately 3pm. Toilets available. Bring lunch and gumboots. Contact Maryanne, 0402 283 080 or onlyme53@bigpond.com
Thursday 11 September 2014	Carlton Monthly Meeting	8pm at BirdLife Australia National Office, 60 Leicester St, Carlton. Plenty of free street parking nearby. Guest speaker: Michelle Hall, Research Fellow. Subject: Personality in Superb Fairy-wrens. Tea and coffee served after the meeting with time to chat with other attendees. Contact Claire, melbourne@birdlife.org.au
Saturday 20 September 2014	Photography Group Outing	Tanunda Wetlands, Mill Park. Leader: Peter Bennet. For details contact Peter, 9435 4249 or teacherpeterb@gmail.com
Monday 22 September 2014	Weekdays Outing	Long Forest Reserve/Lake Merrimu 10am-3pm. Leader: Graeme Hosken. Melway 329 C11. Reserve entrance from Canopus Cct. From Old Western Highway take Long Forest Road or from Western Freeway take Hopetoun Park Road (see Melway 335 C10). Park on road. Toilets available at Merrimu Reservoir car park, Melway 328 J6. Contact Diane, 9836 8692 or melbourne@birdlife.org.au
Tuesday 23 September 2014	Balwyn Monthly Meeting	8pm at Balwyn Community Centre, 412 Whitehorse Road, Balwyn (300m east of Talbot Avenue). Melway 46 E8. Good on site parking at rear of venue. Guest Speaker: Chris Doughty. Subject: A birding tour to Boigu Island in the Torres Strait. Members topic: Graham Harkom – Skomer Island, Wales. Stay for supper and a chat after the meeting. Contact Bill, 9803 1493 or melbourne@birdlife.org.au
Saturday 27 September 2014	Beginners Outing	Coolart Wetlands. Meet at 10am in the car park. Melway 193 H9. Contact Hazel, 9876 3712 or melbourne@birdlife.org.au
Sunday 28 September 2014	ETP Survey	Eastern Treatment Plant, Bangholme. Meet at 9am for a survey that will continue until the evening. The survey is carried out by 4WD. Numbers are restricted and booking is essential. Survey date may change at short notice due to operational constraints. Leader is Mike Carter. Contact Mike, 9787 7136 or pterodroma@bigpond.com
Sunday 5 October 2014	Yellingbo Birdwalk	Note early start time October to March. Yellingbo Reserve. Melway 305 G11. Warburton Hwy to Woori Yallock, turn right to Yellingbo. At Yellingbo, turn right towards Seville, then left into Macclesfield Rd. After 2.5km turn right at large pine trees. Gate opens 9am. Walk starts 9:30am. Due to Parks Victoria operational requirements the gate will be closed at 9.30am and not opened until after Bird Call at approximately 2pm. Toilets available. Bring lunch and gumboots. Contact Maryanne, 0402 283 080 or onlyme53@bigpond.com
Tuesday 7 October 2014	Weekdays Outing	The Pines Flora & Fauna Reserve, Frankston 10am-3pm. Leader Tania Ireton. Melway 100 C9. From Frankston Fwy turn east into Seaford Rd then right into Frankston Dandenong Rd. Turn left into Excelsior Drive and meet in car park at the end – limited space. Nearest toilets in shopping area at intersection of Seaford Rd and Frankston-Dandenong Rd (Melway 100 A6). Contact Diane, 9836 8692 or melbourne@birdlife.org.au
Thursday 9 October 2014	Carlton Monthly Meeting	8pm at BirdLife Australia National Office, 60 Leicester St, Carlton. Plenty of free street parking nearby. Guest speaker & subject: TBA. Tea and coffee served after the meeting with time to chat with other attendees. Contact Claire, melbourne@birdlife.org.au
Saturday 18 October 2014	Photography Group Outing	Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne. Leader: John Bosworth. For details contact Peter, 9435 4249 or teacherpeterb@gmail.com

NATIONAL EVENT INFO

Saturday 4 – 9th October – Congress and Campout Portland/Nelson Victoria. <http://www.birdlife.org.au/get-involved/whats-on/congress-campout>

Tuesday 21 October 2014	Weekdays Outing	Costerfield area 10am-3pm. Leader Pat Bingham. Melway X909 J4, Vic Roads 45 E8. Take Northern Hwy (B75) from Kilmore to Tooborac, then ~12 km beyond, turn right into Heathcote-Nagambie Rd (C344) and follow for ~11km to Costerfield Park, adjacent to Costerfield Hall. Toilets available. Some convoy driving possible to different locations. Contact Diane, 9836 8692 or melbourne@birdlife.org.au
Saturday 25 October 2014	Beginners Outing	Newport Lakes and Jawbone Reserve. Meet at 10am in the car park off Mason St. Melway 53 G3. Contact Hazel, 9876 3712 or melbourne@birdlife.org.au
Tuesday 28 October 2014	Balwyn Monthly Meeting	8pm at Balwyn Community Centre, 412 Whitehorse Road, Balwyn (300m east of Talbot Avenue). Melway 46 E8. Good on site parking at rear of venue. Guest Speaker: Caroline Wilson. Subject: Bats. Members topic: TBA. Stay for supper and a chat after the meeting. Contact Bill, 9803 1493 or melbourne@birdlife.org.au
Sunday 2 November 2014	Yellingbo Birdwalk	Note early start time October to March. Yellingbo Reserve. Melway 305 G11. Warburton Hwy to Woori Yallock, turn right to Yellingbo. At Yellingbo, turn right towards Seville, then left into Macclesfield Rd. After 2.5km turn right at large pine trees. Gate opens 9am. Walk starts 9:30am. Due to Parks Victoria operational requirements the gate will be closed at 9.30am and not opened until after Bird Call at approximately 2pm. Toilets available. Bring lunch and gumboots. Contact Maryanne, 0402 283 080 or onlyme53@bigpond.com
Sunday 2 November 2014	ETP Survey	Eastern Treatment Plant, Bangholme. Meet at 9am for a survey that will continue until the evening. The survey is carried out by 4WD. Numbers are restricted and booking is essential. Survey date may change at short notice due to operational constraints. Leader is Mike Carter. Contact Mike, 9787 7136 or pterodroma@bigpond.com
Wednesday 5 November 2014	Weekdays Outing	Point Cook Coastal Park 10am-3pm. Leaders Hazel & Alan Veevers. Melway 199 E3. From Point Cook Rd take Point Cook Homestead Rd to park entrance. Park in first car park on the left near Beach Picnic Area toilets. Contact Diane, 9836 8692 or melbourne@birdlife.org.au
Thursday 13 November 2014	Carlton Monthly Meeting	8pm at BirdLife Australia National Office, 60 Leicester St, Carlton. Plenty of free street parking nearby. Guest speaker & subject: TBA. Tea and coffee served after the meeting with time to chat with other attendees. Contact Claire, melbourne@birdlife.org.au
Saturday 22 November 2014	Beginners Outing	You Yangs Regional Park. Meet at 10am in the first car park on the left, just past the Information Centre. Melway Key Map on page 11 C12. Contact Hazel, 9876 3712 or melbourne@birdlife.org.au
Sunday 23 November 2014	ETP Survey	Eastern Treatment Plant, Bangholme. Meet at 9am for a survey that will continue until the evening. The survey is carried out by 4WD. Numbers are restricted and booking is essential. Survey date may change at short notice due to operational constraints. Leader is Mike Carter. Contact Mike, 9787 7136 or pterodroma@bigpond.com
Monday 24 November 2014	Weekdays Outing	Woodlands Historic Park, Greenvale 10am-3pm. Leader: Rob Grosvenor. Melway 178 B6. Enter from Somerton Rd. Park near toilets. Contact Diane, 9836 8692 or melbourne@birdlife.org.au
Tuesday 25 November 2014	Balwyn Monthly Meeting	8pm at Balwyn Community Centre, 412 Whitehorse Road, Balwyn. Melway 46 E8. Good on site parking at rear of venue. Guest Speaker: Richard Loyn. Subject: Venzuala. Members topic: TBA. Stay for supper and a chat after the meeting. Contact Bill, 9803 1493 or melbourne@birdlife.org.au
Saturday 6 December 2014	Boneseeding & Birding	You Yangs Regional Park. Meet at 10am in the car park just past the Park Office, approx 300 m from the Branch Rd entrance to the park. Melway Key Map Page 11 C12. Until late afternoon the day is spent birding and removing the invasive weed Boneseed. Bring all you need for a normal days birding plus gardening gloves and a trowel for Boneseed removal. Contact Merrilyn, 9889 4924 or merrilyn@wirejunkie.com
Sunday 7 December 2014	Yellingbo Birdwalk	Note early start time October to March. Yellingbo Reserve. Melway 305 G11. Warburton Hwy to Woori Yallock, turn right to Yellingbo. At Yellingbo, turn right towards Seville, then left into Macclesfield Rd. After 2.5km turn right at large pine trees. Gate opens 9am. Walk starts 9:30am. Due to Parks Victoria operational requirements the gate will be closed at 9.30am and not opened until after Bird Call at approximately 2pm. Toilets available. Bring lunch and gumboots. Contact Maryanne, 0402 283 080 or onlyme53@bigpond.com
Tuesday 9 December 2014	Weekdays Outing	Blackburn Lake Sanctuary, Blackburn 10am-3pm. Leader: Diane Tweeddale. Melway 48 B11. Enter from Central Rd, park near information centre/toilets. Contact Diane, 9836 8692 or melbourne@birdlife.org.au
Thursday 11 December 2014	Carlton Monthly Meeting	8pm at BirdLife Australia National Office, 60 Leicester St, Carlton. Plenty of free street parking nearby. Guest speaker & subject: TBA. Tea and coffee served after the meeting with time to chat with other attendees. Contact Claire, melbourne@birdlife.org.au
Sunday 28 December 2014	ETP Survey	Eastern Treatment Plant, Bangholme. Meet at 9am for a survey that will continue until the evening. The survey is carried out by 4WD. Numbers are restricted and booking is essential. Survey date may change at short notice due to operational constraints. Leader is Mike Carter. Contact Mike, 9787 7136 or pterodroma@bigpond.com

Acknowledgement of Alcoa of Australia's contribution to BirdLife Melbourne

In appreciation of Rob Ganly's efforts in carrying out recent surveys at Alcoa's Point Henry site, Alcoa of Australia has made another generous contribution of \$2000 to BirdLife Melbourne. BirdLife Melbourne Committee thanks Alcoa of Australia for making this valuable contribution and also thanks Rob for his dedicated fieldwork. When the money is allocated, this will be reported in the Newsletter.

MEET OUR NEW CONSERVATION OFFICER, CONTINUED

an online forum, which provides people with information about their legal options and a space for them to collaborate on ideas and even actions. Perhaps this online forum could be operated and publicised through BirdLife Melbourne. I would welcome any discussions or input from other members regarding this idea.



Contact Joab via email at wilson.joab@gmail.com with your ideas about the online forum or any conservation issues

Articles relating to the benefits of urban green spaces

Byrne, J., [What is green space worth?](#)

Barnett, G., Doherty, M., & Beatty, M., [Urban greenspace: connecting people and nature](#)

Moore, G.M., [Urban trees: Worth more than they cost](#)

VISIT THE BIRDLIFE MELBOURNE BLOG TO CATCH UP ON YOUR OLD FAVOURITES

Contributors to our blog have been sending in regular reports and photographs. Highlights include:

- The Balwyn meeting reports for [June](#) where Sonja Ross talked about her birdwatching efforts in Costa Rica and the USA and [May](#) where Caragh Threlfall talked about the biodiversity benefits of urban green spaces.
- Weekdays outings to [Wilson Botanic Park](#), [Lillydale Lake](#), [The Briars, Mt Martha](#) and [Altona area and Truganini Reserve](#).
- Beginners outings to the [Cranbourne Botanical Gardens](#), [Hawkestone Park and Morang Wetlands](#) and [Braeside Park](#).
- Education activities for [April](#), [May](#), [June](#) and [July](#).
- The [June Birding and Boneseeding outing](#) in the You Yangs. This was a milestone outing as it was the [400th outing for BirdLife Melbourne](#).
- Dandenong Catchment Survey Summaries for [January to March](#) and [April to June](#).

BIRDLIFE MELBOURNE MEMBERSHIP SURVEY 2013

Towards the end of 2013, the BirdLife Melbourne committee undertook a brief survey of members. Most of the people who responded completed the survey online, with people attending meetings being given the option of completing a paper version.

Just over 5% of the membership responded. 1,800 members did not. Below is a snapshot of the results:

- 44.5% have been a member longer than 10 years, and 18% more than 20 years
- 77% were over 50 years of age; 2% were under 30 years of age
- 60% could identify all the birds they came across or 'wrote the guidebook'
- 52% had attended a birdwatching outing
- 35% had participated in a survey
- 36% have attended a meeting in Balwyn
- 28% have attended a Carlton meeting
- 23% had not participated in any activities
- 60% joined to support birdlife conservation
- 23% joined to go on birdwatching outings
- 64% were happy with their level of involvement

Of those people who wanted to be more involved:

- 23% would like to participate in conservation activities
- 18% would like to participate in a survey.

Many of the suggestions for further activities involved seminars or workshops on bird identification or behaviour that was more advanced than the Beginners outings.

Susan Pepper, BirdLife Melbourne Committee

BirdLife Melbourne Committee

President: Sonja Ross (Tel: 9846 5380 or email: sonja.ross7@icloud.com)

Vice Presidents: Stuart Dashper/Tim Bawden

Secretary: Alan Crawford

Treasurer: Greg Hempenstall

Conservation Officer: Joab Wilson

Members: Adriana Bianchi, Ron Garrett, Bevan Hood, Susan Pepper, Scot Sharman.

All the above can also be contacted by email at melbourne@birdlife.org.au

This newsletter is published quarterly, in March, June, September and December by BirdLife Melbourne, the Melbourne Branch of BirdLife Australia. Adriana Bianchi is the current editor. Contributions for the next issue are due 20 October 2014 and can be emailed to bianchiadriana8@gmail.com

Australia's voice for birds since 1901

BirdLife Australia is dedicated to achieving outstanding conservation results for our native birds and their habitats.

With our specialised knowledge and the commitment of an Australia-wide network of volunteers and supporters, we are creating a bright future for Australia's birds.

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Add your voice



Enjoy the rewards of membership, making a real difference for our native birds



Contributing your time is one of the most effective ways to help



Help us create positive outcomes for birds and their habitats