

# Southern Ocean Seabird Study Association Inc.

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# ALBATROSS

# DECEMBER

# 1994

No.5

Editor Lindsay E. Smith

"ALBATROSS"

Once again the winter has passed and with it have gone the Albatross for another season. The passing of winter and the coming of Spring brings a whole new a season of breeding for many local seabirds. Spring is the time that we put away our Albatross nets and move to the Five Islands Nature Reserve to work on the local seabird colonies. The Five Islands Nature Reserve is situated just off the coast here at Wollongong. This small group of islands is the breeding grounds for thousands of seabirds including, Silver Gulls (*Larus novaehollandiae*), Kelp Gull (*Larus dominicanus*), Fairy Penguin (*Eudyptula minor*), Crested Tern (*Sterna bergii*), Wedge-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus pacificus*), Short-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus tenuirostris*), Sooty Oystercatcher (*Haematopus fuliginosus*), White-faced Storm-petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*) and the Australian Pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*). Spring and Summer therefore are once again very busy periods for us here.

We realise some people are indeed very busy and may have lost their forms which had the membership fees attached. We have sent this issue to a select group of people to give you the last opportunity to join, so if you are not interested in our wildlife research then I guess we will not hear from you. As I had explained in the September newsletter, the membership fee really only covers the costs (printing & postage of the newsletter) so why not join to help us out.

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT WE NOW CURRENTLY HAVE 128 FINANCIAL MEMBERS!!!!

## What has been happening since September?

### Five Islands:

Thanks to the kind donation of a 12 foot dingy and 6 horsepower motor (Allen and Margaret Parkinson), we have been able to make several trips to the Islands. It works both ways up!. We have managed to fix up, "The Five Islands Hilton" also referred to as the "SHED"!. Unfortunately the Hilton was broken into and trashed last season by persons unknown, these persons were not content just to steal equipment valued in the excess of \$2000. They also smashed all the windows and pulled the panelling off the walls, destroyed our bunks and inflatable mattresses etc, we were devastated at the damage done and the loss of our valuable equipment. With the assistance of a local Engineering firm and help from members we have fitted steel mesh screens to the windows a steel security door and replaced the windows, hopefully these measures will ensure that the Hilton remains secure. Having completed all the necessary repairs, the "Hilton" is once again up to scratch (at least it's comfortable enough, it beats sleeping on the damp grass. What about the mossies and crawlies?. We don't have to tell them about that Harry!. Ed.

On a recent overnight trip to the island (Big Island No 1). Yet another drama unfolded. Whilst banding Penguins on the South Eastern side of the Islands, We had a king tide. Damian and Lindsay returned to the shed only to find the small boat had been washed into the water and was swamped just off shore. After retrieving it we found we had lost the top off the motor and there were a few more holes in it. After Stripping, cleaning and drying off the motor, we finally got it going again 2 hrs later and of coarse we got off the island!! **Well we did get back to write about our latest drama!!!!** This is the second time this season we have sunk boats, Previously Harry's 14ft boat was sunk when caught in a cross swell at anchor over night. ( WHO SAID WORKING ON THE ISLANDS WAS FUN!!).

Unfortunately due to a long Albatross season and having to carry out repairs to the Hilton, we were not able to start banding birds (Fairy Penguins Shearwaters & White-faced Storm Petrels), till early October. Even so, this season has so far been very productive, the Fairy Penguins were in full swing with a large number of birds breeding. Once again they appear to be doing very well indeed. The majority of pairs are fledging two chicks, with an average weight of 1200 grams, indicating that there is ample food available to foraging adults.

The Australian Pelicans are also doing well, with two colonies on Big Island No. 1 each colony has approximately 100 pairs breeding one of these colonies is far in advance of the other with some chicks about to fledge. The other colony has mainly birds with small chicks and eggs. This would indicate that breeding commenced in late July early August.

Wedge-tailed Shearwaters returned to the islands in early October to clean out burrows, re-establish pair bonds and find new mates in preparation for breeding.

Once again the Crested Terns have return to Big Island No 2 to breed at their traditional breeding site. The Terns were displaced from this site by Australian Pelicans several years ago and set up a much smaller colony (350 pairs) on Bass Island. At present there are approximately 600 pairs nesting on No. 2 Is, well down on the 2000+ pairs breeding here in the 1970's, though well up on numbers breeding on the islands in recent years.

From the Big Islands we moved to Flinders Island to concentrate on the White-faced Storm-petrels and Sooty Oyster-catchers which breed here. Our first trip to Flinders was not till October 16th, which meant breeding was well under way. Several pairs of Sooty Oystercatchers had began laying and the Storm-petrels were returning to burrows to lay, once again the 16th of October was the earliest egg date that we have recorded here at the Five Islands for both White-faced Storm-petrels and Sooty Oystercatchers. Several of the Storm-petrels caught in mist nets on the evening of October 16th were carrying eggs and presumably coming ashore to lay. Kelp Gulls (.Larus dominicanus ) were building nests and so their breeding was well under way. The first eggs being found on November 11th on Flinders Island. At present it appears that 3 pairs will nest on Flinders Is. We have not yet attempted to visit Bass Island to survey the number of pairs attempting to nest there. A brief look from a boat on December 2nd indicated that there were several pairs nesting, though we will have to go ashore to do an accurate count, (this island is dangerous to land on, so wish us luck??).

We thank those members that have assisted with work on the islands so far this season and to those who have so far missed out, please be patient as we still have a great deal of work to do and it is still early in the season.

### A Well Oiled Cormorant

Last issue we had the pelicans. Pepi is fine we have seen him a few times. The we had another Pelican "Penny" a female, she wasn't as badly affected and we removed approximately 60% of the oil off her, she had enough took off and went back to the Islands. Lindsay suspected that she may have a chick as it's breeding season and she seemed anxious to go, (she had no problem escaping). Since then we were anonymously given a Great Cormorant, commonly known as a "Shag". We did some investigating and from what we found, this bird appears to have possibly gone diving into an open oil pool (possibly thinking it was water). It was stressed when she came to us, we cleaned her up but sadly she didn't make it and died the third day.

### Wandering Albatross, (Harry recoveries from Antipodes Is)

We have been notified of two Wandering Albatrosses recovered from Antipodes Island in 1994 by Jacinda Amey and Gus McAlister of NZDOC.

140 26315, banded by H.Battam off Malabar on 18/10/1969 recovered on Antipodes Is. 2/3/1994  
 140 51013, banded by L.E.Smith off Bellambi on 12/9/1993 recovered on Antipodes Is. 14/3/1994  
 This is the total history that we have for this pair. There are quite a number of wanderers like 14026315, just paid us one visit and have only been encountered since in breeding colonies.

### TRANSMITTERS:

**Transmitter deployed**                      A Wandering Albatross carrying a satellite transmitter (P.T.T.) was released at 11:18 AEST on 9 Sept 1994.

The Wandering Albatross is believed to be an old female of the race *Diomedea e.gibsoni* from the Auckland Islands south of New Zealand. The bird was captured and the transmitter deployed from the "Sandra K" at Lat: 34 29 77 S Long: 151 16 70 E. The Albatross has been named "**HARRY**" in honour of our MIGHTY group leader Harry Battam.

We have received word back from Durno Murray of the La Trobe Albatross Study (Satellite Tracking), that "**Harry**" was indeed well behaved, the Transmitter remaining in place and functioning till the battery power was exhausted. The success of this deployment has given us an insight to the movements of one of the New Zealand races of the Wandering Albatross (*Diomedea e gibsoni*) during the non breeding period, (her year off). The other race of the Wandering Albatross to originate from New Zealand is *D.e. antipodensis* which breeds on the Antipodes and Campbell Is. The Wandering Albatross as many of you will be aware is a bi-annual breeding species, due to the long breeding cycle these birds are only able to raise one chick every two years. After breeding the birds return to sea for another year to moult and regain condition before once again returning to breed. We are awaiting for the results of this deployment and consequent tracks to be published by the La Trobe Group, to see just where **Harry** went after her visit to Wollongong!! We will keep you informed as the results come to hand. Hopefully this track will tie in well with the tracking done from the breeding grounds (Auckland Islands) during the breeding season. This tracking was done by the La Trobe Group with the assistance of the New Zealand Department of Conservation.

### From Harry                                      Cuttlebone Study

We intended to be fully operational by now but identification and field guide problems, meant that we had to pause and solve a couple of problems. Our apologies, especially mine, for the delay after having fired everyone up.

1. For some bones we cannot identify the species, and variability has confused us somewhat.
2. Preparation of a field guide has presented some problems:

Colour at this stage is too expensive but colour is a primary key to the identification of some species.

Lindsay Smith produced some black and white drawings, and we then had trouble finding a photo copier that could reproduce the shadings.

### What we plan to do is:

- Supply a copy of Lindsay's drawing in black and white plus a description for those species for which we have good specimens.
- Have everyone send us a sample of the different species that they find. We will identify these, send them back and this will build up a reference set for everyone.
- For unidentifiable species, we will supply an interim name. As species are identified we will make a global change to all of the data and field guides.

There is still a lot of basic knowledge to be acquired for cuttlefish and this is going to make life a little difficult, and no doubt we will between us fill in some knowledge gaps. We have found some significant intraspecific differences in bones, possibly a difference in sexes (sexual dimorphism), but this will need confirmation. We expect geographic variation (clines) in species with broad distributions.

We have given Dr. Lu such a hard time that he is heading overseas for six months. He may come back in June 1995 if we are kind to him. Until then we will either have to solve our own problems or save them up for his return. Perhaps we can do a bit of both. We are just waiting for some bones to be returned from Lu and then will be in touch with all cuttlefish people very soon after, and definitely before Xmas.

To all. Have a great Christmas and New Year Harry

### Lindsay's bit

The Cuttlefish project is progressing nicely, with many things happening. We have been very fortunate indeed, in that we have finally tracked down underwater film taken by Geoff Costello, a local diver who shares our fascination of these amazing animals. Geoff's film is **Spectacular** to say the very least. Those of us that have been lucky enough to view it have been totally amazed by these fascinating animals. This film has given us a great insight into the breeding behaviour of the Giant Cuttlefish (*Sepia apama*), the worlds largest Cuttlefish. We can finally see beyond the bones!!!!. Our interest has sparked Geoff into searching out and filming the other six species of Cuttlefish that occur locally. We thank Geoff for his enthusiasm and look forward to viewing the results.

**AFMA** Australian Fisheries Management Authority  
ECTUNAMAC (East Coast Tuna Management Advisory Committee)  
Meeting October 27-28 1994. Held in Ulladulla NSW.

Lindsay and Janice attended this meeting on behalf of SOSSA. Guest speakers at this meeting included Nigel Brothers (Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service) and Karen Weaver, ANCA (Australian Nature Conservation Agency).

ECTUNAMAC Chairman, Mr David Bateman said that the commercial fishing industry was aware of environmental issues which could effect fishing operations and was keen to prove that the industry in general and Tuna operators in particular, used marine resources in a responsible way. "If the commercial fishing industry and conservationists take a collaborative approach to environmental issues and communicate openly, any potential problems regarding environmental interaction can be overcome".

Mr Bateman said, "Fisherman do not deliberately catch seabirds as every bait that a bird takes is one less bait with the potential to catch a fish".

Nigel Brothers said ." If industry follow a few a simple steps when setting the longline, the incidence of birds removing baits can be substantially reduced".

Karen Weaver, explained the **Endangered Species Act** to ECTUNAMAC members.

The next ECTUNAMAC meeting is to held in February 1995 in St. Helens, Tasmania.

**Raffle Results:** Drawn: 26th November 94 at Committee Meeting.  
The prizes have been presented to the following people.

**RAFFLE - was drawn by Leanne Maher**

**1st Prize Tasco Binoculars 8x30**

**won by - ticket No. - Red - 7 Jenny Gibson - ABC Melbourne**

**2nd Prize Parrot & Cockatoo Book by Neville Cayley**

**won by - ticket No. -Red - 26 Paul from NRMA -Wollongong**

**3rd Prize Family pass to Taronga Park Zoo**

**won by - ticket No. Black -17- J. Boness - Jamberoo**

....."CONGRATULATIONS"

**Support from Sponsors & Outstanding Donations**

**Thank you to these people, it helps pay the bills!!!**

**ENZED The Hose Doctor**

**\$300-00** Thank you to Dave and the Boys for your support.

**BETTY DUDLEY**

**\$100-00**

**WOLLONGONG GENERAL ENGINEERING ( W.G.E. )**

**Tom Follino Gallo**

**\$100-00** (Tom saw the Albatross story on A Current Affair while in Hanoi, the story certainly got some coverage.

**UNITED HYDRAULICS SERVICES** **\$100-00** in addition to this donation United Hydraulic Services have allowed us to use their workshop facilities to manufacture artificial nest boxes for White-faced Storm petrel Project. (More about that later).

**Thanks again to Janet Gibson, Paul & Shane (the team from A Current Affair Sydney), they did a great job with the production of the Albatross story). Janet has promised to give us a copy of the film taken, which we are excited about. Thank you Janet.**

This issue of the "ALBATROSS" As You Might Have Noticed Has A Blue Cover!!!!

The blue paper has kindly been supplied by **Marie Costa**. This lady has paid for it out of her own pocket. I hope she told her Husband????, anyway, thank you Marie for you generosity. We really do appreciate any donations no matter how large or small. (I'm sure you would all agree large is better).



**Grant Young** from **GEO** the (**Australasian Magazine**), has been busy arranging the Albatross story which should be in the April issue of GEO, (**So look for it**). **The article is written by Terence R. Lindsey**. (Not sure who's photo's they have chosen for the story yet, possibly some taken by our own SOSSA member, **John Maher**. We will just have to wait and see.

### "Fish Project"

The local council have shown interest in our fish project and some of the council members will be coming to look at our display and to discuss the conditions of the local creeks and waterways. The council has contracted the Australian Museum to conduct a fauna and flora survey of an area of land to be developed for housing. The Museum in turn has approached us to supply information on fish and frogs within this area. This will be the first survey of it's type to include native fish populations and distribution. Hopefully this is a step in the right direction and other local councils will follow the example

## THE WOLLONGONG BOAT TRIP REPORT - MAY 1994

### BIRDS RECORDED

We strongly advise that you take sea-sickness pills and you bring your own refreshments.

See you there.

Phil Hansbro.

**NOTE:** These records have not been vetted or accepted at this point in time.

### SEPTEMBER:

A private charter **09/09/94**, (Lindsay, Janice Carl, A Current Affair crew) on the Sandra K, saw a Light-mantled Sooty Albatross which constitutes the third record for Wollongong, they also saw several.

White-headed Petrels, Shy Albatross 15+ Wandering Albatross 3 (including 1 juvenile) and a Solander's Petrel.

On the **25/09/94** The regular pelagic trip produced Wandering Albatross 5 (sub-species Gibsonii an antipodensis) Black-browed Albatross 50, Yellow-nosed Albatross 30, Shy Albatross 25, Southern Giant Petrel 1, Cape Petrel 20, White-chinned Petrel 1 (about the 10th record for Wollongong), White-headed Petrel 1, Solander's Petrel 1, Great-winged Petrel 5, White-faced Storm Petrel 2, Grey-backed Storm petrels 2 (3rd & 4th records for Wollongong), Fairy Prion 5, Hutton's Shearwater 2, Fluttering Shearwater 20+, Wedge-tailed Shearwater 2500+, Short-tailed Shearwater 600, Kelp Gull 5, Silver Gull 250, Crested tern 25+, White-fronted tern 4, Australasian Gannet.10+, Australian Pelican 6.

#### **OCTOBER:**

On the **05/10/95** a Red-necked Phalarope was reported, which constitutes the first Wollongong record.

On the **06/10/94** a Light-mantled Sooted Albatross was found beach-washed on North Stradbroke Island and another was seen off the North Californian Coast.

On the **07/10/94** Carl Loves (Skipper of Sandra "K") saw Black-browed Albatross and Southern Giant Petrel.

On the **16/10/94** we (Phil Hansbro & P.J. Milburn) saw a Pied Cormorant at the Five Islands and close by on the ocean a Southern Giant Petrel.

On the **21/10/94** the pelagic trip produced Wandering Albatross 1 (sub-species exulans), Black-browed Albatross 3 (1 adult 2 immature), Yellow-nosed Albatross 1 (juvenile), Shy Albatross 1 (immature), Cape Petrel 1, White-headed Petrel 1, Solander's Petrel 20+, Great-winged Petrel 50+, White-faced Storm Petrel 1, Wilson's Storm Petrel 3, Hutton's Shearwater 2, Fluttering Shearwater 20+, Wedge-tailed Shearwater 300+, Short-tailed Shearwater 300+, Sooty Shearwater 10, Little Shearwater 1 (6th Wollongong record), Pomarine Jaeger 3, Arctic Jaeger 3, Kelp Gull 5, Silver Gull 250+, Crested Tern 50+, White-fronted Tern 3, Australasian Gannet 10+, Australian Pelican 6, Pied Cormorant 1.

On the **29/10.94** another pelagic trip went out from Wollongong and they saw Black-browed Albatross 3, White-headed Petrel 1, Solander's Petrel 10, Great-winged petrel 30, White-faced Storm Petrel 3, Wilson's Storm Petrel 15, Black-bellied Storm Petrel 1 (2nd Wollongong record), Hutton's Shearwater 2, Fluttering Shearwater 20+, Wedge-tailed Shearwater 200+, Short-tailed Shearwater 100+, Sooty Shearwater 1, Fleshy-footed Shearwater 4, Streaked Shearwater 1 (10th Wollongong record), Pomarine Jaeger 14, Arctic Jaeger 5, Southern Skua 1, Kelp Gull 5, Silver Gull 200+, Crested Tern 30+, Common Tern 1, Australasian Gannet 2, Australian Pelican 3, in addition Marine mammals, 3 Sperm Whales, 1 Risso's Dolphin and 4 Common Dolphins.

**NOTE:** There were many beach-wrecked Short-tailed Shearwaters towards the end of the month.

#### **NOVEMBER:**

On the 17/11/94 A private charter off Wollongong found a **Black Petrel** amongst many Great-winged Petrels, one of which was caught and banded (G.W.P). This bird was most probably of New Zealand origin,

Once again the sighting of a Black Petrel (*Procellaria Parkinsoni*) in November must indicate that this species is a regular visitor to the South East coast of Australia .As the total world population is estimated at approximately 4000 individuals, they will always remain a rare visitor.

**Note :** This species is most regularly recorded in the company of Fleshy footed Shearwaters or Great-winged Petrels, being of similar size and shape, I am of the opinion that this species is often overlooked by observers. Ed.

On the **27/11/94** pelagic trip went out from Wollongong and produced Little Penguin 10, Black-browed Albatross 2 (2 & 3 year olds), Great-winged petrel 50+, Wilson's Storm Petrel 2, Fluttering Shearwater 2, Wedge-tailed Shearwater ??, Short-tailed Shearwater 150, Sooty Shearwater 10, Fleshy-footed Shearwater 75, Pomarine Jaeger ???, Arctic Jaeger ???, Kelp Gull 8, Silver Gull 200+, Crested Tern 20+, Australasian Gannet, Australian Pelican 3, Great Cormorant in addition Marine mammals, 10 Sperm Whales, 2 Risso's Dolphin and 2 Common Dolphins 2 Bottle-nosed Dolphins.

#### **Boat Trip Information or Bookings:**

Phil Hansbro. (S.O.S.S.A)  
2/20 Sexton Street  
COOK. CANBERRA. ACT. 2614  
AUSTRALIA

#### **Contact Numbers:**

Phone: 06- 249 2850 - Work  
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Fax: 06- 249 0313 - Work

## **MARINE HABITAT REPORT - Tony Ashby**

The program to widen the scope of the information available for inclusion on the West Tasman sea habitat information sheet is proceeding slowly. Information has become available by way of the NSW Fisheries Ocean Rescue 2000 Report, prepared by Ornesto Ortiz of the Habitat Management Unit. This report covers amongst many topics the Continental Shelf Landscape (CSS) off the coast of NSW between latitudes 28° 11' S and 37° 30' S.

In the definition of bio-regions the report discusses the East Australian current (EAC), which has been mentioned in detail in previous SOSSA habitat reports. Also the report discusses coastal trapped waves (CTW)s, that are generated in the Tasman Sea and travel North at speeds of 4 metres per second. (CTW)s which can produce North and South flowing currents are at times associated with coastal up-wellings in the CSS. A study of some meso scale fish assemblages and meso scale invertebrate assemblages show that there are northerly and southerly assemblages with the division occurring at approximately 34° S, which is the average position of the departure of the Tasman Front. It will be a project in the future to see if this division at 34° S is applicable to seabirds.

## **BRISBANE BOAT TRIP REPORT -**

Leader: - Paul Wallbridge

A Brisbane pelagic boat trip on November 6th produced a White-bellied storm petrel and 2 Tahiti petrels. Unfortunately we have not received any other information on what else they recorded. We would be most pleased if they could supply a list of species and numbers recorded, all sightings are important, not only rarities. Ed.

## **Carls Bit**

Enjoyed his surprise birthday party but not sure that we did !!! He kept us up **all night**. (But that's our Carl, he likes to party, party, party!!). Lindsay did the worlds famous Peter Prince trick and gave Carl a bottle of GLENMORANGIE whisky, and they got stuck in, there was no stopping them!!!!. They tell me Carl likes a drink !!! (only if its not water)

## **Whales (cetaceans fish birds etc). Boat trips other than seabird trips.**

Carl at P.O.Box 148 Fairy Meadow N.S.W. 2519 or Mobile Ph: -018-423555

With the Sandra "K", once again the Whales have been with us, **Hump-backed whales** were moving through in small pods generally 2-3 animals. In general they appeared somewhat later than last season.

**Sperm whales** have been feeding in good numbers (up to 10 animals in the pods) over the continental shelf in water depths of over 400 Fathoms. These animals have been in this area about 50 kms off the coast since early October.

Other species of Whales and Dolphins seen in recent months include **False killer whales, Risso's Dolphin, Bottle-nosed Dolphin and Common Dolphins**.

In addition to Cetaceans there have been a number of recent sightings of Seals (mainly New Zealand Fur seals). So for those of you out there who are interested in Cetaceans this is a good time of the year to join us on one of our "**Whale Watching Cruises**".

The fishing has been quite good also, with Yellowfin Tuna, Albacore, Mako and Blue Sharks have been caught in recent weeks. (**We support the TAG and Release program**).

## **VISITORS TO THE SOSSA HILTON**

*(The visitor machine has been in overload) - (that's Janice!!).*

**MIKE deGRUY** & Peck the cameraman, also known as (FILM CREW), Mike is a well known film maker from California USA, specialising in underwater photography. He has made some outstanding films including one (**SHARKS ON THEIR BEST BEHAVIOUR**), which was recently shown on local television. Mike has also worked on the production of several BBC Wildlife specials including the spectacular series "**LIFE IN THE FREEZER**" recently shown on the ABC. Mike and his crew were here to film a sequence on the Blue-ringed Octopus and the Giant Cuttlefish for a new documentary on SQUID (cephalopods). This film hopefully will be seen mid 95???, so watch out for it. We have

seen the boys hard at work and they are indeed professionals, a what's more they are nice guys!. There is also a five week program on the ABC Thursday nights at 8.pm here called Sea Treck, Mike deGruy is the host on this series, perhaps you have seen it??????.

**JOHN SPARKS (BBC)**, John is the Executive Producer for the BBC, Natural History Unit the very unit that gives us an insight into the natural world, with such gems as Life On Earth, The Living Planet, Life In The Freezer to name a few that come to mind.

It was a great pleasure to spend a couple of days with John, Mike and Peck. We went out on the "Sandra K" in search of the elusive Giant Cuttlefish for the day. Many thanks once again to Carl and Matt for help in our quest. (John got very sun burnt but had a great time). Unfortunately we were unsuccessful in our endeavours, despite the efforts of those " **Denizens of the Deep** ". For a few days prior the FILM CREW's arrival, Michael Jarman and Marcus Stowar, (SOSSA divers), searched the coast from Wollongong to Jervis Bay, although they did find a number of smaller Cuttlefish in their travels the Giant cuttlefish unfortunately are not here at this time of the year, (we did tell them that before they left USA), so, **THE MONSTER CUTTLEFISH** remains at large.

Thank you Michael and Marcus for your much valued assistance and enthusiasm. There's always next time! Ed.

**TERENCE R LINDSEY (GEO field consultant)**. Made his presence felt for a couple of days. He did enjoy a few drinks to wash down the cuisine. Terry kindly donated a modem for the computer and what's more he installed it into the box of buttons. (What a clever lad). His parting words were, ("I'll be back!!!!"). That's what they all say, but they do come back and we love it!!!!.

Terry has agreed to help with the illustrations for our proposed Field Guide to cuttlefish. He has taken all of our "TYPE SPECIMENS" intending to get started on the illustrations ASAP!!. We are all looking forward to the results of his endeavours.

**From the Editor:**

**CORELLA** - Editor: Durno Murray has brought to our attention that the Seabird issue of Corella may come to and end. This would be a great loss. Please if you would like to see this publication continue!!!! **Please write to the President of Australian Bird Study Association Inc. P.O. Box. A-313, Sydney South. NSW. 2000** and voice your support for this valuable contribution to the seabird literature.

### **An interesting beach wash recovery**

Rita and George Watkins, EYRE BIRD OBSERVATORY. On November 1st 1994, Rita and George collected a beach washed Yellow-nosed Albatross. From their description the bird was a juvenile of the race *Diomedea chlororhynchus bassi*. This species nests in the South Indian Ocean at various sites including Amsterdam Is (37,000 pairs) Prince Edward Is. (7,000 pairs) Crozet Is (4,430 pairs) Kerguelen Is (50 pairs). Chicks of the Yellow-nosed Albatross usually fledge in May, which would indicate that the bird that Rita and George recovered was about 6 months old. (Based on descriptions of known age birds). Ed. It is also interesting to note that in August and September 1994, we trapped and banded several juvenile Yellow-nosed Albatross off the coast here at Wollongong, these birds were also recently fledged most probably from the same season. As little is known of the post breeding dispersal of these birds, both fledglings and adults. It is important to record all sightings and / or recoveries.

Thank you Rita and George for the information. (specimen found in W.A to be sent to the West Australian Museum) Ed.

### **Please note**

**Should you find anything unusual or see anything of interest, please let us know so we can share it with our members. Thank you, Ed.**



INTERESTED IN SOSSA ?      These items are BY ORDER ONLY

Artwork colours similar to logo on envelopes.

HATS + postage and handling. The hats are dark blue and come in 2 styles:

CORDUROY - Peak At Front      \$15.00 + P&H \$2.00 Aus.\$ =      \$ 17.00

CANVAS - Full Brim      \$18.00 + P&H \$2.00 Aus. \$ =      \$ 20.00

BADGES: Embroidered      \$ 6.50 + P&H \$0.50 Aus.\$ =      \$ 7.00

This is artwork, not as finished product.

THIS ISSUES FUNNY



"Oh, wait, Doreen — don't sit there. ... That chair's just not safe"

**\*\*\*NOTICE\*\*\***

**SPECIAL MEETING**

Will Be Convened On **Saturday 22nd January 1995** at: 7.30 pm.

Venue is: 10 Jenkins St., Unanderra NSW.

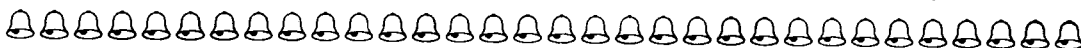
The purpose of the Special Meeting is discuss changes to the constitution for the purpose of tax deductibility for donations to SOSSA.

**NO OTHER MATTERS OR BUSINESS WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THIS MEETING.**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Saturday 18th June 1995**

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS & A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR  
TO ALL MEMBERS**

**FROM THE STAFF**



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\*\*\*\*\*..

\*\*Current status on last years wish list\*\*

## - NSWASG - WISH LIST

- 1- Photocopier (still waiting)
2. facsimile machine (still waiting)
3. cellular phone.
4. new boat complete with motors  
(In need of one that's 14ft and fast)
5. laser printer (still waiting)
6. lap top computer (still waiting)
7. spring balances for weighing
8. new video camera
9. money.

(Contrary to peoples belief. We are a self funded group and do not receive any Government Grants).

"WISHING WELL", (maybe we should install one?????).

Maybe we could convert the ponds in the our back yard into wishing wells??. Lindsay has extended the ponds and we have 4 ponds now not just one. (this means not much back yard left. The good news is not much lawn to mow ☺)

**YOUR NEXT NEWSLETTER SHOULD BE OUT MID APRIL ?**

**TILL NEXT TIME KEEP WELL & BE HAPPY**