

# Southern Oceans Seabird Study Association Inc.

" Wildlife Research "

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# ALBATROSS

# MARCH

# 1995

No. 6

Editor: Lindsay E. Smith

## " ALBATROSS "

A whatsa big happininngk since December? (that's Uncle Bert talk, he's a sponsor with the supply of electrical supplies for the Fish & Frog study!).

### FIVE ISLANDS REPORT - WOLLONGONG

After an initial good start to the season on the Five Islands, things soon started to deteriorate not only did we have a few problems with the boats and trailers etc, we also had a terrible run of sea conditions making trips to the Islands very difficult. Unfortunately when conditions were safe enough to make the crossing, we were short on volunteers, in all it was a very poor season for us. Although it was a great disappointment to us, we are well used to the problems of working on Islands. This is not the first time that we have had a bad season, it will no doubt not be the last time either. There has been one success to mention. John Maher the photographer came across to Big Is No 2 and managed to get some nice photos of the Crested Terns nesting, while Lindsay managed to get some Hi8 video of them. It was a short trip as it came up rough, they had to get off the Island. It was a case of either leave now!! or stay for a week. Such is the nature of working off-shore, you are always at the mercy of the weather. We will simply have to try again next season and hope that we can have a better go at it.

**SOME SAD NEWS:** Dr Gerard (Jerry) Frederick van Tets

4 Tasman Place Lyons. ACT. 2606, **passed away 14th January 1995.** We would like to offer our condolences to the family & friends.

### **Wandering Albatross,**

#### **TRANSMITTERS:**

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

We are disappointed, that as yet we have received no information, from the La Trobe Group on the results of tracking this bird. Six months after the initial deployment of the transmitter. Other than that it was successful, the transmitter remaining in place until the battery power was exhausted. It would appear that there is a problem with some of the data received. We will once again follow this up and keep you informed as the information comes to hand.

**From Harry**

**SOSSA**

SOSSA was formed to promote, coordinate and implement seabird and seabird environment research and conservation. By its nature it relies on the resources of a group amateurs, who pool their talents, skills and to a certain extent material possessions, but these are limited and research even at our humble level is a resource sink resembling a bottomless pit. An organisation such as SOSSA needs to attract resources from external sources, or to put it more frankly, to relieve people of money and time by persuading them that the work of SOSSA is a worthy cause. The problem these days is that the plunder of natural resources and the direct and indirect deleterious side effects are on such a large scale that worthy causes now are very numerous and I suspect are increasing at an ever increasing rate. Research funding availability unfortunately grows very slowly, particularly that from government sources, and this is more and more being directed to research that has economically significant results.

With a few exceptions seabirds generally have little economic value, and it was interesting to read a comment by a fish biologist in a recent paper, who noted that seabird research was many years behind fish research, and it was only in recent times that seabird research was comparable. Perhaps we should eat more seabirds!

This leads us to frogs and fish. This research is a bit remote from seabirds, but is of strategic value to SOSSA. Apart from making a significant contribution to the knowledge of freshwater fish and frogs in the Illawarra district of NSW, it has lifted our profile, expanded our network, provided an opportunity to demonstrate some research capability, and improved our chances of attracting funds. Frogs have also a great capacity for stopping development and preventing massive disturbance in estuaries. Its just a matter of finding an endangered species in the right place, and as frog species are disappearing at an alarming rate, the endangered species list grows apace. More shall be heard about frogs and fishes.

### **Lindsay's bit**

In recent weeks, (late February to mid March), we have had several recoveries of Australasian Gannets. All have been juveniles. Some of these recovered birds have been banded with New Zealand bands, which would indicate that they were banded at one of the New Zealand breeding colonies. As yet we have had no feed back on these recoveries, so at this stage we are not able to determine from which colony they have come. Though from the number of banded birds recovered, it would appear that the majority of juvenile birds observed off the South East coast of NSW at this time of year, are of New Zealand origin.

## **MARINE HABITAT REPORT - March 1995 Tony Ashby**

South East Queensland / Northern NSW Floods

The runoff from recent heavy rains (12-19 February) in SE Queensland and Northern NSW have resulted in large discharges of virtually fresh water into the marine environment. Undoubtedly significant quantities maybe in the order of 50 Gigalitres of flood water would have joined the East Australian Current (EAC). These waters would contain large amounts of fine sediment plus various pollutants.

The Northern NSW rivers which are characterised by sugar cane production are prone to produce early flood waters with elevated acid levels. It is likely that part of these waters would have been discharged out to sea to join the south flowing current. Chris Brandis of the Wollongong Seabird Group has pointed that the acid will be depleted by reaction with calcium carbonate in the ocean and eventually disappear. But in such large quantities of fresh water and drawing a correlation with the life span of warm core eddies, I believe it would take some weeks for this to occur.

The East Coast Current flows at a velocity of 2-4 klms/hr and so it could be expected that these waters will arrive off Wollongong somewhere between the 23rd February and the 7th March assuming they are not diverted into the Tasman Front. Fortunately a Wollongong Seabird Group trip occurred on the 25th February just into the period. The report from the trip was that there were very few birds except around two fishing trawlers that were encountered at the edge of the continental shelf. Water samples were taken by Chris Brandis and the pH was determined with the following results.

Near Shore	6.4
Shelf Break	6.5

No conclusion has come from this project but Chris and I are thinking about setting up a procedure for testing pH in both Wollongong and Brisbane, any input would be appreciated.

## **CORAL SEA WATERS**

On the January 1995 Brisbane Seabird Group trip the East Coast current was very much in evidence. The current was analogous to a braided river system extending over a width of some 15 Klms with the westerly edge approximately 10 Klms offshore. It was found that virtually all birds encountered were flying legs of the current and once we passed by and went further out to sea there were very few birds observed. The waters were rich in suspended biological matter presumably due to events occurring on or near the Barrier Reefs to the north.

SE QUEENSLANDS-NORTHERN NSW

REPORT JANUARY-MARCH 1995 - Tony Ashby

## **BRISBANE BOAT TRIP REPORT**

Leader: - Paul Wallbridge

The Brisbane trip on the 28th of January travelled some 43 Klms up to sea in pleasant conditions with slight seas and light winds. The oceanic conditions were characterised by strong warm water currents flowing to the S-E SE.

Most of the bird observations were made in the region of the current, there being virtually no birds further out to sea.

The following observations were made:

Wedge-tailed Shearwater	51	Crested Tern	5
Flesh-footed Shearwater	70	White-tailed Tropicbird	1
Short-tailed Shearwater	1	Tahiti Petrel	1

Two birds presumed to be Cookilaria were observed about 10 Klms offshore. A number of Arctic Jaegers were seen in Moreton Bay.

The March 18th trip was again sailed in pleasant conditions with the NW wind strengthening to about 15 Knots in the afternoon. The East Coast currents was not as evident on this trip, but large string of floating organic matter were encountered. The bird numbers were dominated by WT-Shearwaters and Fleshy-foot Shearwaters. It was observed that generally they were flying in a southerly direction.

The following observations were made:

Wedge-tailed Shearwater	92	Pomarine Jaeger	1
Flesh-footed Shearwater	26	Crested Tern	9
Tahiti Petrel	3	Silver Gull	1
Arctic Jaeger	1	Common Noddy	1

A number of Arctic Jaegers, plus a Fluttering Shearwater were seen in Moreton Bay.

#### NORTHERN NSW HEADLANDS

The following observations were made on Northern NSW Headlands during March.

##### MARCH 12TH

Cape Byron	Brown Booby, Australasian Gannet, Wedge-tailed Shearwater, Flesh-footed Shearwater, Crested Tern.
Ballina Seawall	Common Noddy.

##### MARCH 16TH

Fingal Headland	Little Tern, Wedge-tailed Shearwater, Crested Tern, Common Tern, Silver Gull.
Kingscliff Seawall	Wedge-tailed Shearwater 300+, Crested Tern 100+, Common Tern 20+.

### THE WOLLONGONG BOAT TRIP REPORT

26TH FEBRUARY 1995

A fairly quiet trip with no more than ~300 birds. The sea had a 1 Metre swell there was a 10-15 Knot NE winds blowing. We didn't see Great-winged Petrels until close to the turn back point, which would suggest that we didn't get far enough out for real pelagic birds. Brown Noddy was the highlight, which was the second Wollongong Record. A single Buller's Shearwater was also a highlight.

#### BIRDS RECORDED

Little Penguin 2 (One on the shelf gave me a bit of a shock), Great-winged Petrel 20+, BULLER'S SHEARWATER 1, Flesh-footed Shearwater 50, Wedge-tailed Shearwater 200+, Short-tailed Shearwater 10, Fluttering Shearwater 2, Australian Pelican 3, Little Pied Cormorant 1, Kelp Gull 3, Silver Gull 10, Arctic Jaeger 10+, Pomarine Jaeger 20+, Long tailed Jaeger 3+ (at least 2 adults and a first summer), Common Tern 10+, Crested Tern 3, Common Noddy 1, Common Dolphins 3.

The Pelagic Trips go out on the **fourth Sunday** (not the last) of the month from either Wollongong or Sydney. The cost is Wollongong \$50.00 and departs from Wollongong Harbour next to the Coast Guard Station at 7.00 am returning between 4.30 to 5.30 pm.

Sydney trips are \$65.00 and departs 6.00 am, from the Rose Bay wharf in Sydney Harbour. A deposit is required to ensure your booking, a deposit of 50% of the cost is required for large groups.

### THE SYDNEY PELAGIC SEABIRD TRIP REPORT

11TH FEBRUARY 1995

"WHAT A TRIP"

We departed 6.00 am and returned 3.00 pm. With a 1M swell & 10 knot wind, we reached 27 nautical miles East of Sydney. We had 8 species of really good birds and a total of 22 species. However, as we only managed to get out 27 miles we didn't get any really pelagic rarities.

Hopefully we will get out further next time. Though the vessel is only chartered up to 30 miles. Now we have a problem with a choice of two boats, each with their own advantages and disadvantages, which I will discuss in a separate message.

#### BIRDS RECORDED

Great-winged petrel 20+, WHITE-NECKED PETREL 1, STREAKED SHEARWATER 1, BULLER'S SHEARWATER 1, Wedge-tailed Shearwater 1500+, Flesh-footed Shearwater 300+, Short-tailed Shearwater 50+, Sooty Shearwater 1, Fluttering Shearwater 5+, Australasian Gannet 5+, Great Cormorant 2, Little Pied Cormorant 1, SOUTH POLAR SKUA 1, Pomarine Jaeger 30+, Arctic  
Continued next page,

Jaeger 5+, LONG TAILED JAEGER 3+ (2 adults, 1 juvenile/ first winter), Silver Gull 10+, Crested Tern 3, Common Tern 3, SOOTY TERN 6+, BROWN NODDY 2, GREY TERNLET (a new bird for me).

We strongly recommend that you take sea-sickness pills the night before if you need them, bring binoculars food & drink in that order. Contact numbers below for bookings.

See you there.

Phil Hansbro.

### Boat Trip Information or Bookings:

Phil Hansbro. (SOSSA)  
56 David Street  
TURNER. CANBERRA. ACT. 2601  
AUSTRALIA

### Contact Numbers:

Phone: 06- 249 2850 - Work  
International: +616-06- 249 3091 - Work  
Private: 06- 249 8234  
Fax: 06- 249 4891- Work

E-mail: hansbro@rsbs-CENTRAL. ANU. EDU. AU

## THE PORTLAND PELAGIC SEABIRD TRIP REPORT

11TH DECEMBER 1994. Mike Carter

I will apologise to Mike before I start his findings. I have had to cut it down and unfortunately is very hard to read, but I'll do my best.

Weather, Fine and sunny with little cloud cover, Winds calm to slight, Sea conditions slight swell from the East. Departure 06:15 Hrs. Return 15:35 Hrs

### BIRDS RECORDED

Wandering Albatross 2, Black-browed 50, Yellow-nosed Albatross 30, Shy Albatross 260 (mainly pelagic & juvenile), Great-winged Petrel 250 (both races, the race Gould & Mask were abundant), Whited headed Petrel 2 (pelagic), White chinned Petrel 1, Black Petrel 1 (with FFS), Fleshy-foot Shearwater 200, Short-tailed Shearwater 70, Grey-backed Storm Petrel 1, Australasian Gannet 5000 pairs, Arctic Jaeger 1, Sliver Gull 100, Crested Tern 2, Sooty Shearwater 1, Little Penguin 2 on 3 Lawrence Rocks, Black-faced Shag 50, Mammals: Bottle-nosed Dolphins 100+, Sperm Whales 2, Seals few (sp?),

\*\*The sighting of the Black Petrel (*Procellaria parkinsoni*) is of great interest. It is interesting to note that this bird was observed in the company of Fleshy-footed Shearwaters as is usually the case when this species is recorded off Wollongong.

**NOTE:** Observers should be aware that most sightings of the Black Petrel *Procellaria parkinsoni* refer to birds seen in company of Fleshy-footed Shearwaters or Great-winged Petrels. The Black Petrel is similar in size and colour to these preceding species and therefore easily overlooked. Ed.

## THE PORTLAND PELAGIC SEABIRD TRIP REPORT

29TH JANUARY 1995. Mike Carter

Weather - fine, mild, sea - smooth & glossy with a fair swell, winds - calm to light (no direction indicated). Depart 06.40 DST. Returned 16.45.

An exceptional boat trip, with 28 species recorded for the day, including some outstanding rarities. A good day for the Twitchers amongst us. Ed.

### BIRDS RECORDED

Little Penguin 9, Black-browed 6, Grey-headed Albatross 1, Yellow-nosed Albatross 8, Shy Albatross 8, Northern Giant Petrel 2, Great-winged Petrel 100, Whited headed Petrel 6, Soft-plumage Petrel 1, White chinned Petrel 1, Fleshy-foot Shearwater 3, Buller's Shearwater 1, Sooty Shearwater 1, Short-tailed Shearwater 45, Fluttering Shearwater 1 Hutton's Shearwater 2, Wilson's Storm Petrel 3, White-faced Storm Petrel 50, Common Diving Petrel 2, Australasian Gannet 8000, Arctic Jaeger 5, Pomarine Jaeger 2, Long-tailed Jaeger 10, Silver Gull 22, Pacific Gull 2, Crested Tern 7, Black-faced Shag 50, Great Cormorant 1.

**\*\*NOTE:** Brett Jarrett reports Cape Gannets, 7 birds present on Wednesday 28th January forming a discrete separate colony, 3 pairs - 2 courting but no eggs, but with nests, (In Mike Carter's notes from boat trip).

### Carls Bit

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

Carl at P.O. Box 148 Fairy Meadow NSW. 2519 or Mobile Ph: -018-42355

An interesting observation of Albatross behaviour. Matt and Carl report that on one recent occasion whilst Game Fishing off Wollongong, a Yellow-nosed Albatross became caught in one of the Shark lines, set with a balloon. While caught in the line, the Albatross was attacked by a Mako Shark. The attack was unsuccessful, with the albatross biting the Shark on the nose, the Shark quickly retreated and the Albatross freed it's self of the line, making good it's escape.

## "Fish and Frog Project"

The Fish and Frog project has been progressing well. SOSSA ( Freshwater Fish and Frog Study Group ) has completed a preliminary report on the distribution of freshwater Fishes, Frogs and some reptiles in the West Dapto region (Illawarra). The report has been accepted by the Australian Museum on behalf of the

Wollongong City Council and included in the fauna and flora survey of the proposed development of the West Dapto area for housing. Wollongong City Council is attempting to minimise the impact of development on the Fauna and Flora of the region by collecting Baseline Data of the occurrence and distribution of the indigenous wildlife of the area, and setting aside areas considered of importance to the conservation of this Fauna and Flora. Copies of this report are available from SOSSA HQ @ \$5:00 ea.

The release of this of this report was covered by local Television Station WIN 4. This media coverage was done by journalist Peter Andrea. Clem Rhoden represented the Town Planning Environmental Department of Wollongong City Council at the press release. Peter and Clem have since joined SOSSA and have now become active participants in the Freshwater Fish and Frog Study.

Indeed Peter was present when fellow froggers John Maher, Janice Jenkin-Smith and myself discovered the rare and endangered Giant Burrowing Frog, (*Heleioporus australiacus*), in the Illawarra Region. This discovery created a great deal of excitement and was followed up with the discovery of a very gravid Female. These were photographed, measured and released back into the wild. Peter was once again able to organise a press release on local Television WIN 4. Jacquie Recsei of The Frog and Tadpole Study confirmed the identity of the Giant Burrowing Frog. She was so excited by the find, that she drove down from North Hornsby to discuss it and view the photographs and slides. Not so surprising went away with a lot more questions to ask and ponder.

\*\*\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\*\*\*

### FROGS LEAP INTO THE HISTORY BOOKS

by

Lindsay E. Smith & Janice G. Jenkin-Smith. 13th March 1995

A wonderful discovery for the Illawarra! Not just one but two rare frogs of the same species, put the Illawarra on the map in the frogs world. The Giant Burrowing frogs (*Heleioporus australiacus*) are on the **schedule 12** listing which comes under the **rare, threatened and endangered** category, were found on the Illawarra escarpment.

Cont,

Naturalist Lindsay Smith his wife Janice Jenkin-Smith had the ideal conditions for frogging. After heavy rain the frogs are out and about. With other interested naturalists of their organisation (SOSSA), Southern Oceans Study Association Inc, Peter Andrea and John Maher, they took off on a field trip searching for different species of frogs as part of an ongoing study of native freshwater fishes and frogs for the Illawarra.

The telephone has been in overtime since their discovery, with the amazement of firstly finding not one but two Giant Burrowing frogs. A male sitting in the middle of the road was the first sighting. Peter Andrea leaped out of the vehicle to retrieve this large frog for Lindsay to identify. Lindsay said "Is it green?". When Peter replied "NO, it's brown" the excitement filled the air we had found a large male Giant Burrowing Frog, (Janice named him Arnie), she said "his forearms are like Arnold Swarzenegger", with that Janice said "I don't know how Mr Swarzenegger would feel about having a frog named after him". John Maher a local photographer had the chance to photograph this frog for reference books. The mobile phone went into action, WIN TV came up to do a story. Sydney experts confirmed that the nearest sighting was at Dark's Forrest nearly 20 years ago in 1976. Experts from Sydney even came to Wollongong to verify the find and to enjoy the extensive collection of slides and photographs taken of the frogs.

Feeling that the field trip was a major success the group continued on certainly not expecting another find, when 50 meters further on, the unbelievable happened the second Burrowing frog. A gravid female full of eggs and ready to lay. The females forearms being only half the thickness of Arnie's forearms, (Janice named her Bess, Janice said, "everything deserves to have a name". Cameras flashing and phones ringing. Unfortunately the exact location of this discovery can not be revealed to the public for the protection of the species. Both the Male and Female were weighed, measured, photographed and released. Keep in mind when your driving on wet roads if you see a big brown frog it is **NOT** necessarily a cane toad. We don't have cane toads here in the Illawarra, so try not to drive over any FROGS.

The organisation SOSSA "Wildlife Research" has recently submitted a report on the distribution of Freshwater Fishes, Frogs and some Reptiles, for the Australian Museum in Sydney. The Museum have been contracted by the Wollongong City Council to undertake a Flora and Fauna study of the West-Dapto development area. No, the Burrowing Frogs are not in this area.

## THIS ISSUES FUNNY

### FROGGERS ARE BOGGERS

3rd January 1995

Conditions were perfect for frogging, the rain had been steady for a couple of days so at 8.30 pm we set out to go frogging / bogging in a big way. With Peter Andrea (WIN TV), Marty the cameraman, John Maher, Lindsay & Janice. WE GOT STUCK!!! on the wet greasy road, but the main thing was we had fun. Wet, dirty and we didn't get any frogs. We had to leave the (fish truck there stuck in the mud). Lindsay calls it the fish truck, because we take it for collecting the native fish and it always seems to be wet and dirty inside. A valiant effort was put in by all the boys attempting to get it out of the ditch. Peter Andrea made a good point. As much as you get disappointed that people dump rubbish at these off road sites, it was to our advantage under these particular circumstances as we were able to use the rubbish to pack under the wheels. We got into the job and got wetter & dirtier. Peter had white jeans on, there is not much hope they will ever look the same again. Marty mostly stood and looked amazed at the predicament, (but Marty did get 5 hours overtime and the Boss was not impressed).

John went back home to collect his 4 wheel drive to try to tow the truck out. After many hours and more mud, rain and excess scratches on his new vehicle John took us all home. We all piled into the 4x4 along with us huge amounts of muddddddd and then some. The once black carpets in this vehicle are now a nice shade of beige. Midnight we arrived home and proceeded to drown our sorrows with some alcoholic assistance.

We bravely went back the next day to the site to retrieve the fish truck, (half expecting it to be stripped of the radio and extras), but no, it was exactly as we left it. (STILL STUCK OVER THE EMBANKMENT). We were relieved that we went up the track when we did, as we had only just started digging dirt away from the wheels and two suspicious dooods came along the track. At that point we felt we might have only had part of a vehicle left if we had left it any later, (if you know what I mean). The chaps were very interested as to our reasons for being on the track. When Lindsay said we were looking for frogs, the fellows looked at each other and obviously didn't believe us.

Three hours later with lots of muscle and perspiration we were successful thanks to United Hydraulics lending us their block and tackle. Johns 4x4 had even more mud and scratches. We then chugged home.

John's wife was not happy with the state of their valuable 4x4. Lindsay and John spent the rest of the day cleaning up the vehicle. The good news is it sparkles now and John's wife just might forgive him/us?. We think he's the greatest!!!! and a smart thinker too. As well as being a great wildlife photographer!!!! (have I grovelled enough yet????).

GUESS WHAT ?? WE DIDN'T TELL JOHN'S WIFE (LEANNE),  
We are going back tonight!!!!  
(I do perform marriages but, NO, I don't do divorces).

### **A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:**

#### **Two Anonymous poems came in the mail.**

##### **No. 1**

There was a lady named Janice  
had a husband a "terrible menace"  
went searching for frogs, got stuck in a bog,  
should have stuck to the safe game of tennis.

##### **No. 2**

While driving one day in the car, searching for frogs quite afar,  
just looking for frogs, got stuck in the bog,  
do you know just by chance who they are?

### **VISITORS TO THE SOSSA HILTON**

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

\*\* 20th February we had a birdo gentleman from the UK here for a week. Digby Munns, so as usual, things were busy. Including the traditional Aussie Barbecue and finding birds for his tick list. We took Digby to see some Glossy Black Cockatoos and I (Janice) trying to do the right thing thought I would make things easier by reversing the vehicle up the track a few hundred metres, yes you guessed it. STUCK in a large pool of water on the track. It wasn't too difficult to get out, I thought it was pretty clever as the boys didn't see the birds and guess where they were????, right above the car waiting for us to leave so they could have a drink at the pool. 5 Glossy Black cockatoos that were too close to focus the binoculars on. Ha!! (I thought that it was meant to happen), as we would have had to drive for another three hours to a another site to try to find them.

\*\*25-26th February Rod Norden joined us from California. Both of these guys will spread the word of SOSSA, Rod arranges the pelagic trips off California. Thanks guys it was a pleasure to meet you and yes we know you'll be back!!!!.



**\*\*TERENCE R LINDSEY (GEO field consultant).** Made his presence felt for a couple of days when on January 30th Terry Lindsey bought down his illustrations of cuttlefish partly completed, he must be getting close????, our interested cuttlefish people are getting old waiting for their descriptions!!!!!!, we can only apologise??, coming soon!!

### **THE PRINCE IS COMING!!!!**

Peter Prince has phoned us from the UK to give us his itinerary for his visit to Australia with his family. Pete is coming to see us here at SOSSA HQ for some time, we expect to see him about the 16th of August, before heading off with us down to the First World Albatross Conference, to be held in Hobart Tasmania from 28th August to 1st September 95.. We are looking forward to catching up with him and his family, though a bit apprehensive about the hang-overs??? and the lack of sleep. While he's here we will have him out working, catching Alby's!!!!

### **Support from Sponsors & Outstanding Donations**

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

Hendry & Jones Engineering P/L, from **Kevin Jones, \$600-00.**

A **\$500-00** donated for air fares to train Cliff & crew in Melbourne to catch and band Albatrosses for SOSSA. This donation made it possible for Harry to fly to Melbourne, though this kind man wishes not to named. Thank you, you know how much we appreciate your kind and generous support.

**EMU TOURS** Donation of **\$200-00.** Richard Jordan & Christine Wilder are the people who run these tours and have been spreading the work of SOSSA to their clients and have been asking for donations. They have done this on their own insinuitive, contacted us and said we have \$200.00 cheque for you. Well, what a nice surprise!!!!

Those of you who may be interested in joining Richard and Christine on one of the many EMU TOURS, you can contact them for more information on:

Ph 042-360 452 or in writing to EMU TOURS. P.O. Box 4. Jamberoo. NSW. 2533.

This issue of the "ALBATROSS" Has A Blue Cover again!!!!. The blue paper has kindly been supplied by **Marie Costa**, again!! ☺. **Thank you once again Marie!**

### **GEO - BIRD FILMS**

Grant Young has kindly given us 4 video's on birds to use for our talks. The new videos are Kakadu -World of Waterbirds, Grassfinches of Australia, Kingfishers of Australia & Pigeons of Australia the Bronzewings. Thank you Grant they will be of great help. Grant has informed that GEO Productions now have 482 species of Australian birds on film. For those interested in purchasing the videos, they are available from:

**GEO Productions Pty Ltd. Telephone 02-411-1766 or Fax 02-413-2689 or by writing to: GEO Productions. P.O. Box 1390, Chatswood, NSW. 2057. Australia.**

Also the Albatross story will be in the next issue of GEO, so go out and get the April edition.

### **HATS BY ORDER ONLY** + postage and handling.

The hats are dark blue and come in 2 styles: reading: SOSSA "Wildlife Research".

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:** Embroided \$ 6.50 + P&H \$0.50 Aus. \$ = \$ 7.00

**MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE 1ST JULY 95 (Green Form).** With your 95-96 memberships you will receive a free **SOSSA badge**. If you want extras the prices are above. Thank you for your support.

**NEXT NEWSLETTER**

Hopefully will be out late June to early July.  
Till then Keep Well & Be Happy.

If you have something to add to the newsletter, then please post or fax it. Better still on disk using Word for Windows (I will return your disk), this would save Janice lots of typing. ☺

**SOSSA NOW HAS 162 MEMBERS AS AT 25TH MARCH 95.**

**ENCLOSED**

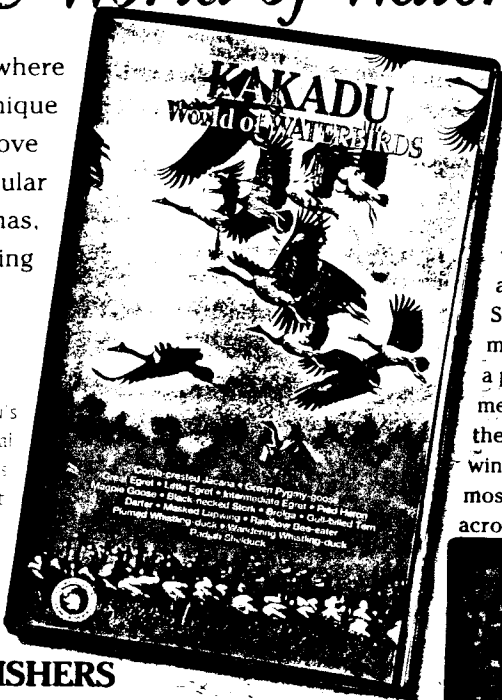
95-95 MEMBERSHIP FROM - (The green one).  
AGM - NOMINATION FORM + PROXY FORM

# KAKADU *World of Waterbirds*

**K**AKADU is famous everywhere as one of the world's unique wilderness areas, notable above all for its unique and spectacular waterfowl. Here, egrets, jacanas, jabirus, magpie geese, whistling ducks and a host of others throng the tropical wetlands of Australia's Top End.

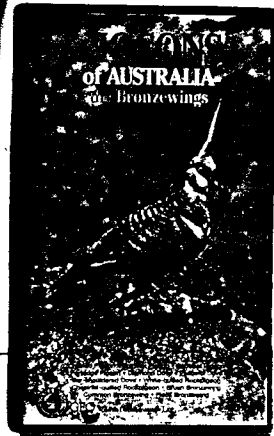
More than a dozen of Kakadu's waterbirds are featured in this visual exploration of one of Australia's greatest and most important national parks.

DURATION  
52 MINS



Crested Jacana • Green Pygmy goose  
Great Egret • Little Egret • Australian Egret • Pied Heron  
Magpie Goose • Black-necked Stork • Black • Gull-billed Tern  
Plumed Whistling Duck • Whistling Duck-eater  
Palm-noddy • Whistling Duck • Whistling Duck

**PIGEONS**  
**A**USTRALIA'S 24 species of pigeons are conveniently divided into two groups: the bronzewings, and all the rest. So called because most species have a patch of colourful, metallic plumage on the inner wing, bronzewings are among the most common of birds across Australia.



This film features all 12 species of Australian bronzewings, from the crested pigeon to the extraordinary rock-pigeons of Arnhem Land and the Kimberley. It includes spectacular footage of massed flock bronzewings coming to drink at a desert waterhole.  
DURATION: 28 MINS

## KINGFISHERS

**K**INGFISHERS are a worldwide group of feathered jewels, active and brightly coloured. Despite their family name, only a few species actually live along streams and eat fish: most live in woodland and live mainly on small reptiles.



This film features all of Australia's 10 kingfisher species, from the familiar kookaburra to the rare yellow-billed kingfisher, confined to the remote rainforests of Cape York Peninsula.  
DURATION: 28 MINS

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