

# BIRD CARE AND CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC SA

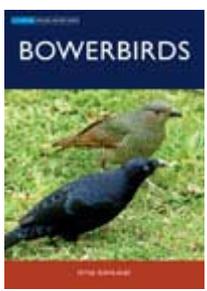
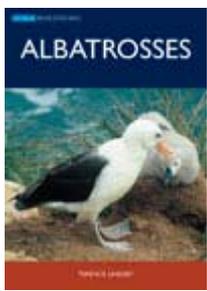
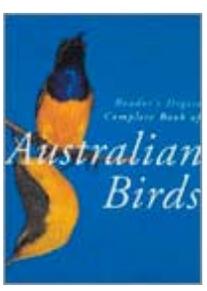
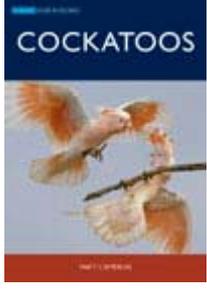
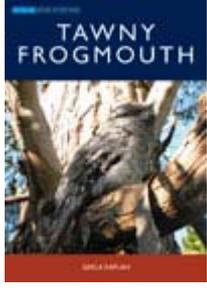
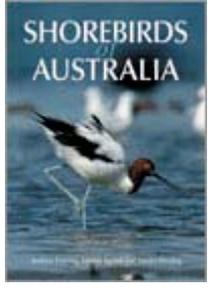
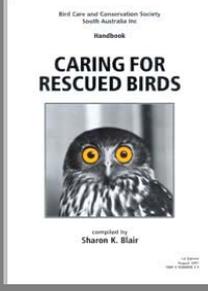
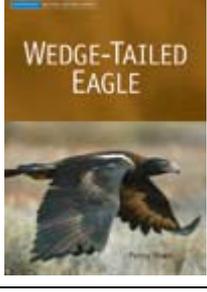
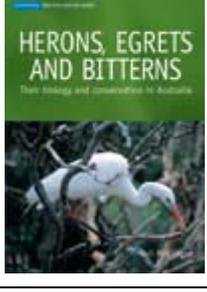
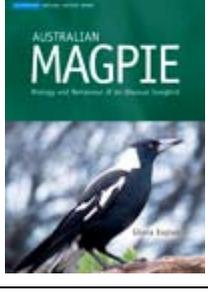
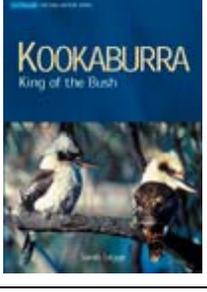
# MAGAZINE

Website: [www.birdcare.asn.au](http://www.birdcare.asn.au) ..... Email: [bccs@birdcare.asn.au](mailto:bccs@birdcare.asn.au)

C/- Conservation Centre  
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ABN 353 538 655 41

Vol. 28 No. 179 ..... ISSN 0818-8890 ..... February 2008

		← CSIRO publishing - coming in 2008		← Readers Digest reprinted 2007
			← CSIRO publishing 2007  BCCS → 2001	
				← CSIRO publishing 2004-2005
<a href="http://www.publish.csiro.au/index.cfm">http://www.publish.csiro.au/index.cfm</a>				

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**Contents**

**Regular features**

Office Bearers  
Bulletin Board

**Articles**

- Notice of AGM
- BCCS Membership
- Crèche Grants, Wombarro Bird Food Products, Veterinary Supplies
- Baby Cereal
- Conservation Centre New Address
- DEH Rescue Permits
- Book Review - Cockatoos
- Book Review - Tawny Frogmouth
- A Happy Magpie Story
- The World of Giant Petrels

BCCS book, T-shirt and cap



**Bulletin Board**

**BCCS AGM 2008**

*Sunday 16th March 2008 2pm  
Lot 19 Upper Sturt Road, Upper Sturt  
(see inside Magazine for details)*

*Committee nomination form enclosed*

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**BCCS Membership**

*Membership form enclosed*

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**Digital BCCS Magazine by Email**

*To receive the BCCS Magazine pdf file instead of  
hardcopy, email [bccs@birdcare.asn.au](mailto:bccs@birdcare.asn.au)  
with the above subject heading*

## Notice of AGM

We have not published a magazine for a while but there are times when we have to issue letters to members to keep them up to date with the latest news and to meet our constitutional and statutory obligations as an incorporated association. Our Annual General Meeting is one such occasion so we decided to notify members of the AGM with a magazine.

This year we are going to conduct our AGM at the home of Anne and Greg Whicker, at Lot 19 Upper Sturt Road, Upper Sturt, at **2.00pm on Sunday 16th March 2008.**

From the metropolitan area follow Upper Sturt Road that goes past the main entrance to Belair National Park, for a further 3 to 4 kms, uphill all the way along the southern edge of the park, and you'll see the name "Whicker" boldly written on the front gate on your right.

The property is 300 metres past Footts Hill Road and 150 metres before Olave Hill Road and opposite Gate 21 of Belair National Park (Kaloola Track entrance). If you prefer to look at bus-stops, it's between bus-stops 30 and 30A. When you see bus stop 30A you've gone 50 metres too far.

If you get lost, ring Anne on the Bird Care Advice mobile phone 0409 984 910

At the AGM, we need to elect the new committee to look after the Society for the next 12 months

Enclosed in this mailout are

- **committee nomination form and**
- **annual membership renewal form.**

The current committee members are willing to stand for another year but new nominations to join the BCCS committee are always encouraged. Being a committee member is not hard work. The committee meets every second month on the third Sunday of the month, from 10am to 12pm at the home of Greg and Anne Whicker. If you are interested in nominating and would like to discuss your nomination or want more information, please contact one of the current committee members. Nominations need to be with the BCCS Secretary by Sunday 24th February 2008 (ie 21 days before the AGM).

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## BCCS Membership

If you would like to continue to support the efforts of the Bird Care & Conservation Society, please complete the enclosed membership form and forward your subscription fee to the BCCS Secretary, Bob Hall, 6 Danae Street, Dover Gardens SA 5048

Subscriptions are

family \$30	concession \$15
single \$20	concession \$10

If there is an error in your address label on this mailout, please phone Pam on 8390 3254 to have it corrected. Also if you have an email address please forward it to Pam at [bccs@birdcare.asn.au](mailto:bccs@birdcare.asn.au) for inclusion in our database. Please put "Notification of email address" in the Subject heading of your email.

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## Crèche Grants, Wombarro Bird Food Products, Veterinary Supplies

If you are caring for releasable rescued birds and need help with food or veterinary expenses please contact a committee member as BCCS occasionally receives donations from members, people who bring birds to carers and the Animal Welfare League and there are some funds available to assist.

Although Ian Hough has closed his veterinary practice, bulk Wombaroo products are still available from Kathy Hough at Lower Mitcham by phoning Kathy on 8277 7045.

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## Baby Cereal

BCCS still orders the 10 kgm bags of baby cereal each year for BCCS members, other rescue groups and wildlife carers. This is usually done late in the year and the cereal arrives sometime in January or February when Read Industries are able to fill our order. This years order has arrived and been distributed already.

Read Industries no longer makes the high protein baby cereal as Heinz no longer sells it, but they supply us with similar products called Original Mix (rice flour, yellow maize flour, soy flour and vitamins) and Multigrain with Banana (banana puree/concentrate, rice flour, yellow maize flour, soy flour, pear juice, and vitamins. This year they have also added

a few bags of rice cereal to make up the numbers ordered.

If you are not a regular buyer of bulk baby cereal and would like to order some, please phone Pam on 8390 3254 to be notified when the next order is being prepared.

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### Conservation Centre New Address

The Conservation Centre In Wakefield Street, where we have conducted meetings for more than 20 years, has been sold, so that venue is no longer available to us. The new (rented) Conservation Centre is on Level 1 at 157 Franklin Street Adelaide, where there is no wheelchair access, and very little space.

We will maintain our close connection with the Conservation Council and hope to make it our home base again when they either build or buy new premises in about 3 years.

Their phone and fax numbers remain the same.

Phone: (08) 8223 5155

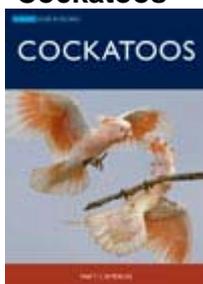
Fax: (08) 8232 4782

As there is no room for the Bird Care storage cabinet at the Franklin Street premises, it will be moved from the old CCSA building to the BCCS Treasurer's house at Upper Sturt for the time being.

Along with the Conservation Council's change of address, ours too must change. Mail sent to Level 1, 157 Franklin Street Adelaide 5000 will still find us, but for convenience we ask that all Bird Care correspondence be sent to the secretary's home address - 6 Danae Street, Dover Gardens, SA 5048

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### Book Review - Cockatoos



The latest CSIRO book in their Australian Natural History Series is *Cockatoos* by Matt Cameron, published in December 2007 (ISBN: 9780643092327). The CSIRO generously

supply BCCS with a review copy of their publications about Australian birds.

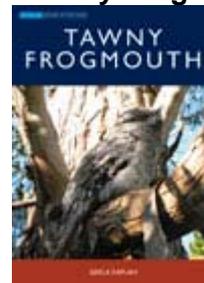
Cockatoos are large, intelligent and attractive birds. Of the 21 recognised species, 14 occur in Australia, with three of these also found in New Guinea. Seven species are distributed across the islands of south-east Asia. While many species are common or abundant, an increasing number face extinction due to habitat loss, the illegal bird trade and global warming.

Extensively illustrated, *Cockatoos* looks at the ecology and conservation of these iconic birds, including their evolution, distribution, movements, feeding and reproduction. It examines the pest status of cockatoos, the impact of the illegal bird trade and the role played by aviculturists in cockatoo conservation programs.

*Cockatoos* is paperback, 200 pages, colour photographs and is available from CSIRO publishing for \$39.95 plus postage.

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### Book Review - Tawny Frogmouth



Another in the CSIRO Australian Natural History Series is *Tawny Frogmouth* published in August 2007 (ISBN: 9780643092396).

The tawny frogmouth is both intriguing and endearing. In this new book, well-known author Gisela Kaplan presents us with an easy-to-read account of these unique nocturnal birds of the Australian bush.

This detailed account of life, behaviour and biology of tawny frogmouths is based on the most comprehensive single study ever conducted on tawny frogmouths, including wild and hand-raised birds. It combines ten years of systematic observation with published research to take us across a surprising range of characteristics and special features of this unusual bird. This book also notes insights derived from specific regional bird fauna surveys across Australia.

We are shown this captivating Australian species in completely new and even unexpected ways. We learn that tawny frogmouths are very affectionate, have close bonds with lifelong partners, scream like prowling tomcats when distressed, fight with lightning speed and defend nest sites from reptilian predators by mobbing and spraying pungent faeces at these dangerous opponents. Uncompromising male fights are contrasted with a touching gentleness of males as fathers.

We also learn how resilient and unusual tawny frogmouths are in the way they cope with heat and cold, sit out danger, do without drinking for most of their lives, and can use a large variety of food items.

The developmental stages of nestlings and juveniles are illustrated with a number of stunning visual images accompanying the text, most of which have never before been described or seen.

Tawny Frogmouth is paperback, 168 pages, colour photographs and is available from CSIRO publishing for \$39.95 plus postage.

<http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/18/bcid/10.htm>

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PO Box 1139  
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Victoria 3066

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### **DEH Rescue Permits**

In November 2007, DEH Fauna Permits Unit wrote to all rescue groups in SA regarding the rescue of non endemic or escaped captive animals eg Eclectus Parrot. Rescue permits are only issued to protected sick injured or orphaned native animals taken from the wild.

All non endemic or escaped captive animals found must be surrendered to the Fauna Permits Unit at 1 Richmond Road Keswick. A rescue permit will not be issued for these species. The Fauna Permit Unit will do a search of their Lost/Stolen database "in an attempt to relocate all misplaced animals that have been reported".

Further information can be obtained from Sonya Nichols and Rose-Marie Bredl on 8124 4803

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### **A Happy Magpie Story**

We have a family of Magpies who have nested in one of our trees in the front garden of our home. The parents raised two babies. I watched them for weeks as they grew into quite big birds but still being fed by mum.

Occasionally I'd put out feed so they would stay around the area with their young. One morning I noticed one of the young birds had a piece of cord caught around its leg and foot. There was nothing much I could do to help as it would fly off as soon as I got close.

Several days later I heard it calling from our neighbours huge gum tree so I investigated. As I thought what would happen eventually did happen the cord became entangled with the tree branches trapping the young bird. I watched for a little while just to make sure it was really caught. Mum was still feeding it so I decided to see if someone might be able to help. Our local Fire Brigade has helped me in the past putting up nesting boxes at our local school, so I rang them and so the saga began-----

The Fire Brigade arrived but the bird was far too high up on a small limb therefore out of reach of their ladder. They suggested I ring ETSA, which I did, however because power wires were not involved they weren't able to help.

I rang Sheila who suggested asking the local Police to come and destroy the bird to save it a slow and painful death. The Police arrived but on seeing mum feeding her "baby" they suggested not only was it up very high, they were unable to get a clear shot at the bird and I should contact the SES. The SES arrived with their small cherry picker, which was able to get down the narrow driveway, so the rescue began.

The cherry picker although fully extended wasn't high enough so they used their long motorised pruning saw after throwing a rope over the branch to bring it closer to the operator to cut. On cutting the limb off the men below caught it as it fell before it hit the ground. The string around the bird's leg was

cut from the branch and the bird handed to me. I carried the bird home and cut off the cord, which was well and truly entangled around the leg and claw. No damage had been done so with a little cut up chicken I took it and the bird out the front to reunite with mum. Believe it or not mum was out there waiting!! I threw down the food and released the baby bird which promptly went over to the food and told mum to "come over and feed" me which she did.

I still have the family come in each morning for a little extra food. Quite often they sing to announce they are waiting. The healthy baby is self-sufficient but the other has a slightly crooked leg and still demands to be fed although it can feed itself. Funnily dad is quite happy for this to happen but won't allow mum to feed the other one.

I wrote a letter of thanks to all those involved in the rescue enclosing a photo of mother and baby so they could see the end result. A lot of work for one little bird but I feel it was worth it.

Wendy Bagot

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### **The World of Giant Petrels**

Welcome to my new love - giant petrels. These magnificent seabirds with their 2.5 metre wing span, huge tube-nosed bill and placid nature have won my heart.

There are two species of giant petrel - the Northern and the Southern. Both species live and breed side by side in Antarctic waters, without, amazingly, ever interbreeding.

Eggs (usually only one) are laid around October, hatch in December and the young birds fledge in March. After leaving the nesting areas these juveniles scatter over a wide area, spending some years wandering the southern coasts, even as far north as Wollongong. These juveniles will not breed until they are about five years of age and will then return to the breeding colonies. To differentiate between the juvenile Northern and Southern Giant Petrel is to observe the colour tip of the bill. In the Southern it is a greenish tip and in the Northern it is a pinkish tip. These petrels are scavengers and besides fish and squid, will also gorge on offal

and tear into a rotting carcass of a dead whale or seal.

### **Giant Petrels In Care**

There is much misinformation regarding the care, rehabilitation and release of giant petrels. These birds CAN be released successfully and NO they don't need wind (although preferable) and NO they don't need to be released far out to sea.

Two major reasons giant petrels come into our care are:-

1. Wound infections due to fishing hooks, particularly large fishing hooks that catch in the gullet preventing them from eating adequately. All of our petrels are scanned with our very sophisticated (and very expensive!) metal detector. If an internal hook is suspected, X-rays are done ASAP. Certain hook locations could mean euthanasia of the bird.
2. Exhausted, underweight and unable to take off from the water. This may be due to underweight fledging, unable to cope or storms at sea that contribute to exhaustion.

### **Ellie's Story**

Ellie was found "beached" at Port Elliot late evening in May. Ellie was gavaged immediately with a Spark Electrovet and Sea Tabs concoction to combat dehydration. These birds are generally quite placid but great respect is recommended for the huge bill.

Ellie was alive and kicking the next morning and pilchards were offered which she ate with relish. Ellie's weight was recorded at 2.5 kgs. (Normal weight 3.5 kgs - 4 kgs female, 4 kgs - 4.5 kgs male). She was then transferred to the Seabird Rehabilitation Centre on Hindmarsh Island. Like all seabirds, giant petrels need special requirements - large areas (remember huge wing span), shadecloth walls, soft sandy floors and a huge pond for exercising and preening.

Salt balance is an essential consideration in these species. It is imperative to keep the salt glands of these giant petrels activated. Therefore Ellie was given salt supplement with her fish intake.



Whilst in care, Ellie also devoured 10 penguins (fox kill on Granite Island) and one large fur seal. Ellie's weight two weeks later was 3.6 kgs - almost release weight. In addition to Ellie's exercise in her rehab pond in the enclosure, she was taken twice a week to a large saltwater swimming pool, courtesy of a very accommodating lady. Ellie adored these sessions and so did we!



It was time for Ellie to go. She was frisky, being a bit of a madam and in prime condition. One thing was missing - wind. For the last few weeks the weather has been still, cold and sunny with no wind predicted soon. Wind is only preferable to release the bird so that it's flight can be observed. Invariably the bird will fly back to the water for extra preening and readjustment.

Ellie was successfully released in June - after 24 days in captivity.

Ellie was released in a quiet bay by the Bluff at Encounter Bay. She was taken in her transport cage and placed at the water's edge. The door was opened. Ellie sat and sat, contemplating her familiar surroundings.



She eventually pattered out and into the water. The seagulls and Pacific gulls signalled her presence. Ellie bobbed about on the water, came out, went back in again and finally started swimming out to sea. As we watched her slowly swim away from us, we were alarmed to see the seagulls and Pacific gulls attacking. On inspection with the binoculars she had in fact caught herself a fish and was unwilling to share it with others. We observed Ellie in flight a few times skimming over the water's surface, until finally she was lost from view.

Our hearts went with Ellie that day as we watched this magnificent creature return to her harsh but natural environment.



Rena Robinson  
Wildlife Welfare Organisation and member of BCCS.

Special thanks to Marg Healy, Director of the Penguin Centre. Phillip Island, Victoria.



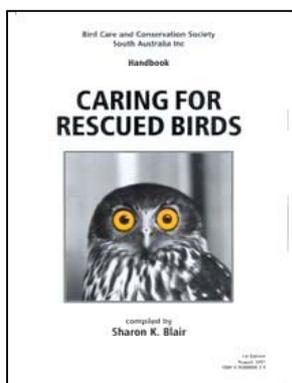
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Print Post Publication PP 531725/00016

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Bird Care & Conservation Society Magazine  
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Level 1, 157 Franklin Street  
Adelaide SA 5000



\$15  
BCCS members \$10

**BCCS Book, T-shirt and Cap**

The following items are available from Bird Care



T-shirt - (only L and XL remaining) \$15



BCCS Cap - 1 size fits all \$12

These items can be ordered from Pam ph 8390 3254 or from the Bird Care website at <http://www.birdcare.asn.au>