



Photo: Mark Lethlean

# BirdLife Australia's National Beach-nesting Birds Conference

**May 31<sup>st</sup> - June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024, Anglesea, Victoria**

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 participants in the program 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.

<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May</b>
Arrival/registration	from 9:00am
Conference	9:30am – 12:40pm, Anglesea Memorial Hall, 1A McMillan St, Anglesea
Eastern Maar Welcome	2:00pm – 2:45pm
Local walks	3:00pm – 5:00pm
Dinner (optional)	5:30pm arrival, Aireys Pub, 45 Great Ocean Road, Aireys Inlet
<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June</b>
Arrival/registration	from 9:00am
Conference	9:30am – 12:45pm, Anglesea Memorial Hall, 1A McMillan St, Anglesea
Workshops	1:45pm – 5:00pm
<b>Day 3</b>	<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b>
Field trips	from 8:00 am, see program for options available

**REGISTER AND PURCHASE TICKETS BY MIDNIGHT Monday 13<sup>th</sup> MAY:**

STEP 1: REGISTER HERE <https://bit.ly/BNBConferenceRegistration2024>

STEP 2: PURCHASE TICKETS HERE <https://bit.ly/BNBConference2024Payment>

## 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:

<https://bit.ly/BNBConferenceRegistration2024>

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.

<https://bit.ly/BNBConference2024Payment>

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. Sunday is free to attend but there is the option of purchasing a packed lunch for the trip.

*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)	\$150
Land Manager/Professional – One day ticket (Friday <b>OR</b> Saturday only)	\$90
Volunteer/Community/Student – Two day ticket (Friday and Saturday)	\$85
Volunteer/Community/Student – One day ticket (Friday <b>OR</b> Saturday only)	\$50

### Optional Extras:

Friday night Conference Dinner <a href="#">Aireys Pub Menu</a>	Pay at venue
Sunday field trip packed lunch	\$16.50

Please contact [bnb.events@birdlife.org.au](mailto:bnb.events@birdlife.org.au) if you require help with registering.



Photo: Mark Lethlean

## 9<sup>th</sup> National Beach-nesting Birds Conference Program



### DAY 1 Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May

Day one consists of conference presentations followed by Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony and local walks

#### Where?

Anglesea Memorial Hall, 1A McMillan St, Anglesea

#### 9:00

**Arrival – Check in at the Registration table (grab a cup of tea or coffee)**

9:30 – 9:40

Acknowledgement of Country, and BirdLife Australia CEO, Kate Millar opening the conference

9:40 – 9:45

Housekeeping

9:45 – 10:10

BirdLife Australia's Dr. Grainne Maguire, with Deakin Honours student, Lucinda Plowman, will present on an analysis of our long-term citizen-science database on Hooded Plover breeding for three major regions to explore the impact of threats and management interventions on nest survival.

10:10 – 10:25

Friends of the Hooded Plover Surf Coast's Regional Coordinator, Janice Carpenter and Volunteer, Bron Ives speaking on local conservation efforts along the Surf Coast.

10:25 – 10:40

Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority will concentrate on their coastal adaptation planning and on-ground efforts to protect Hooded Plovers along one of Australia's most famous coastlines.

**10:40 – 11:10**

**Morning Tea**

11:10 – 12:40

Presentations including the Conservation Regulator on a Statewide compliance effort 'Operation SoHo'; Traditional Owner engagement in Little Tern Conservation, Research into the effectiveness of a potential management tool 'FoxWatch'; Julie Dutoit from the Queensland Department of Environment and Science on identifying and managing Key Biodiversity Areas for seabirds on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

**12:40 – 13:30**

**Lunch**

**13:30 – 14:00**

**Drive to Aireys Inlet (near Painkalac Creek – location to be confirmed)**

14:00 – 14:45

Arrive at Aireys Inlet for a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony from Traditional Owners Eastern Maar.

14:45 – 17:00

Field trips.

**17:30 - 22:00**

**Optional Dinner:** Aireys Pub, 45 Great Ocean Road. Dinner is selected from their menu, and you pay for yourself on the night. The Booking is under "BirdLife Australia." Please note, we will be in the restaurant with the public.

## DAY 2 Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June

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 Beach-nesting Birds conservation and monitoring.

<b>Where?</b>	Anglesea Memorial Hall, 1A McMillan St, Anglesea
<b>9:00</b>	<b>Arrival – Check in at the Registration table (grab tea or coffee)</b>
9:25 – 9:30	Housekeeping
9:30 – 11:00	Presentations on coastal habitat creation for Fairy Terns; Dr Kasun Ekanayake on the Marna Banggara Project and impacts of a predator proof fence and rewilding program on breeding success, and; Ilse Cork on the New Zealand Fairy Tern Project.
<b>11:00 – 11:30</b>	<b>Morning Tea</b>
11:30 – 12:45	Presentations from PhD candidates including new research into Western Hooded Plovers and furthering our insights into Flight Initiation Distances across the Eastern Hooded Plover population; Joshua Wilson presenting on shorebird responses to drone monitoring; an update on BirdLife Australia and Birds South Australia’s Vehicles on beaches campaign, and; Warwick Barnes, Coastal Project Coordinator from the Department for Environment, sharing insights into safely communicating with beach users.
<b>12:45 – 13:45</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>13:45 – 16:45</b>	<b>Workshop Sessions</b>
13:45 – 14:45	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.
<b>14:45 – 15:45</b>	<b>Afternoon tea</b>
15:45 - 16:45	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
<b>16:45 – 17:00</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b>



Photo: John Hargreaves

## Friday Field Trips

Friday after lunch, all participants will go to Aireys Inlet for a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony by Traditional Owners, Eastern Maar. Afterwards, participants will go for a field trip. It is likely you will be able to attend your first preference of trip, but we ask you rank order of preference in case one trip is oversubscribed. You need to organise your own travel to these locations.

Field Trip	Description
Mary White Heathland Reserve, Anglesea	Visit this lovely heathland and learn about the local flora and heathland birds (hopefully southern emu-wrens), all while taking in the gorgeous coastal views.
Anglesea Plant ID	Visit the coastal areas of Point Roadknight in Anglesea and learn about the local plant life and efforts to reduce weeds.
Split Point Lighthouse, Aireys Inlet	Go 'Round the Twist' with a walk up to Split Point Lighthouse, learning all about its history since being built in 1891 and observing heathland (chance of seeing a rufous bristlebird) and wetland birds.
Coogoorah Reserve, Anglesea	Check out this quiet wetland where Latham's Snipe have been recorded, follow the walking paths over the water to see wetland birds and bush birds.

## Saturday Workshop Session Topics

Saturday afternoon will allow you a choice of two workshops. Each workshop runs for an hour, with an afternoon tea break between the sessions. We break out into smaller rooms within the conference venue, or take a short walk to additional venues for each of these sessions. We need to seek your preferences for the different topics on offer to determine if all topics will run on the day, and also so as not to exceed seating capacity for each workshop. This may mean that you are given your second and third preferences, or on rare occasions third and fourth preferences, because of logistical constraints. Please note, if you choose the Wildlife Sketching Workshop, you will only attend this session, as it will run over both hour sessions.

Workshop sessions:	Description:
Beach-nesting shorebird behaviours and monitoring tips	Detailed descriptions of the breeding behaviours of our beach-nesting shorebirds such as Hooded Plovers, Oystercatchers, Red-capped Plovers and the Beach Stone-curlew. Learn how to safely monitor these birds and get tips from the experts on unravelling the mysteries of these cryptic birds!
Small tern breeding behaviours and monitoring tips	An introduction to terns you will commonly see in Southern Australia, followed by an insight into how to safely recognise and monitor breeding colonies.
Sharpen your bird photography skills	Beach-nesting birds are wonderful photography subjects (except when they move), get some tips and tricks and learn how to take the best photos you can! Volunteer, David Hartney (FoHP Bass Coast) will present on the best ways to get great images!
Slow Birding Photography with Superzooms	Interested in capturing behaviours, birdsong, banding details and much more - without disturbance and following BirdLife Australia's photography guidelines? Bron Ives and Katie Pahlow (FoHP Surf Coast) will explore the world of slow birding with the longest reach of any superzoom camera on the planet - all on Lazy Bird Mode.
Effective communication on the beach	Warwick Barnes, Coastal Project Coordinator from the Department for Environment, will go through his experiences talking to people in public open spaces, and delve into situational awareness, identifying the 'red mist' and understanding the triggers of those you are talking to. There will be ample

Workshop sessions:	Description:
	opportunity to run through scenarios and the best way to educate beach users.
Sketching Wildlife	Learn how to sketch birdlife, pick up tips and tricks for what materials to use for creating the perfect piece of art. Local Anglesea artist, Ursula Shepherd will guide participants to create their own sketch over a two-hour session. If you choose this option, you will only attend this one topic that spans both workshop sessions. Limited to 15 people.
Migratory Shorebird Identification and counting tips	Ever been overwhelmed by a mixed flock of grey/brown shorebirds and wondered where to start in terms of identifying the different species and then counting such a huge flock! Well this is the workshop for you. You will receive lots of tips on key details to look out for that help you remember which species is which, and also advice on building up your knowledge so that you can feel more confident.
Wetland Bird Identification and monitoring tips	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.

## Sunday Field trips

On Sunday we are offering field trips for people interested in seeing more of the Surf Coast and Bellarine Peninsula, and the amazing birds and habitats it has to offer. Some field trips will have capped numbers. It is likely you will be able to attend your first preference of trip, but we ask you to rank your order of preference in case one trip is oversubscribed.

There is no cost to attend Sunday, however if you would like to pre-order a packed lunch, this can be purchased for \$16.50 in advance. Lunches will be given to the field trip leader to hand out. Please bring your own lunch if you haven't ordered one as there won't be an opportunity to stop to purchase lunch on the day. You should pack plenty of water for the day, bring along binoculars and a camera if you wish, and wear appropriate clothing for the weather and walking shoes. It may be wise to have a light raincoat just in case, as well as sunscreen. You will need your own vehicle to get you to each location.

Field Trip	Description
Aireys Inlet - wetlands, bushland, and beaches.	Visit a private property which has been revegetated by the community through Aireys Inlet & District Association (AIDA) and ANGAIR projects. A great example of community working to provide habitat for wildlife. We will relax at nearby Distillery Creek for a lunch amongst the Ironbarks and of course, no field trip is complete without a visit to a Hoodie site!
Point Addis & Wadawurrung Cultural Education	Visit Point Addis and Ironbark Basin, where you'll see all the local wildlife and flora, followed by followed by a Cultural Education Session by Wadawurrung Traditional Owners at Point Impossible.
Western Treatment Plant (Werribee)	The Western Treatment Plant is a haven for tens of thousands of birds, waterbirds, shorebirds – it's where birdos 'flock' to! Learn more about the birds with an expert BirdLife Australia staff member showing you the best spots to view the huge number of species that rely on the lagoons. This field trip is in Werribee, 1 hour from Anglesea.
Wadawurrung Cultural Education & Barwon Heads Bluff	Starting with a Cultural Education Session by Wadawurrung Traditional Owners at Point Impossible, you'll then visit Barwon Heads Bluff and observe shorebirds and seabirds at Bukareeyoo (Ocean Grove Spit).

## Funder Acknowledgements

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Thank you to Friends of the Hooded Plover Surf Coast for their assistance with planning the conference.

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