



Photo: Mark Lethlean

BirdLife Australia's National Beach-nesting Birds Conference

May 22nd - 24th 2026, Goolwa, South Australia

BirdLife Australia's Beach-nesting Birds Conference is aimed at sharing the latest research findings and stakeholder knowledge around beach-nesting bird species, their habitats, threats, and conservation management. There will be many opportunities to meet other conference participants from across the Australian coast and to hear about challenges faced and solutions devised to overcome these. The conference attracts a diversity of representatives from local and state government, coastal committees of management, volunteers, community groups, researchers and students. We have a range of presentations, workshops and field trips on offer that are aimed at building and extending knowledge and skill sets around threatened species protection and coastal management.

Day 1	Friday 22nd May
Arrival/registration	from 9:00am
Conference	9:30am – 1:30pm: Centenary Hall, 14 Cadell St, Goolwa
Lunch	1:30 – 2:30pm: Signal Point Experience Centre, 5 Laurie Ln, Goolwa
Local field trips	2.30pm – 5:00pm, see program for options available
Dinner (optional)	6.00pm Salt at the Elliot, 39 The Strand, Port Elliot
Day 2	Saturday 23rd May
Arrival/registration	from 9:00am
Conference	9:30am – 12:30pm: Centenary Hall, 14 Cadell St, Goolwa
Workshops	1:30pm – 4:30pm, see program for options available
Closing Remarks	4.30pm – 5:00pm
Day 3	Sunday 24th May
Field trips	from 8:00 am, see program for options available

REGISTER AND PURCHASE TICKETS BY MIDNIGHT Wednesday 30th APRIL:

STEP 1: REGISTER HERE [BNBConference2026_Registration](#)

STEP 2: PURCHASE TICKETS HERE [BNBConference2026_Payment](#)

Conference Registration Process and Costs

Registering for this conference is a two-step process:

1. Fill out our online survey form to *register your attendance* and to select field trips and workshop preferences. This will ensure we can suitably cater for the event and can assign workshops to the appropriately sized rooms based on how popular these are:

[BNBConference2026 Registration](#)

2. *Purchase tickets* for the event below. Please note that there will be a small administration fee added onto the payment by the online ticket provider, so costs may be more than advertised below. We have selected Humanitix as it is a non-for-profit, where 100% of your administration fee is put back into humanity projects to help children's charities.

[BNBConference2026 Payment](#)

Below is an outline of costs for the event. Please note that there is a discount if a two-day (Friday and Saturday) ticket is purchased, and Volunteers, Community and Students also receive a discounted attendance price.

Optional Sunday Field Trips: One field trip—the Spirit of the Coorong Cruise—has an additional cost (inclusive of lunch), but all other trips are free to attend. You can pre-order a packed lunch for \$20, which will be distributed by your field trip leader on the day. If you haven't ordered a lunch, please bring your own, as there won't be opportunities to purchase food during the longer excursions. Please note that these field trips are for conference attendees only.

We will send an email a fortnight before the conference to confirm the workshops and field trips you have been assigned and provide more details about meeting places and the agenda for the day.

Ticket types	Cost/unit
Land Manager/Professional – Two day ticket (Friday and Saturday)	\$180
Land Manager/Professional – One day ticket (Friday OR Saturday only)	\$120
Volunteer/Community/Student – Two day ticket (Friday and Saturday)	\$100
Volunteer/Community/Student – One day ticket (Friday OR Saturday only)	\$65

Optional Extras:

Friday night Conference Dinner: Salt at the Elliot, 39 The Strand, Port Elliot	Pay at venue
Saturday Feather Flower Making workshop* <i>limited to 15 people</i>	\$17.00
Sunday field trip packed lunch	\$20.00
Sunday Spirit of the Coorong field trip (inclusive of lunch)* <i>limited to 46 people</i>	\$105.00

*numbers are capped for these options and you will be notified if your choice has been fulfilled. Allocations will be made based on the sequence of registrations received.

Please contact bnb.events@birdlife.org.au if you require help with registering.



10th National Beach-nesting Birds Conference Program



Photo: Andrew Silcocks

DAY 1 Friday 22nd May

Day one consists of conference presentations followed by local field trips

Where?

Centenary Hall, 14 Cadell St, Goolwa

9:00	Arrival – Check in at the Registration table (grab a cup of tea or coffee)
9:30	Welcome to Country and Conference opening
10:00	Presentations session 1
11:00	Morning Tea
11:30	Presentations session 2
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch at Signal Point (<i>a short 5 minute walk from Centenary Hall</i>)
14:30 – 17:00	Field trips

18:00 - 22:00 Optional Dinner: Salt At The Elliot. You order and pay for yourself on the night.

DAY 2 Saturday 23rd May

Day two consists of conference presentations followed by workshops that will allow you to build on your skills and knowledge across a range of themes related to the Coastal Bird conservation and monitoring.

Where?

Centenary Hall, 14 Cadell St, Goolwa

9:00	Arrival – Check in at the Registration table (grab tea or coffee)
9:25	Housekeeping and opening of Day 2
9:30	Presentations session 3
11:00	Morning Tea
11:30	Presentations session 4:
12:30	Lunch
13:30 – 16:30	<i>Workshop Sessions – note these are across a range of locations, all within a 5 minute walk of the main venue</i>
13:30	Workshop one (choose from a range of workshop topics, see program below). At least four workshops will run simultaneously and you will be assigned to one of your top preferences.
14:30	Afternoon tea
15:30	Workshop two (choose from a range of workshop topics, see program below). At least four workshops will run simultaneously and you will be assigned to one of your top preferences.
16:30-17:00	Closing Remarks

Friday Field Trips

Friday afternoon is dedicated to your choice of a range of exciting field trips exploring local sites where you'll gain firsthand insight into the environment and ongoing conservation efforts. While we'll do our best to accommodate your first preference, please rank your choices in order of preference in case a trip reaches capacity. Please note that you will need to arrange your own travel to these locations. During the lunch break on Friday, we give field groups the opportunity to gather and organise carpooling arrangements.

Friday field Trips	Description
Hindmarsh nursery and reserve tour	Join local legends Richard Owen and Nursery Manager Pauline to discover the Hindmarsh Nursery and wander through the beautiful Ferrymans Reserve next door - a thriving natural haven lovingly restored with indigenous plantings over many decades. This vital seed orchard conserves not only Kumarangk (Hindmarsh Island) species but many rare plants from across the Fleurieu Peninsula.
Goolwa Beach and Tokuremoar Reserve	Goolwa beach and Tokuremoar Reserve provide essential habitat for a variety of flora and fauna of conservation significance. Revegetation, weed control and dune protection have reduced erosion and enhanced biodiversity. The coastal shrublands, spinifex grasslands and samphire flats are home to over 100 bird species including breeding Hooded Plovers, which remarkably raised 2 fledglings last season despite Goolwa beach being a dog-exercise beach. We'll explore the local land management, coastal processes and conservation challenges and successes during our beach and reserve walk. A range of stakeholders including land managers and community groups, will present during this field trip.
Nangawooka Nature Reserve	Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of Nangawooka Nature Reserve and its spectacular array of woodland birds during this vibrant autumn bloom! Join volunteers from Friends of Nangawooka as Hakeas, Banksias and Callistemon burst with flowers, purple Hardenbergia mingles with pink Thryptomenes, and golden Acacias attract flocks of honeyeaters feasting on nectar-rich blooms—a true celebration of native biodiversity and seasonal beauty.
Whalers and Yilki - Rock walls and beach-nesting birds	Explore one of the Fleurieu Peninsula's newest Hooded Plover breeding sites on a coastal walk from Whalers to Yilki. Join South Coast Fleurieu Beach-nesting Birds Volunteer Regional Coordinators, Sue and David, and staff from the City of Victor Harbour, to find out how collaborative conservation efforts by volunteers, land managers and community are tackling the tough challenges these birds face.
Coastal Weeds: Discovering Our Shoreline Habitats	Join us for a hands-on journey into coastal ecology, exploring the native and introduced plants that shape our shorelines. Coastal weed experts, Caroline Taylor and Corey Jackson, will help participants identify key weed species such as Sea Wheat and Marram grasses, Euphorbia, and Gazania, learn about effective control techniques, and examine how weeds alter habitats and impact wildlife, including vulnerable beach-nesting birds. You'll also visit Our Plover Coast project sites where successful control has restored dunes to a more natural state, offering an inspiring look at coastal restoration in action.



Saturday Workshop Session Topics

Saturday afternoon offers you a choice of two workshops from a diverse range of topics. Each workshop runs for an hour with the exception of the art workshops*, with an afternoon tea break between sessions. We'll either break out into smaller rooms within the conference venue or take a short walk to nearby venues for these interactive sessions. We need your preferences for the different topics on offer to determine which workshops will run and to ensure we don't exceed seating capacity. This may mean you're assigned your second or third preferences, or occasionally third and fourth preferences, due to logistical constraints—but rest assured, all options promise engaging and valuable learning experiences. *Please note, if you choose either the Feather Flower Making or the Bird Printmaking workshops, you will only attend this single choice, as it will run over both hour sessions.

Workshop sessions:	Description:
Beach-nesting shorebird monitoring	Dive into the fascinating world of our beach-nesting shorebirds - Learn how to safely monitor these birds and get tips from the experts on unravelling the mysteries of these cryptic birds! Workshop delivered by BirdLife Australia's Beach-nesting Birds expert, Renee Mead.
Behaviour change and Media writing	Good communication can change behaviour. So can bad communication. It's imperative that we communicate well, to get the behaviour changes we want. We need to plan and align our written and spoken messaging. But what do we say? What should we NEVER say? How do we reach the unengaged? How do we reach people with different worldviews? Dr Philip Roetman (see bio below) will review some documented examples and break down the complexity of communication to a few simple rules that will help you influence behaviour.
Tern ID and top tips for breeding monitoring	Unlock the secrets of tern identification. Join us for an engaging session full of expert tips and tricks to sharpen your observation skills and boost your monitoring confidence. Workshop delivered by Paul Taylor (see bio below) and BirdLife Australia's tern team.
Photography Workshop	Elevate your bird photography with John Gitsham (see bio below). Discover the secrets of beautiful composition, explore creative techniques, and learn how to capture breathtaking images responsibly and ethically.
Shorebird Identification	Ever been overwhelmed by a mixed flock of grey/brown shorebirds and wondered where to start in terms of identifying the different species? Join us for a game-changing workshop packed with expert tips on spotting key features and building the knowledge that'll transform you into a confident shorebird observer. Workshop delivered by BirdLife Australia's Migratory Shorebird expert, Lindall Kidd.
Wetland Bird Identification	Wetland birds can be equally challenging to identify! There are many with cryptic behaviours living in densely vegetated habitats, which can make monitoring difficult. Hear from one of BirdLife Australia's wetland bird experts and get tips on how to identify and monitor wetland birds Workshop delivered by BirdLife Australia's Wetland Bird expert, Simon Kennedy.
Feather Flower Making	Experience the beauty of Ngarrindjeri culture with Elder Georgia Trevorrow (see bio below) through Feather Making - a treasured tradition flourishing since the 1800s paddle boat era. Participants take home their beautiful feather creations. *Limited to 15 people. Additional cost: \$17.00 pp.
Bird printmaking	Discover the joy of printmaking in this hands-on workshop led by artist Jane Evans (see bio below), where you'll carve your very own small bird design into

Workshop sessions:	Description:
	<p>a small ezycarve block. Layer your hand-carved bird over a gel print background to walk away with a beautiful, one-of-a-kind print that's entirely your own creation and yours to take home— no experience necessary.</p> <p>*Limited to 15 people.</p>
Coastal Raptor Conservation in South Australia	<p>The Eastern Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus cristatus</i>) and White-bellied Sea Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>) are listed as endangered in South Australia, with populations facing a 26% decline in the last 15 years. Key threats include coastal development, human disturbance, and competition for food, leaving fewer than 50 breeding pairs of Ospreys. Come along and learn about what is being done to conserve these species from Raptor expert, Ian Falkenburg (see bio below).</p>

Workshop leader bios

Jane Evans: Jane Evans is a Beach-nesting Birds volunteer and an award-winning mixed media printmaker and visual artist. Her professional background as a Freshwater Biologist, combined with her artistic expertise, gives her a unique ability to deeply understand natural environments and translate them into engaging works of art. Jane's lifelong passion for nature and wildlife is central to her practice. Living in a spectacular location overlooking Nepean Bay on iconic Kangaroo Island, provides endless natural inspiration for her work.

Ian Falkenburg: Ian has dedicated over 45 years to protecting South Australia's birds of prey, including groundbreaking work with ospreys, sea eagles and wedge-tailed eagles. From installing nesting platforms on Yorke Peninsula to leading raptor recovery and research projects across the state, Ian's passion and commitment to conservation are unmatched.

John Gitsham: John Gitsham is an Art and Nature photographer based in the Adelaide Hills with over 55 years' experience in photography. A 1983 graduate of the SA School of Art, he worked as a professional photographer from the late 1970s to the early 1990s and was a founding member of the SA Photography Workshop alongside leading contemporary photographers including Kate Breakey, Mark Kimber and Michal Kluvanek. He has exhibited widely since the 1980s, including at Adelaide's Developed Image Gallery and in Sydney, Paris and numerous South Australian venues, and continues to show work through galleries, public spaces, cafes and SALA events. John is also a founding member of the Photographic Imagery Collective (PIC), holds a degree in Ecotourism majoring in Conservation Biology, spent 30 years as a Senior/Head Park Ranger with SA NPWS, and was past president of Birds SA. A passionate bird and nature photographer, his work emphasises artistic composition and interpretation of birds in the landscape, and he has published three photo books. Website: <https://www.johngitshamartphotography.com/> or Instagram: johngitsham/Instagram

Dr Philip Roetman: Dr Philip Roetman is Environmental Sustainability Manager at the City of Burnside where he develops and implements initiatives to improve the environmental sustainability of the organisation and community. Philip's team works in the areas of urban forestry, conservation, waste management and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Previously, Philip was a Research Fellow at the UniSA, where he worked for 13 years and conducted innovative Citizen Science projects that engaged thousands of people in research activities. Projects included Cat Tracker, the Great Koala Count and BioBlitz events. These projects collected research data, informed the community and changed attitudes and behaviours to animal management. Philip has authored research publications and taught about environmental sustainability, citizen science, education, policy development and behaviour change.

Paul Taylor: Paul has been passionate about birds throughout his life, and since retiring from farming has channelled this lifelong interest into active shorebird conservation. Now heavily involved in BirdLife Australia surveys across Gulf St. Vincent, he specialises in monitoring migratory waders and Fairy Terns, contributing valuable banded bird reports while capturing stunning images that inspire others. His decades of field expertise and photographic skills make him an ideal guide for understanding tern identification and conservation monitoring.

Georgia Trevorow: *Georgie Trevorow, born at Tailem Bend and raised in Murray Bridge, is a proud Ngarrindjeri woman and mother of five adult children, with twelve grandchildren. She is the daughter of a respected Ngarrindjeri Elder who devoted her life to reviving the Ngarrindjeri language, helped compile the Ngarrindjeri Dictionary, and was a gifted weaver and feather flower maker. Following her mother's passing fourteen years ago, Georgie felt a deep calling to honour her mother's legacy — immersing herself in language learning, self-teaching raffia weaving and feather flower making, and going on to study and receive certificates alongside her Aunties so they could formally teach the Ngarrindjeri language. Now in their third year of teaching, Georgie is not only a Ngarrindjeri language teacher but has also spent over ten years passing on the arts of weaving and feather flower making to children and adults alike.*

Sunday Field trips

On Sunday we are offering field trips for people interested to explore more of the stunning Fleurieu Peninsula and the neighbouring Coorong, and discover the amazing birds and diverse habitats they have to offer. Please note, some field trips have a cap on numbers. Allocations will be made based on the sequence of registrations received. While we'll do our best to accommodate your first preference, please rank your choices in order in case a trip reaches capacity.

One field trip—the Spirit of the Coorong Cruise—has an additional cost (inclusive of lunch), but all other trips are free. However, you can pre-order a packed lunch for \$20.00, which will be distributed by your field trip leader on the day. If you haven't ordered a lunch, please bring your own, as there won't be opportunities to stop and purchase food during the longer excursions. Remember to pack plenty of water, bring binoculars and a camera if you wish, and wear weather-appropriate clothing and comfortable walking shoes. It's wise to pack a raincoat just in case, along with sunscreen for sun protection.

We have provided approximate start and finish times for each field trip, but please note these may change slightly and final details will be provided closer to the date. You will need your own vehicle to travel to each location with the exception of the Tolderol Game Reserve field trip, where a mini-bus will be provided.

Field Trip	Description
Spirit of the Coorong - Half-Day Coorong Experience Cruise Charter 8.00am – 12.00pm	Step into Storm Boy Country for an unforgettable half-day adventure with Spirit of the Coorong! This captivating 3.5-hour cruise immerses you in the breathtaking beauty of Coorong National Park, where stunning scenery meets extraordinary wildlife encounters including fur seals and diverse birdlife, alongside profound cultural insights shared by a Ngarrindjeri guide from Kool Tours, who will bring ancient stories, deep connections, and traditions to life throughout the trip, including an optional guided shore walk where you'll discover Indigenous sites, native flora, fauna, and bushfoods - plus a delicious lunch to complete this perfect journey for nature lovers and adventurers alike. Additional cost: \$105pp. (lunch included in this cost)
Goolwa Barrage hike onto Goolwa beach 8.00am – 12.00pm	Join citizen scientist Dr. Keith Jones for a morning exploring the vital birdlife of the Murray Estuary and Goolwa Ocean Beach, home to flocking Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers. This field trip includes a 30-minute hike over stunning sand dunes to discover how these remarkable beach-nesting birds survive amid the environment flows through the barrages and human pressures. The field trip includes an opportunity to observe waterbirds (and long-nosed fur seals) thriving along the Goolwa Barrage and channel, then enjoy a picnic lunch before departing. *We recommend that participants are relatively fit for the sand dune hike (30 minutes each way)

Tolderol Game Reserve 8.30am – 2.30pm	Explore Tolderol Game Reserve, a 200-hectare artificially constructed wetland complex on the banks of Lake Alexandrina. Located on Ngarrindjeri Ruwe (Country) and part of The Living Murray's Lower Lakes, Coorong and Murray Mouth Icon Site, and the Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Ramsar Wetland site, this vital habitat supports incredible numbers of waterbirds including 27 migratory shorebird species that rely on its rich foraging grounds. Join us for a guided bus tour to explore this important conservation site and learn from Birds SA members about the diverse birdlife that call Tolderol home. * Please note that the bus will depart from and return to Centenary Hall.
Encounter Bay, Granite island walk and Victor 8.30am – 11.30am	Discover the wonders of Granite Island, one of Victor Harbor's stunning coastal landmarks, on a guided walk with local NPWS Volunteer Ranger, Roslyn. Explore rugged granite vistas while uncovering stories of little penguins, seabirds, terrestrial birds, marine mammals, and the island's fascinating whaling and conservation history.
Scott Conservation Park 8.30am – 11.30am	Step into a magical woodland wonderland at Scott Conservation Park, where intact remnant vegetation provides a haven for an extraordinary variety of bird species. Wander through low woodlands and Mallee scrub as you search for vibrant residents including Musk Lorikeets, Elegant Parrots, and Crimson Rosellas. With so many species calling this park home, who knows which feathered friends you'll encounter on the day!
Islands of connection: walking with ancestors, working for wildlife 8:45am-10:30am	Departing from Victor Harbor, this 1.5-hour ocean-based boat trip to the Fleurieu Islands offers participants a unique Sea Country perspective on the Ngarrindjeri Nation and Ramindjeri people's deep cultural heritage while witnessing collaborative conservation efforts to restore native species and prepare for threats like avian influenza. If you suffer from sea sickness, this field trip may not be suitable for you, as participants remain on board throughout the journey to minimise disturbance to these culturally and ecologically sensitive islands. <i>The Fleurieu islands habitat restoration project is funded by the Australian Government and delivered by the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board, with support from the Department for Environment and Water and City of Victor Harbor.</i>

Funder Acknowledgements

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Thank you to all our presenters, workshop and field trip leaders for the generosity of their time and expertise.



Government of South Australia
Department for Environment and Water

