EUROBODALLA
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Australian Shelduck – *Tadorna tadornoides* **–** (Jardine & Selby, 1828)

The choice of the Australian Shelduck as the featured bird in this newsletter was prompted by some interesting sightings in the Eurobodalla last year. These ducks have been annual visitors to Julie and Peter Collett's Bodalla property for many years. Then in 2025, a pair remained after their fellows left and, in early October, Julie saw the two adults with six ducklings. Visitors to the property for the field meeting on 26 October were lucky enough to see them too.

Description: The Australian Shelduck, sometimes known as the Chestnut-breasted Shelduck or the Mountain Duck, is a large duck, between 55 and 72 cm long, with a wingspan of 94 -132 cm and a small head and bill. It is upright when grazing on land and sits high on water.

Australian Shelduck
Photo P Gatenby

Colouring is distinctive; both sexes have a greenish-black head and neck and a white neck ring; some birds have a white ring around the base of the bill. Upperparts are mainly black, with a white shoulder patch formed by the upper-wing coverts. Underparts are dark brown, the breast is cinnamon, and wings are black and chestnut with a green speculum. The female is smaller than the male, with a white eye-ring and a chestnut breast. Bare parts of both sexes are mostly dark grey; eyes are dark brown.

Juveniles of both sexes are duller than adults, more like females, with brown rather than greenish black heads and no clear neck collar. The down-covered young are white with a brown crown and brown stripes from crown to tail.

It would be difficult to confuse an adult Australian Shelduck with any other species. The only other Australian Shelduck, the Radjah Shelduck, is of similar size but is much paler, with a white head and neck.

Habitat and distribution: Australian Shelducks prefer fresh water, though they may be found on brackish water, usually when there is fresh water nearby. They favour shallow water surrounded by grasslands and cropped areas with some trees.

These ducks occur in southwestern West Australia and southeastern Australia from eastern South Australia, across Tasmania, almost all of Victoria, most of NSW and southern areas of Queensland. They have also been reported on Norfolk Island and in New Zealand, including an occasional vagrant on the subantarctic Snares Islands and the subtropical Kermadec Islands, and as far afield as the Chagos Islands in the Indian Ocean. Most of the vagrants have been reported during very dry years. Occasional vagrants have also been reported within Australia, in the Kimberley region and Central Australia.

During the breeding season, flocks of 1,000 or more congregate in the southernmost areas of their ranges. They disperse after breeding, some travelling several hundred kilometres to large wetlands including Lake George in the ACT and the Coorong in South Australia, where they moult.

Foraging and diet: These ducks graze on land and dabble and filter in shallow water. Their diet consists of leaves, seeds and tubers, algae, insects, crustaceans, molluscs and small fish.

Vocal Behaviour: They are noisy birds, particularly in flight. Both sexes honk, the male having a louder, deeper, more 'grunting' call than the female. Adult males give wavering calls when displaying. When in pairs, both sexes honk.

Breeding: Birds reach sexual maturity at about 2 – 3 years. They are monogamous, some forming permanent pair bonds. The breeding season is June/July to December. Pairs often return to previously used nest sites.

Breeding territories are often established around farm dams. Nests are usually in tree hollows, sometimes in holes in banks and cliffs, or in rabbit burrows. Usual clutch size is 8 to 10. Eggs are white to creamy-buff. The female incubates them for 30 – 33 days while the male defends the area.

The down-covered young are flightless when they leave the nest. They often gather in crèches, before fledging at around 50–70 days. Families often stay together until 'post-breeding' flocks form.

Conservation Status: Least Concern. They are widespread and abundant, increasing and expanding their range in some areas, due to clearing for crops and pasture. The majority of Australian Shelduck are found on waters where shooting is permitted, and the species is still hunted in South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania, despite its flesh being unappetizing, if not inedible. Gillian Macnamara

What's coming up…..

Saturday 11April, 2pm Potato Point (2-3km – Grade 2) Meet at the toilet block near the intersection of Riverview Rd and Blackfellows Pt Rd, Potato Point near the bridge. A walk amongst Spotted Gum/Cycad coastal forest and fringing Swamp-oak Forest as well as dune vegetation with views of the ocean. A mix of sea birds, shorebirds, water birds and forest birds.

Sunday 26 April, 9am Moruya Ramble (2-3km – Grade 2) Meet at the car park outside the Eurobodalla Shire Council and the Library, off Vulcan Street, Moruya. Depending on conditions at the time, we will visit locations in the Mogendoura and Glenduart area. Yellow Thornbill, Rose Robin, Scarlet Robin, Eastern Shrike-tit, Eastern Rosella, Jacky Winter, Black-fronted Dotterel, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike.

Saturday 9 May, 2pm Square Head (2-3km – Grade 2) Meet at the entrance to Cullendulla Nature Reserve, Blairs Road (near corner with Mary Street) Long Beach. A walk through Spotted Gum and Burrawang Forest, rainforest gully and creek edge vegetation. Lewins Honeyeater, White-eared Honeyeater, Rose Robin, Pied and Sooty Oystercatcher and other sea and shorebirds.

Sunday 24 May, 10am: Annual General Meeting. Banksia Room, Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens, Princes Highway, Batemans Bay. The AGM will be followed by a talk by Debbie Andrews and Mike Fleming on the "Shorebirds of Botany Bay – lessons for conservation". Shorebird populations have been declining across the world, especially migratory shorebirds. Debbie and Mike have been monitoring Botany Bay's shorebirds monthly for twenty years and this has shown some interesting and contrasting population trends between resident and migratory shorebirds. Monitoring has also shown species specific preferences in type and location of high tide roosts. The conservation of Botany Bay's shorebirds requires pro-active action both in Botany Bay and abroad and the lessons learnt here are applicable across shorebird habitats in NSW. What can we do to help shorebirds? Following the talk we will have lunch, and people can choose whether to walk through the gardens, which are home to many species of local native plants and birds

It is usual practice for attendance at AGMs to be limited to members and this will be extended to the talk that follows.

Saturday June 13, 2pm Runnyford Road (2-3km – Grade 2) Meet at the corner of Runnyford Road and the Princes Hwy, just north of Mogo. We will drive along Runnyford Road to the bridge that crosses the Clyde River. Scarlet Robin, Little Eagle, Brown Goshawk, Striated Heron, Southern Emu-wren, Black-fronted Dotterel, Great Cormorant.

Sunday June 28, 9am Dampier State Forest (2-3km – Grade 2) Meet opposite the Bodalla Police Station, corner of Princes Hwy and Eurobodalla Road, Bodalla. The walk takes us through a Sydney Red Gum and Red Bloodwood forest. Superb Lyrebird, Red-browed Treecreeper, Variegated Fairy-wren, Buff-rumped Thornbill, Brown-headed Honeyeater, Gang- gang Cockatoo, Grey Currawong.

Saturday 11 July, 2pm Toragy Point, Moruya Heads South (2-3km – Grade 1-2) Meet on the grassy area near the intersection of Coronation Drive and Shelly Beach Road, Moruya Heads. Headland with vegetation and open areas. White-bellied Sea-eagle, Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers, White-fronted Tern, Little Pied Cormorant, Great Cormorant, Variegated Fairy-wren, New Holland Honeyeater, Golden Whistler, albatross and other seabirds, seals and whales.

A warm welcome to new members

Nandini Narayan and Blake Chilcott, Batehaven.
Daryl Hiebert, Sean and Hutchinson Barker, Guerilla Bay.
Murray and Joy Scott, Dalmeny.
Penny, John, Hugh and Agatha Travers, Batehaven.
Toni Stevenson of Batehaven.

Field Meeting - Bingie Dreaming Track -14 February 2026.

The first field meeting of the year was held at the Bingie Dreaming Track, and we met at the Congo end of the track. As we gathered in the carpark and caught up with one another after the break, calls of cicadas dominated. Mandy and I recalled a day walk that we did years ago in Nadgee Nature Reserve where the cicada calls were deafening…. we didn't see a single bird that day. We hoped today wouldn't be the same and, as we set off for our walk, the cicadas fell silent.

Deb led us through coastal forest with Woollybutt (*Eucalyptus longifolia*) and Bangalay (*E. botrioydes*) that were growing unusually low in the sandy soils. Among these trees were Red Bloodwood (*Corymbia gummifera*), Yellow Stringybark (*E. muelleriana*) with its distinctive juvenile leaves and Rough-barked Angophora (*Angophora floribunda*). Deb pointed out a very localised stand of low woodland which is comprised almost entirely of stunted White Stringybark (*E. globoidea*) as the canopy species with no understory and a ground cover of grasses and sedges (*Lomandra sp*. and *Gahnia sp*.). This vegetation does not match any of the communities described in the Eurobodalla National Park Plan of Management or in the Endangered Ecological Communities Survey and Mapping in Eurobodalla Shire - ((https://www.esc.nsw.gov.au› ngh-Report-2007).

Macleay's Day Moth
Photo – P Warburton

Brown Thornbill and Eastern Yellow Robin calls dominated the early part of our walk, and a Short-beaked Echidna took refuge in the leaf litter until we all passed. The bird list gradually grew as we walked along toward the headland with New Holland Honeyeater, Little Wattlebird and a White-bellied Sea-Eagle but it was the insects that dominated the walk. Cicada species included Double-spotted, Alarm Clock Squawker, Razor Grinder, Silver Princess and Golden Twanger. I relayed these names on the day, and members seemed amused by the common names and some of the looks indicated that perhaps I was making these names up. I reassured people that these names were real. Also on the insect list were Yellow-winged Locust, Common Gumleaf Grasshopper, Common Pyrgomorph, a female Blue Ant Wasp and a Mud-building Spider Wasp.

We saw at least three species of day-flying moths: Macleay's Day Moth, Mistletoe Moth and Yellow-banded Day Moth. These moths all have black and white colouring which is believed to deter predators, and each species has different white or cream markings that distinguish them from one another. The Macleay's Day Moth (*Platagarista macleayi*) is one of a few moths that produce an audible sound. The male moth makes a whistling sound as it flies, usually only 2-3 metres above the ground. Ian Common believed that it could play a role in sexual behaviour and observed that when the moth is disturbed, it stops making the sound (Moths of Australia, 1990, p 47, 50).

We greatly appreciated having Rob and Phil on the walk as they were able to capture photos of the insects so that they could be positively identified. A total of 18 bird species were identified with a late sighting in the carpark as we headed home of Variegated Fairy-wren feeding young. Julie Morgan

Cabbage Tree Palm - *Livistona australis* – 400 year old palm makes lovely hat.

Livistona australis, the Cabbage Tree Palm, is the commoner of the two palm species (Family Aceraceae) that occur in our area. The other species, the Bangalow Palm or Illawarra Palm (*Archontophoenix cunninghamiana)* is rare, with small stands identified in sheltered patches of rainforest near Mt Durras in the north of the region.

Mature Palms in Brooman State Forest
Photo - A Marsh

The two species are quite different from each other and are easy to tell apart by their leaves. Cabbage Tree Palms have circular leaves, formed of about 70 segments that are separated from each other towards their outer extremities; the leaf stalk (petiole) is up to 2.5m long and bears sharp curved spines that can give a nasty cut. The Bangalow Palm has pinnately divided leaves, with the opposite pairs of leaflets giving the leaf, and the whole plant, a feathery look; the leaf stalk is only 20-25cm long, much shorter than the Cabbage Tree Palm.

Cabbage Tree Palms are found along the length of the New South Wales coast and extend north along the Queensland coast as far as Cape Tribulation and the Daintree. Its range also extends into eastern Victoria, growing further south than any other native Australian palm, with the most southerly stand being found at the aptly named Cabbage Tree Creek, some 30km east of Orbost. The plant is most often found in moist open forest, often in swampy sites and on margins of rainforests or near the sea.

Juvenile Palm in Murramurrang National Park
Photo - P Warburton

The genus was established in 1810 by Robert Brown, a Scottish botanist who made important contributions to botany through his pioneering use of the microscope. He named the genus *Livistona* after the Baron of Livingston, Patrick Murray (1634–1671), a botanist and horticulturist, who was largely responsible for establishing the Botanical Gardens in Edinburgh.

The Cabbage Tree Palm is one of the tallest Australian native plants, reaching 25m or more in height with a stem diameter of 25–35cm. The stem has very intricate patterning formed by the old leaf bases, which give the stem its strength. Its small (3mm) yellow to cream flowers are borne on what's called a panicle (a branching spike), which can be up to 1.5m

Author Marcus Clarke wearing a cabbage tree hat in the 1800s.
State Library of Victoria

long. The fruits are globular and 15mm in diameter, initially red but turn black when ripe. Like many palms, its root systems are shallow, fibrous and very dense, so the plants can be readily dug up and transplanted.

Cabbage Tree Palms are very slow growing. They can take between 20 and 60 years to develop a proper stem, and according to some sources, 150-170 years to flower. Details are sparse, but there are estimates of some palms being nearly 400 years old.

This species has a long history of human use. The growing tip of the palm is edible and was popular with Indigenous people and early settlers. Indigenous people used leaves for basket-weaving, fibres for twines, ropes and fishing lines and medicine. The fibre from cabbage tree palms was used by early European settlers to make a protective sun hat called a cabbage tree hat. Incredibly, Illawarra Historian Sue Brian estimates that approximately 600,000 Cabage Tree Palms were chopped down in the 1800s for weaving and hat making.

Cabbage Tree Palms provide food and habitat for numerous native animals. Key species supported include fruit-eating birds like Topknot Pigeons, Pied Currawongs, and Wonga Pigeons, as well as nectar-feeding bees, possums, and bandicoots. Groves of Cabbage Tree palms, make shady beautiful areas, and being our only palm species should be considered of great significance. Helen Kay

Field Meeting - Moruya Riverside - 14 March 2026.

The field meeting on Saturday 14 March started at the Moruya Swimming Pool and followed the Moruya River east along the edge of Riverside Park. We had hoped to see the Australian Fur Seal which is usually found lounging on the rock wall along the river during the SAGE Tuesday market, but it must have been out fishing or perhaps it decided the Country Markets weren't really to its liking and relocated to a quieter spot. Normally Australasian Figbirds can be heard calling in the fig trees in the car park, but not today. However, in the distance we could hear the noise from the large flying-fox camp further along the river.

We continued along to where the River Oaks (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*) started and saw several Yellow Thornbills. As we continued east, we noticed insects flying back and forth over the lawn, and closer examination revealed that these were wasps. Phil Warburton informed us that it was one of the Ichneumon wasps, the Orchid Dupe Wasp *Lissopimpla excelsa*. The name "Ichneumon" means searcher or tracker in Ancient Greek, which refers to the behaviour of the female wasps as they search leaf litter or grass, for caterpillars in which to lay their eggs. The likely hosts are the caterpillar of a Noctuid moth, such as the Native Budworm *Helicoverpa punctigera*, which are also known as lawn grubs. These grubs feed on the roots of plants and grass.

As we got closer to the Flying-fox camp, the noise and smell increased. There are around 10,000 Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) currently camped in the River Oaks along the Moruya River. The Grey-headed Flying-fox is the biggest of the Australian fruit bats. They congregate in large maternity camps during spring and summer, where they give birth and rear their young. These camps persist until winter when the animals disperse. Around March the young pups are still dependent on their mothers and are either taken with them when they fly out to feed at night or are left in crèches within the camp. We saw a Peregrine Falcon flying low over the camp possibly looking for a vulnerable young pup.

As we were about to turn back and head west towards the bridge over the river, members spotted two Scarlet Honeyeaters low in the trees, and we got good views of them. It was low tide and there was a large sand bank on the southern side of the river which was providing roosting and feeding habitat for a number of birds. The sand bank was dominated by at least 86 Masked Lapwings along with 56 Silver Gulls and 12 Australasian

White Ibises. A couple of Pied Oystercatchers were seen feeding in the shallows at one end of the sand bank, and there was a Caspian Tern amongst the gulls. We continued along the path towards Moruya Hospital past the mature eucalypts that had been planted along the riverside until we reached the ornamental garden and pond adjacent to the hospital, where a couple of Water Dragon were resting. A group of Pacific Black Ducks were observed feeding on the northern shore of the river as well as a couple of White-faced Herons which were hunting in the shallow water. As we returned to the car park at the swimming pool, we heard Rainbow Lorikeets in the distance and saw least 130 Little Corellas fly into the trees in Riverside Park.

At the end of the day, we identified a total of 33 birds. Deb Stevenson

Fighting the ageing process by doing what you love.

Well, this is encouraging. A recent article published in New Scientist magazine describes how bird-watching is an antidote to a deteriorating brain. It is claimed that the skills involved in birdwatching reshape the brain and build a buffer against ageing. "Expert birdwatchers have brain differences that may underlie their remarkable ability to identify unfamiliar birds and suggest that birdwatching can reshape the brain in much the same way as learning a language or a musical instrument does".

The article outlines six individual mental skills that are developed in the brain of people who engage in this hobby:
Pattern recognition – used in identifying differences in physical characteristics such as plumage, and bill shape and size, as well as behaviours.
Memory recall – the ability to recall information stored in the brain about birds' individual characteristics.
Attention and focus – the ability to concentrate on specific features, habitats and behaviours. This is a form of meditation.
Categorisation and classification – the ability to identify and categorize birds into species, families and habitats.
Spatial awareness and navigation – skills often needed for navigating through unfamiliar territories, developing spatial awareness and mapping skills.
Observation and inference – "By observing bird behaviour, habitat, and other environmental factors, birdwatchers can make inferences about the ecosystem and bird populations".

Added to all of this, birdwatching almost invariably happens in beautiful places, and with like-minded people, thereby aiding our mental and physical well-being.

Personally, I find birdwatchers to be the type of people whose company I enjoy. Apparently though, this is not a universal reaction. I recently read, and thoroughly enjoyed, the book "An inconvenience of Penguins" by Jamie Lafferty. During one of his Antarctic expeditions, Lafferty makes the following observation: "It was an exceptional itinerary to little-visited locations which brought birders from far and wide, people with binoculars and life lists, serious folk whose obsession could drain joy from any situation. People wearing camouflage gear and neutral tones, as though they were about to stride off in search of an ivory-billed woodpecker, not just sit on a bus to Bluff for three hours". Despite sounding like he has just eaten a lemon sandwich in this instance, Lafferty has written a thoroughly enjoyable book, weaving together a travel tale, a birdwatcher's obsession and historical snippets of Antarctic exploration.

If we ever needed an excuse to get out into nature and indulge in these mental gymnastics, then here it is. I am relieved that I do not need to learn a new language. I'd much rather be outside in the bush than in a language laboratory. Mandy Anderson

Field Meeting - Bodalla State Forest - 29 March 2026

On 29 March our group came together for a very pleasant walk through Bodalla State Forest down to Mummaga Lake. We had intended to meet at the campground, however due to its popularity with overnight campers, parking spots were scattered, so we established our car park and meeting point out near the highway where suitable parking was readily available. Julie welcomed our newest members, Daryl, Sean and Hutch, and after our briefing, our group of 17 keen birders set off into the Spotted Gums.

The first part of the walk was very quiet as far as birds were concerned. The day seemed ideal for birding, with the sun shining and hardly any wind. Yet the birds didn't seem to have the same level of enthusiasm as we did. At least the Thornbills popped out occasionally to greet us. After walking about 1 km, we started to see a bit more action as a Golden Whistler, a White-headed Pigeon, a pair of Eastern-Yellow Robins and more Thornbills kept us entertained for a while. We then descended towards Mummaga Lake. Today bird sightings were not as abundant as usual, although we did get distant views of over 30 swans. We also saw a White-bellied Sea Eagle and some Little Corellas, along with some ducks which were too far away to identify.

It was hard to leave the serenity of the lake with the casuarinas nestled beside us and the glass-like lake surface in front of us, however we eventually began our return journey. Set the challenge of seeing the first fairy-wren of the day, Julie took the honours, then doubled-up, with both Superb and Variegated Fairy-Wren. En route to the car park our youngest member, Hutch, took lessons on how to distinguish the calls the Australian Raven and the Little Raven. As if on cue an Australian Raven landed on a branch very close to us. However, it produced a call which had no resemblance to the lesson that had just been imparted, nor to calls that might be described in bird books or modern-day Apps. Isn't this often the case? Just when you think you are getting the hang of a bird identification, through colour, habit, gender or song, nature comes up with something different to keep you on your toes.

When we reached the campground, after some deliberation, we decided that we should actually take the time to circle the perimeter interface with the adjacent forest. This proved to be a very rewarding choice as we came across the birding highlight of the day. At the northern edge of the campground, we were lucky enough to see not one but two Eastern Shrike-tits. When they relocated to another tree, we had the added delight of getting a full-frontal view of the most delightful Golden Whistler. We were treated to a wonderful display of yellow, black and white plumage by both species for about five minutes as they fluttered to and from various exposed branches. Information on the Australian Museum website about the Eastern Shrike Tit states "It usually forages alone, in pairs or in groups of up to five birds, which are usually related. It will also be seen in mixed feeding flocks with other insect-eating birds, especially male Golden Whistlers." We now can say that we have witnessed that interaction with a Golden Whistler. Just imagine if we had decided to walk directly to our meeting point rather than taking an extra 200 m to get there, we would've missed out seeing these wonderful birds.

Eastern Shrike-tit
Photo - JJ Harrison

We arrived back at our cars at noon and at the end of our bird count we had observed a total of 32 species, which is more than it seemed we may get to, after a particularly quiet start to the day. Despite recent intense storm activity, the weather was ideal and we managed to get through without any disruptions from fallen branches or muddy tracks. Whilst there was a more scenic trail available to us, which traverses alongside the lake, it only enables single-file walking and is more suitable for a smaller group size. Our route for the day was selected because it was more conducive to walking and talking as a group. We had a very enjoyable outing, and as a bonus we got to see some wonderful birds at the very end of the outing. Bob Germantse

More about bird songs and calls

In the previous newsletter I wrote – in very basic terms, which was my limit – about how birds produce vocal sounds. This article will look extremely briefly at some other aspects of bird songs and calls, including how birds learn their vocal repertoire, how songs and calls vary across regions, and what we understand to be the function of at least some of these sounds.

Song and call functions
First, what is the difference between a call and a song? Songs are usually thought of as long, generally loud and more complex, used to attract mates or warn off competitors, whereas calls are shorter and simpler, and have a range of functions not normally associated with attracting mates or defending territory.

We have probably all heard (and possibly got tired of hearing) the begging calls of young birds. I find the loud, monotonous calls of young Little Wattlebirds *(Anthochaera chrysoptera)* particularly tiresome. And perhaps that's the point – the parents certainly work hard to shut the youngsters up by feeding them. Less obviously identifiable are the calls that signal to others of the same species that food has been found. And there are also contact calls between flock members that help the birds stay in touch, including when they are flying at night. Alarm calls warn of predators. Research into the alarm calls of domestic chickens has shown that they use different alarm calls for aerial predators – usually raptors –as opposed to threats on or near the ground, such as snakes. Of course, an alarm call is no good if it helps the predator locate its prey; natural selection has presumably played its part in the development of the alarm calls of small birds, which are brief and high-pitched, making it difficult for predators to locate the calling bird.

Regional differences
You may have noticed that the calls and songs of the same species vary across territories and habitat types. When I moved from Sydney to the Eurobodalla, I noticed that the southern call of the Pied Currawong *(Strepera graculina)* contained the same notes as that of the Sydney birds, but in a different order. Who knows why! In some cases, there is an obvious reason for call variation. A 2006 study[1] of Satin Bowerbirds found that rainforest birds used lower-pitched and simpler calls than those in more open habitats, which made them easier to hear.

Learning to call and sing
Research has focused on songbirds, as they have the largest repertoire. It is thought that most young songbirds go through a **sensitive period**, when they are particularly adept at memorising and reproducing what they hear from their parents or other teachers. During this time, young birds practise very quietly, going over what they have heard, and correcting their mistakes, in what is known as **subsong**. Learning all their flock's sounds and meanings can take some time. White-winged Choughs, for example, take many months to understand and reproduce all the calls in their community's repertoire. The sensitive period varies between species, but it is rare for a bird to learn new repertoire beyond their first year. Exceptions to this are known as **open-ended learners** and include lyrebirds. More extensively studied than Albert's Lyrebird *(Menura alberti)* is the Superb Lyrebird *(Menura novaehollandiae).* It has a very complex vocal structure, with more muscles and therefore more refined control of sound production than other birds. This complex production system is coupled with a more highly developed brain, such that these birds can remember and reproduce more sounds by far than other birds, facilitating probably the most complex repertoire of any birds. Both sexes produce mimicry, but females sing far less than males, and not during courtship, when males will sing for hours at a time. Juveniles master sound production and learn the songs of their species. The birds continue to learn and to imitate sounds in their local environment, but do not perfect their repertoire until they reach adulthood at about 7 years. An adult male Superb Lyrebird may imitate over 20 other bird species, including the Australian Magpie *(Gymnorhina tibicen)* and the Laughing Kookabura *(Dacelo novaeguineae)*, as well as mimicking other animals such as barking dogs and human-made sounds such as chainsaws or fire alarms. These sounds may be learned from other males as well as direct from the local environment.

Brain development
Just a final, brief mention of avian brain anatomy, its relationship to vocal production, and an important finding stemming from research into avian brains. It is now possible to study the brain pathways associated with singing in songbirds. In some species the areas of the brain associated with song are much larger in males than females. Another important finding is that these brain areas shrink during the non-breeding months, when song is less important, and expand during the breeding season, producing new neurons, something that neurobiologists previously thought was impossible in adult vertebrates of any species. It seems that we have plenty to learn from bird brains. Gillian Macnamara

Uncovering the hidden world of a paper wasp nest community

Last year a colleague and I carried out a study into the nesting behaviours of a local wasp species, *Ropalidia plebeiana,* the white-faced brown paper wasp. This wasp is found between southeastern Queensland and Victoria but is something of an iconic species for the Eurobodalla; most of what we know about this remarkable insect is based on studies that were carried out in the Eurobodalla.

Ropalidia plebeiana, the white-faced brown paper wasp

This white-faced brown paper wasp is remarkable for the way that it nests in aggregations of hundreds of independent nests – a very unusual phenomenon in the animal kingdom. They are often found under bridges and occasionally take up residence under overhanging surfaces of buildings. If they should take up residence near your garden, then rejoice, because they are splendid natural pest controllers for your veggie patch as well as being pollinators! They are famously placid and are disinclined to sting – and even if they do the sting is quite a mild one.

While we were carrying out this study a chance windstorm on the New South Wales south coast led to fascinating new insights into the hidden world of predators, parasitoids and hyperparasitoids living within the nest aggregations of this wasp.

Ropalidia plebeiana nest aggregation at Nelligen Creek

When strong winds blew down several nests from an aggregation at Nelligen Creek in September 2025, I collected 24 of them and waited to see what would emerge. Most of the paper wasp larvae had already eclosed and turned into adults. Just a few cells remained sealed – and it subsequently became apparent that these were the ones that had been parasitised.

The results, now published by the Entomological Society of New South Wales, reveal a complex community of interacting species, including two wasp species that appear never to have been photographed before.

Spiders had established webs around the nests before the wasp emerged from their dormant period

Spider predators identified

For years, researchers knew that spiders preyed on these wasp aggregations, but their identity remained a mystery. This study suggests two possible candidates. The first is *Badumna* sp., the genus that includes the black house spider, which builds characteristic woolly webs with funnel-shaped retreats. These nocturnal hunters establish their webs in early spring, before the wasps emerge from their winter dormancy.

A second candidate was a juvenile spider that emerged from one of the collected nests 23 days after collection. Measuring less than 2 mm in body length, it was identified as *Intruda signata*, a member of the Gnaphosidae family. These spiders produce thick, sticky threads to subdue prey and hunt at night when wasps are inactive.

Both species appear to have behavioural adaptations that allow them to live amongst the wasps without becoming prey themselves.

Parasitoid wasps confirmed

The study confirms earlier findings that the ichneumonid wasp *Arthula plebeja* is a parasitoid of *R. plebeiana*; the Ichneumonid females lays her eggs on the larvae of the paper wasps. Two males emerged from the collected nests about five weeks after most of the host wasps had eclosed.

The photographs of *A. plebeja* included in the paper appear to be the first published images of the species.

A spider, *Intruda signata,* found in one of the fallen nests

Hyperparasitoid emerges in numbers

Perhaps most striking was the emergence of 62 individuals of *Amoturoides breviscapus*, a tiny torymid wasp that acts as a hyperparasitoid – meaning it parasitises the parasitoid *A. plebeja*. These 2.5 mm wasps emerged about eight weeks after nest collection and were short-lived, most dying within three days.

The paper provides the first published photographs of both male and female *A. breviscapus*, along with detailed descriptions distinguishing the sexes .

The overwhelming numbers of hyperparasitoids compared to their hosts (62 versus 2) suggests they play an important role in regulating A. plebeja populations, indirectly benefiting the paper wasp host.

A male *Arthula plebeja* reared from parasitized Ropalidia plebeiana larvae in one of the fallen nests

Other nest inhabitants

A dermestid beetle, Anthrenus verbasci, was found in one nest. These beetles are known to attack bee and wasp nest materials and may pose a threat to the aggregation's wasp larvae, though the extent of their impact on *R. plebeiana* remains unknown.

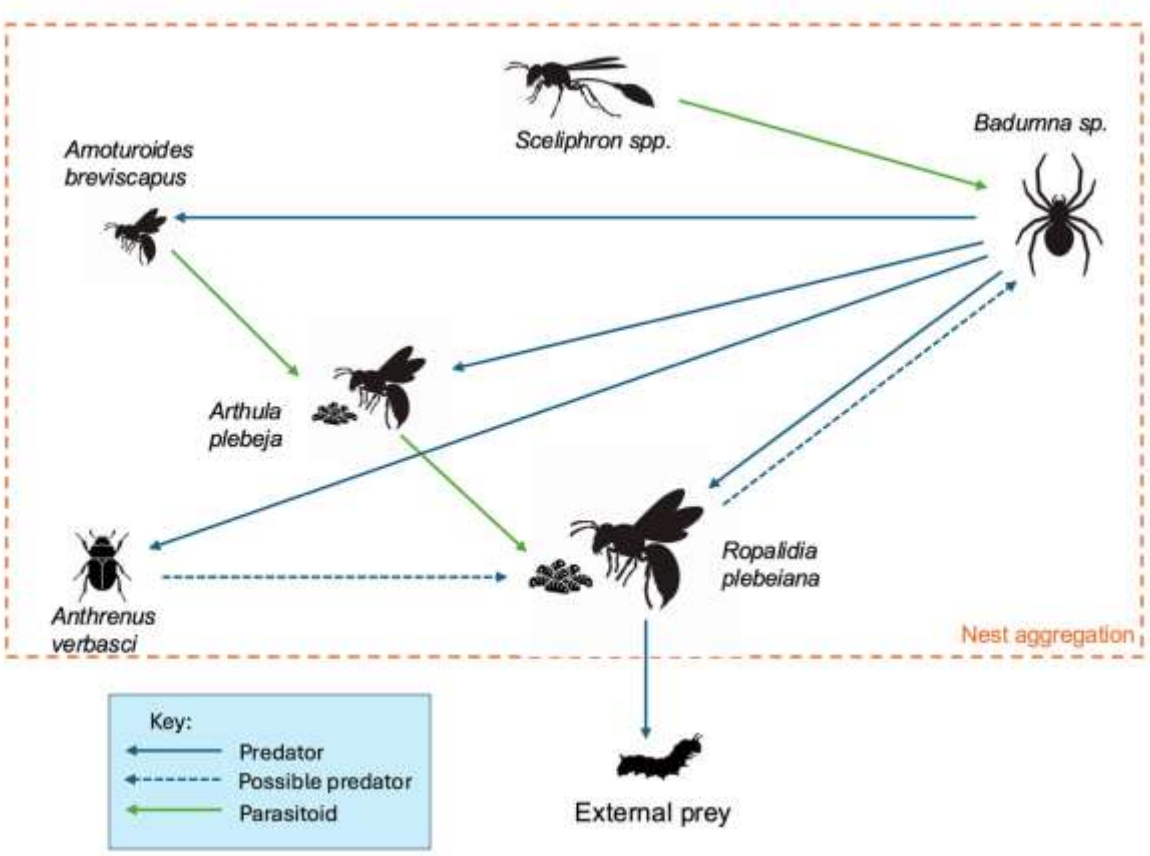
Torymid wasp *Amoturoides breviscapus* – male

Torymid wasp *Amoturoides breviscapus* – female

Interestingly, vase-cell mud-dauber wasps (Sceliphron spp.) were found nesting in greater numbers near Ropalidia aggregations than in similar locations without wasps. These specialist spider hunters may provide incidental mutualism by preying on spiders thus reducing the predation pressures on the wasps.

The study also notes that at least one other known parasitoid *of R. plebeiana* – the tachinid fly, *Koralliomyia portentosa* – was not observed but is known to be present in such nest aggregations and is itself attacked by the same hyperparasitoid, *A. breviscapus*.

Proposed trophic roles in the nest community.



This examination of the nest community highlights the complex trophic relationships that have shaped the evolutionary behaviours of Ropalidia plebeiana, including its philopatry and nest aggregation tendencies – subjects explored in our earlier behavioural study.

The interesting nest aggregations of the Ropalidia plebeiana become even more fascinating when you understand some of the complex interactions in their miniature ecosystems. Phil Warburton

References

Warburton, P. and Copeland, L. (2025), A review of the unique nesting characteristics of *Ropalidia plebeiana* (white-faced brown paper wasp) – an ethological perspective. General and Applied Entomology, 53: 27-29 (2025)

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(If anyone wants to read the full papers, the pdf versions are available from Phil Warburton).

Highlights from ENHS records - Summer 2025-26

Avian species	Number	Place	Observer	Comments
Emu	1	Brou L	MA	
Stubble Quail	Up to 20	Com	JC	
Brown Quail	Call	Com	JC	
Musk Duck	3	MB	MA	
Freckled Duck	4	MHS	DS	Newstead Pond
Australian Shelduck	8	Com	JC	Until mid December
Hardhead	4, 1	MHS/TN	MA/SH/PB	
Australasian Grebe	6, 3, 1	MB/MHS/SthDS	MA/JCof	
Hoary-headed Grebe	7, 4	MB/Tilba	MA	
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	10	Pedro	JS	Displaying at Corunna

Peaceful Dove	1	Belowra	JC	
Topknot Pigeon	7, 4, 2, 1	PS/Surfside/ Tilba/Corunna/ Cullendulla	JM/M Lawrence-Taylor/MA/ L Halasz/RS	
Tawny Frogmouth	2 to 4	Pedro	JS	
White-throated Nightjar	Up to 3	PS	JM	
Australian Owlet-Nightjar	1	PS/Com/ Corunna	JM/JC/L Halasz	
White-throated Needletail	200, 100s, 50	Corunna/Bumbo Rd/Surfside	L Halasz/MA/DB	Large numbers also reported at DY and Kianga
Fork-tailed Swift	5	MB	MA	
Eastern Koel	Up to 3	Widespread	Various	Young in February
Channel-billed Cuckoo	Up to 3	Widespread	Various	Young in January-February with Pied Currawong
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	1 or 2	PS	JM	
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	PS/Com/Belowra	JM/JC	
Brush Cuckoo	1	Corunna	L Halasz	Only record this summer
Pallid Cuckoo	2, 1	Com/Belowra	JC	
Buff-banded Rail	1	BBWG	RC	
Dusky Moorhen	1	ERBG/Bevian Rd	SH/PB/MA	
Eurasian Coot	60, 20	Kianga L/Com	MA/JC	
Short-tailed Shearwater	10, 1	MB/BP	MA/RS	Beachcast at MB
Royal Spoonbill	20, 18	NA/Com	MA/JC	
Nankeen Night Heron	9, 7, 5, 3	MHS/Com/ Mossy Pt/Sth DS	VB/MA/JC/SH/ PB/JCof	
Cattle Egret	12	MYA	MA	Seen on 17 January in full breeding plumage. An unusual summer sighting.
White-necked Heron	3, 2	Com/Bumbo Rd /Bergalia	JC/MA/DHK	
Great Egret	12	Com	JC	After rain in January
Intermediate Egret	2, 1	Kianga/NA	MA	
Little Egret	6, 3	MB/Brou L	MA/SH/PB	
Eastern Reef Egret	2, 1	NA/MB	MA	
Great Pied Cormorant	4, 2	NA/Mossy Pt/ Broulee/Brou L/ MB	MA/SH/PB	
Australian Darter	2	Com/Kianga	JC/MA	
Beach Stone-Curlew	1	Sth DS/ Cullendulla Ck	JCof/RC	In December and January
Aust Pied Oystercatcher	4, 3, 2	Sth DS/Mossy Pt /BI/MB	JCof/SH/PB/DO/ MA	
Sooty Oystercatcher	10, 6, 4	MB/Pedro Pt/Sth DS/Long NosePt	MA/A Rae/JCof/ SH/PB	
Pacific Golden Plover	1 or 2	MB	MA	
Red-capped Plover	19, 9	Brou L/Sth DS	MA/JCof	
Hooded Plover	2 or 3	MB	MA	Including immature
Black-fronted Dotterel	3	Bingie/Com	DHK/JC	Kelly's L in Bingie
Far Eastern Curlew	5, 2, 1	Brou L/NA/TS/ MB	SH/PB/MA M Craig	
Bar-tailed Godwit	100, 29, 18	NA/DY/Brou L	MA/SH/PB	
Ruddy Turnstone	1 or 2	Brou L	MA/SH/PB	
Red Knot	2	Brou L	MA	
Pectoral Sandpiper	1	Brou L	MA/SH/PB/VB	January-February. First record for ENHS and a single record in ALA from 1992.

Red-necked Stint	3, 1	Brou L/MB	SH/PB/MA	
Latham's Snipe	7, 1	MHS/Com	S Heyward/JC	
Little Tern	1	Brou L	SH/PB	On Brou beach
Caspian Tern	6, 2	Sth DS/Brou L/ BP	JCof/SH/PB	
Greater Sooty Owl	3, 2	NA/Corunna	F Ellison/ L Halasz/MA	Young at NA
Masked Owl	2	Pedro	JS	
Powerful Owl	1	LP/Pedro	I Bevege/JS	
Osprey	2, 1	MB/NA	BH/MA	
Square-tailed Kite	2, 1	TS/Long Beach/ Mossy Pt/Broule e/Dampier SF	M Craig/RC/GH /JM/AM/IJ	
Wedge-tailed Eagle	3, 2	Cool/Pedro/PS	DO/JS/JM	Juvenile at Pedro and PS
Little Eagle	1	PS	JM	
Swamp Harrier	1	Com	JC	
Grey Goshawk	2, 1	Pedro/Mossy Pt /PS/NA	JS/SH/PB/JM/ MA	
Brown Goshawk	1	Surfside/Bingie Pt	RS/DHK	
Oriental Dollarbird	6, 5, 2	MB/Com/Bergali a/Nerrigundah	MA/JC/DHK/IJ	
Azure Kingfisher	1	Bumbo Rd/Com	MA/JC	
Sacred Kingfisher	5, 4	PS/Com/Belowra	JM/JC	Fewer elsewhere
Australian Hobby	2, 1	Pedro/BB/Long NosePt/Com/NA	JS/RC/SH/PB/JC/ MA	
Brown Falcon	1	Bingie Pt/Com/ MB/Tilba	DHK/JC/MA	
Peregrine Falcon	1	Com	JC	
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	8, 5, 4, 3, 2	Pedro/PS/Com/ MKS/Bergalia	JS/JM/JC/SMG/ DHK	Dependent young at PS
Gang-gang Cockatoo	7, 5, 4	Cool/LP/Nerrigu ndah/DampierSF /MB/Bumbo Rd	DO/J Mather/IJ/ AM/JM/MA	
Crimson Rosella	Up to 30	Pedro	JS	
Eastern Rosella	10, 4, 2	Com/MB/Bergali a/Nerrigundah	JC/MA/DHK/IJ	1 dependent young at Com
Musk Lorikeet	10, 8, 4, 2	MYA/Mossy Pt/ PS/MB/Corunna	JM/SH/PB/MA/ L Halasz	
Little Lorikeet	3	Mossy Pt	SH/PB	
Superb Lyrebird	8, 2	Dampier SF/Nerr igundah/Tilba	IJ/AM/JM/MA	Displaying at Corunna (L Halasz)
Green Catbird	3, 1	NA/Corunna	F Ellison/MA/ L Halasz	Nesting on the Old Highway.
Red-browed Treecreeper	1	Dampier SF	IJ/AM/JM	
White-naped Honeyeater	6, 5, 4, 3	MB/Corunna/Ne rrigundah/PS	MA/L Halasz/IJ/ JM	Immature at MB, dependent young at Nerrigundah
Brown-headed Honeyeater	8, 6, 5	Dampier SF/MB/ Corunna/Com	IJ/AM/JM/MA/ L Halasz/JC	
White-eared Honeyeater	1 or 2	Nerrigundah	IJ	Throughout the summer
Noisy Friarbird	20, 12, 11	Pedro/PS/Sth DS /Nerrigundah	JS/JM/JCof/IJ	Dependent young at Sth DS and PS
Scarlet Honeyeater	1 or 2	Sth DS/ERBG/ PS/Com/Bodalla	JCof/SH/PB/JM/ JC/MA	
Fuscous Honeyeater	1	PS	JM	Unusual summer record
Striated Pardalote	2	Com/PS	JC/JM	
Brown Gerygone	Up to 40	MB	MA	Nesting

White-throated Gerygone	Call	Belowra	JC	In December
Yellow-throated Scrubwren	8, 2	NA/Corunna	F Ellison/ L Halasz	
Large-billed Scrubwren	1	ERBG	MA	
Buff-rumped Thornbill	4, 2	Dampier SF/ MYA/PS	IJ/AM/JM	Unusual at PS; also reported at Pedro in June 2025.
Varied Sittella	16, 9, 6	PS/ERBG/ Corunna	JM/SH/PB/ L Halasz	Unusually large flock at PS in December
Australasian Figbird	15, 10, 6, 1	NA/MYA/Corun na/Broulee/TS	MA/JM/L Halasz /GH/M Craig	
Eastern Shrike-tit	4	Corunna	L Halasz	
Rufous Whistler	6, 5	PS/Belowra/Com	JM/JC	Dependent young at Com and Dampier SF
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	3, 1	MB/PS/Com	MA/JM/JC	
Common Cicadabird	5, 1, call	PS/Corunna/ Cool/MKS	JM/L Halasz/ DO/SMG	Immature at Cool
White-winged Triller	8, 6, 2	Belowra/MYA/ Belimbla	JC/RC	Juvenile in MYA; unusual breeding record.
Dusky Woodswallow	10, 8, 3, 2	Nerrigundah/Sth DS/Cool/Brou L	IJ/JCof/DO/SH/ PB	
White-breasted Woodswallow	4	PS	JM	
Rufous Fantail	4, 1, call	Sth DS/Corunna/ PS	JCof/L Halasz/JM	
Leaden Flycatcher	6, 2, 1	PS/ERBG/Nerrig undah/Brou L	JM/MA/IJ/SH/PB	
Restless Flycatcher	1	Belowra	JC	
Black-faced Monarch	4, 3	Sth DS/PS/MB	JCof/JM/MA	Immature at MB
Little Raven	60, 3, 2	Com/MA/PS	JC/MA/JM	
White-winged Chough	12, 9, 7, 5, 4	Pedro/Bergalia/ Cool/MKS/PS/ Com/Tilba	JS/DHK/DO/ SMG/JM/JC/MA	Dependent young at Com
Rose Robin	Call	Com	JC	
Scarlet Robin	1 or 2	Nerrigundah	IJ	
Golden-headed Cisticola	Up to 10	Com	JC	
Australian Reed Warbler	3, 2, call	Com/Bumbo Rd/ PS	JC/MA/JM	
Little Grassbird	1 or call	Nerrigundah/ Com	IJ/JC	
Tree Martin	20, 12	Com/MHN/ Nerrigundah	JC/MA/IJ	
Silvereye	Up to 20	Widespread	Various	Migration north begins in February
Mistletoebird	4, 1	MYA/PS/Corunn a/Dampier SF	JM/L Halasz/IJ/ AM	
Australasian Pipit	2	Com/Belowra/ Brou L	JC/MA	Singles elsewhere

Non-avian species	**Number**	**Place**	**Observer**	**Comments**
Common Wombat	2, 1 or signs	Nerrigundah/ Cool/Com	DO/JC	
Short-beaked Echidna	1	Sth DS/ Surfside/MKS/ PS/CO/MB	JCof/RS/SMG/JM FM/MA/DO	
Yellow-bellied Glider	1 or 2	Mossy Pt	SH/PB	
Sugar Glider	1	Mossy Pt	SH/PB	

Common Ringtail Possum	1	Mossy Pt	SH/PB	
Common Brushtail Possum	2, 1	Com/Mossy Pt/ Nerrigundah	JS/JC/JM/MA	
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	27, 25, 20	Sth DS/Cool/PS	JCof/DO/JM	
Red-necked Wallaby	9, 3, 2	Nerrigundah/Sth DS/Cool/MKS	IJ/JCof/DO/SMG	
Grey-headed Flying Fox	10,000, up to 450, 70, 20	MYA/Pedro/ WL/Com	DS/JM/FM/JS/DO /JC	Camp at MYA in Riverside Park and between lake and Lakeview Dr at WL
Bush Rat	Up to 3	Nerrigundah	IJ	
Australian Fur Seal	17	BP	SH/PB	
Seal sp.	1 or 2	MYA	DHK	Near Riverside Park
Bottle-nosed Dolphin	20, 9	BP/Sth DS	SH/PB/JCof	
Snake-necked Turtle	10, 7	Com/Nerrigundah	JC/IJ	
Yellow-bellied Water-skink	5, 2, 1	Com/ERBG/ Broulee Is	JC/SH/PB	
Dark-flecked Sunskink	3, 2, 1	PS/Pedro/ERBG /Long Nose Pt/ Mossy Pt	JM/JS/SH/PB	
Pale-flecked Sunskink	4	PS/Pedro	JM/JS	
Eastern Blue-tongue	3	Com	JC	Including one young
Jacky Lizard	1	Long Nose Pt/ /Broulee/Cool	SH/PB/DO	
Eastern Water Dragon	1	ERBG	SH/PB	
Gippsland Water Dragon	10, 1	Com/Bumbo Ck	JC/MA	
Lace Monitor	3, 2, 1	Nerrigundah/PS/ Pedro/Sth DS/ Long Nose Pt/ Com/Cool	IJ/JM/JS/JCof/ SH/PB/JC/DO	
Diamond Python	1	Com/Nerrigundah/MB	JC/IJ/MA	
Eastern Small-eyed Snake	1	PS	JM	
Tiger Snake	1	Nerrigundah/ Cool	IJ/DO	Juvenile at Cool

Frogs MA/JC/JM	Common Eastern Froglet, Brown Striped Frog, Dendy's Toadlet; tree frogs: Eastern Sedgefrog, Screaming, Brown, Peron's, Tyler's.
Moths JC/JM/JS/DS/FM /M Haywood	Ghost, Forester, Pale Cup, Four-spotted Cup (larva), Small Tabby, White Rush, Cabbage Centre Grub, Fallen Bark Looper, Pink Arhodia, Neat Epidesmia, Red-lined Geometrid, Cream Wave, Plantain, Convolvulus Hawk, Triangle Hawk, Coprosma Hawk, Patterned Notodontid, Banded and Spotted Lichen, Eastern Halone, Lichen-eating Caterpillar, Magpie, Tiger, Variable Spot-wing, Halved and Cycota Tuft, Macleay's Day, Yellow-banded Day, Mistletoe, Old Lady, Black Noctuid, Variable Cutworm, Native Budworm.
Butterflies MA/JC/IJ/SH/PB /JM/JS/FM	Splendid Ochre, Barred Skipper, Lilac, White-brand and Dingy Grass-skipper, Narrow-brand and Greenish Grass-dart, Blue Triangle, Orchard Swallowtail, Black and Spotted Jezebel, Caper and Cabbage White, Dusky Knight, Brown Ringlet, Varied Sword-grass Brown, Wonder and Common Brown, Tailed Emperor, Meadow Argus, Australian Painted Lady, Yellow Admiral, Imperial Hairstreak, Varied Dusky-blue, Yellow-spotted and Saltbush Blue, Common Grass Blue.
Dragon & Damselflies JC/JM/FM	Common Bluetail, Scarlet and Wandering Percher, Blue Skimmer, Tau & Australian Emerald, Graphic Flutterer, Common Glider, Australian Emperor, Blue-spotted Hawker.

Beetles JC/IJ/JM/JS/FM	Queen Christmas, Argentinian, Dusky Pasture, Pruinose, Nectar and Green Scarab, Fiddler, Net-winged, Plague Soldier, Metallic Green Acacia, Banded Pumpkin, Three-lined Potato, Elm Leaf, Honeybrown, Tortoise, Acacia Leaf, Small Blue Leaf, Jewel, Pin-tailed, Tiger Longicorn, Flea. Ladybirds: Transverse, Spotted Amber, 26 Spotted, Striped, White-collared, Steel Blue, Mealybug, Fungus-eating.
Bugs JC/IJ/JM/FM	Bronze Orange, Harlequin, Green Vegetable, Metallic Shield, Backswimmer, Water Boatman. Cicadas: Beach Squeaker, Greengrocer, Razor Grinder, Redeye, Double-spotted, Black Prince, Yellowbelly, Silver Princess, White Drummer, Alarm Clock Squawker.
Other insects JC/JM/JS/FM	Bee: Blue Banded, Teddybear, Tiger Nomia, Gold-tipped Leafcutter. Bottlebrush Sawfly. Wasps: Common Paper, Blue Flower, Yellow-collared Blue Flower, Blue Ant, Orange Caterpillar Parasite, Digger, Formosum Mud Dauber. Fly: Herculean Robberfly, Wallaby Louse, Native Dronefly, Hoverfly, Australian Leafroller Tachinid. Cockroach: Beautiful, Wood Runner. Other: Olive-green Coastal Katydid, Yellow-winged Locust, Margined-winged Stick-Insect.
Spiders JC/JM	Two-spined, Black House, Leaf-curling, Golden-tailed Jumping, Huntsman, Daddy Long Legs, White-tailed, St Andrew's Cross, Garden Orb Weaving, Water, Prowling Jumping, Spiny, White Porch, Walckenaer's Studded Triangular, Little Tarantula, Crab, Flat Rock.

RAINFALL (mm). December: 10 at MKS, 14 at Bergalia, 22.5 at Com, 27 at MB, 24 at Cool. **January:** 198.5 at MKS, 225 at Bergalia, 175.5 at Com, 164.75 at Cool. **February:** 36 at MKS, 43 at Bergalia, 69 at Com, 74 at MB, 45 at Cool.

Contributors

MA	M Anderson, MB	IJ	I Joyce, Nerrigundah		I Bevege, LP
DB	D Bertzeletos, Surfside	DHK	D&H Kay, Bergalia		M Craig, TS
VB	V Brown, ACT	AM	A Marsh, Bingie		F Ellison, NA
RC	R Clunes, Surfside	JM	J Morgan, PS		L Halasz, Corunna
JCof	J Coffey, Sth DS	DO	D Ondinea, Cool		M Haywood, DY
JC	J&P Collett, Com	JS	J Sagar, Pedro		S Heyward, MHS
SMG	S&M Guppy, MKS	RS	R Soroka, Surfside		M Lawrence-Taylor, Surfside
BH	B Harvey, MB	DS	D Stevenson, MHS		J Mather, LP
SH/PB	S Holliday & P Buckley, ACT	FM	Field Meeting		A Rae, MYA
GH	G Hounsell, Broulee				T&A Ross, Kianga
Places		DY	Dalmeny	NP	National Park
BB	Batemans Bay	ERBG	Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens	PDD	Percy Davis Drive, MYA
BBWG	Batemans Bay Water Gardens	FT	Firetrail	PS	Pedro Swamp
BI	Bermagui	MKS	Maulbrooks Rd S, MYA	PP	Potato Point
BP	Burrewarra Point	MO	Meringo	SB	Surf Beach
Cool	Coolagolite	MYA	Moruya	SF	State Forest
Com	Comerang	MH	Moruya Heads, N&S	TN	Tomakin
CO	Congo	MB	Mystery Bay	TS	Tuross
DS	Durras	NA	Narooma	WL	Wallaga Lake

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