

**September
Volume 3**

**The Hay Plain
And Kalyarr National Park**

Hay



Bird List – Riverina

1. Emu
2. Australian Pelican
3. Little Pied Cormorant
4. Great Cormorant
5. Little Black Cormorant
6. Australasian Grebe
7. Black Swan
8. Pacific Black Duck
9. Grey Teal
10. Pink-eared Duck
11. Australian Wood Duck
12. Freckled Duck
13. Black-tailed Native Hen
14. Spotless Crake
15. Dusky Moorhen
16. Eurasian Coot
17. White-necked Heron
18. White-faced Heron
19. Great Egret
20. Little Egret
21. Cattle Egret
22. Nankeen Night Heron
23. Australian White Ibis
24. Straw-necked Ibis
25. Royal Spoonbill
26. Yellow-billed Spoonbill
27. Latham's Snipe
28. Masked Lapwing
29. Black-winged Stilt
30. Whiskered Tern
31. Black-shouldered Kite
32. Black Kite
33. Whistling Kite
34. White-bellied Sea Eagle
35. Wedge-tailed Eagle
36. Collared Sparrowhawk
37. Spotted Harrier
38. Australian Hobby
39. Brown Falcon
40. Australasian Kestrel
41. Rock Dove (e)
42. Peaceful Dove
43. Crested Pigeon
44. Galah
45. Little Corella
46. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
47. Rainbow Lorikeet
48. Superb Parrot
49. Cockatiel
50. Yellow Rosella
51. Eastern Rosella
52. Australian Ringneck
53. Red-rumped Parrot
54. Blue Bonnet
55. Fan-tailed Cuckoo
56. Barn Owl
57. Laughing Kookaburra
58. Sacred Kingfisher
59. Brown Treecreeper
60. Superb Fairywren
61. Variegated Fairywren
62. Striated Pardalote
63. Yellow-rumped Thornbill
64. Southern Whiteface
65. Red Wattlebird
66. Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
67. Little Friarbird
68. Noisy Miner
69. Yellow-throated Miner
70. Singing Honeyeater
71. White-plumed Honeyeater
72. Grey Shrike-thrush
73. Rufous Whistler
74. Grey Fantail
75. Willie Wagtail
76. Magpie-lark
77. Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
78. White-winged Triller
79. Black-faced Woodswallow
80. Grey Butcherbird
81. Pied Butcherbird
82. Australian Magpie
83. Australian Raven
84. Little Raven
85. White-winged Chough
86. Apostlebird
87. Welcome Swallow
88. Tree Martin

- 89. Fairy Martin
- 90. Australian Pipit
- 91. Singing Bushlark
- 92. Australian Reed-warbler
- 93. House Sparrow (e)

- 94. Double-barred Finch
- 95. Silvereye
- 96. Common Blackbird (e)
- 97. Common Starling (e)



Monday 19th September 2022

I explained on Facebook to those who wanted to know where we camped that we didn't camp. The river is over the top, right through the box country and even into the saltbush country. But because we are going to various parts of Kalyarr and because we are also lifting the profile of the park, we were staying in Hay itself. It halves travel time too. It also fits into my desire to bring economic benefits to local communities. Our accommodation, our petrol supplies, our food purchases, etc all contribute to that economic wellbeing but sometimes local people need to make the connection so today we set aside the morning to look at the town itself. Of course, it was an excuse to let locals know we were here because of Kalyarr; that our presence in the town and our expenditure of money was because of their national park. We are, after all, ambassadors for national parks. In any case, Hay drips with history¹. There is the POW camp and the Dunera Boys² to start with.

¹ <https://www.visithay.com.au/explore/type/towns-and-surrounds/>

² On 10 July 1940 2,542 internees embarked from Liverpool on the 12,615-ton Hired Military Transport (HMT) Dunera. Although most of the passengers were German or Austrian Jewish refugees, they were treated as prisoners. Also on board were nearly 500 German and Italian prisoners of war or Nazi sympathisers, some of whom were survivors from the transport ship Arandora Star, which was torpedoed by a German U-boat on 2 July, just hours after departing Liverpool.

HMT Dunera became known as the 'hell ship'. Before the ship had even left port, the internees were subjected to brutal treatment and humiliation by their poorly trained British military guards. Henry recalled being pushed around by the guards, who stole the internees' precious possessions and dumped their luggage overboard. Two days into the nightmare voyage, Dunera sustained minor damage after it was struck by a German torpedo in the Irish Sea.

Dunera was dangerously overcrowded and the internees were kept in quarters below deck, with limited access to fresh air or daylight. Conditions were unhygienic, with the putrid stench of vomit, urine and unwashed bodies. The internees suffered from poor rations, inadequate medical care and regular beatings from the British guards. Henry remembered that they were restricted to about 10 minutes of exercise per day, supervised by armed guards carrying bayonets. On one occasion, the guards forced the internees to run over broken glass in bare feet.

.....After their arrival in Sydney's Darling Harbour, the remaining 1,984 Dunera internees travelled by train to the Riverina town of Hay, in southwestern New South Wales... In Hay, the internees were assigned to two of the town's three 1,000-man camps, which were surrounded by triple barbed wire. The camps had 36 wooden huts that could each accommodate 28 men. The Hay camp quickly developed into a model of organised society, with internees governing their own affairs through a parliament comprising elected hut leaders. Every man had a job to do; Henry was the boiler man, responsible for boiling the hot water used for showers and dishwashing.

The internees fostered a lively intellectual and cultural life through lectures, newspapers and a music and theatre group. One of their shows was titled Hay Days are Happy Days, in reference to an ironic song written about the austere conditions and extreme heat in Hay. In May 1941, the internees were transferred to the more temperate climate of Tatura in northern Victoria, following a visit by Major Julian Layton of the British Home Office to arrange for their repatriation.

After the Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, Major Layton persuaded the Australian government to permit internees to join an employment company of the Australian Military Forces to contribute to the war effort. Around 900 Dunera boys chose to remain in Australia.

Ref: <https://www.sea.museum/2020/09/06/behind-barbed-wire-remembering-the-dunera-boys>



The museum to the Dunera Boys and other POWs sits in two railway carriages behind the Hay Railway station.



Hay railway station is a heritage-listed railway station and the terminus of the partly-closed Hay railway line and is worth its own visit. The property was added to the New South Wales State Heritage Register on 2 April 1999³.

But a walk along the main street is worth tired feet!

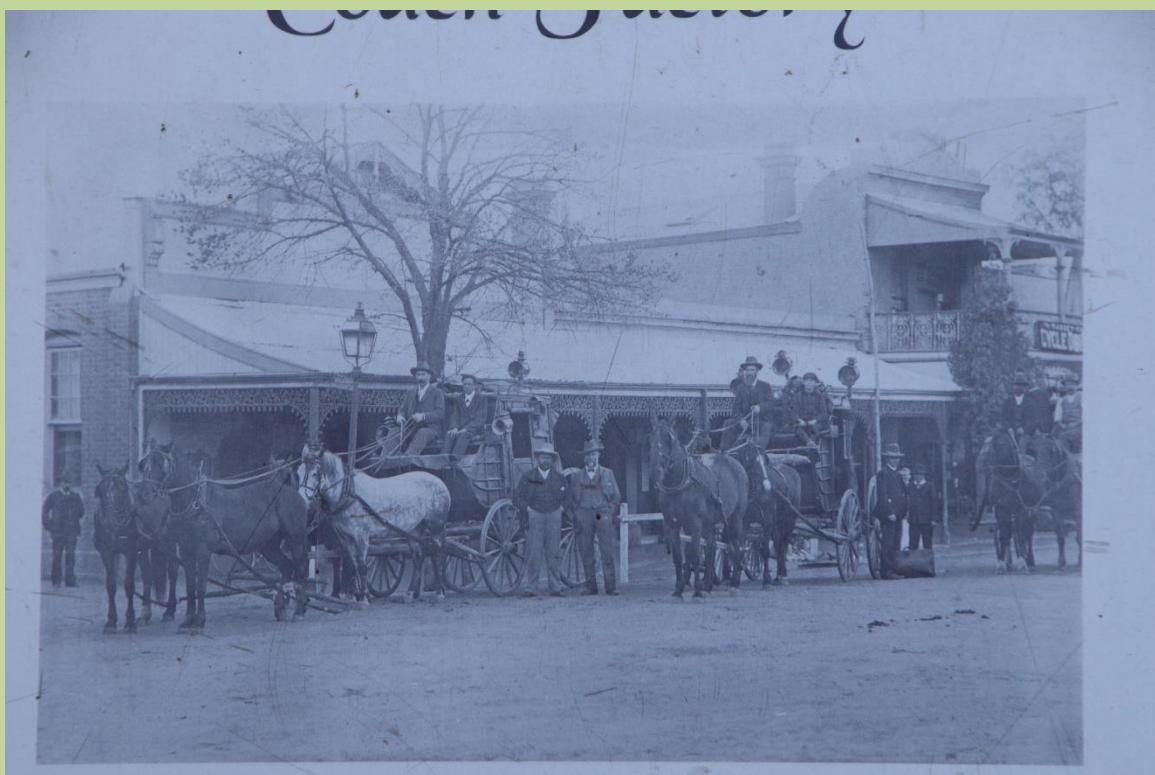


³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hay_railway_station#History





This was a centre for the manufacture of old stage coaches at one time





And in the local office of the Riverina LLS, we met Sally Ware who gave us lots of useful material on the plants and birds of the Hay Plain!



Latham's Snipe flew up out of the ditch behind the levee bank



Recognising famous locals in art



We then had morning tea/coffee at the Convent. The coffee was not as good as the last time we stopped here!





Hay Court House



Bishop's Lodge

Bishop's Lodge is an extraordinary 1888 iron house, designed by architect John Sulman with the first Anglican Bishop of Riverina, Sydney Linton. Their aim was to create a comfortable home to withstand Hay's summer heat and difficult soils.







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⁴ The house and its 19th-century garden are now maintained as a house museum by the Bishop's Lodge Management Committee.

Owned by the Anglican Diocese until 1946, the Lodge was home to the first three bishops -Sydney Linton, Ernest Anderson, and Reginald Halse. Between 1935 and 1946 it also became the Linton House hostel for boys attending the Hay War Memorial High School. From 1946 until 1985 it was a private residence.

In 1985 the Hay Shire Council purchased the property and obtained several large grants which enabled the physical conservation of the property to take place. This became Hay's major bicentennial project for 1988. The work was completed over the years 1986 -1990.

When Bishop's Lodge was built in 1888-9 it cost £6,800 (pounds), approximately AU\$902,000 (2015). It was sold in 1946 for £1,200 (pounds). It was then sold to the Hay Shire Council in 1985 for \$85,000. Grant monies of \$332,000 were used to fund the conservation of the building. Current income is raised by the Bishop's Lodge Management Committee through fundraising, function hire, tours and visitors, grant monies and an annual vote from the Hay Shire Council.

TECHNOLOGY IN THE HOUSE

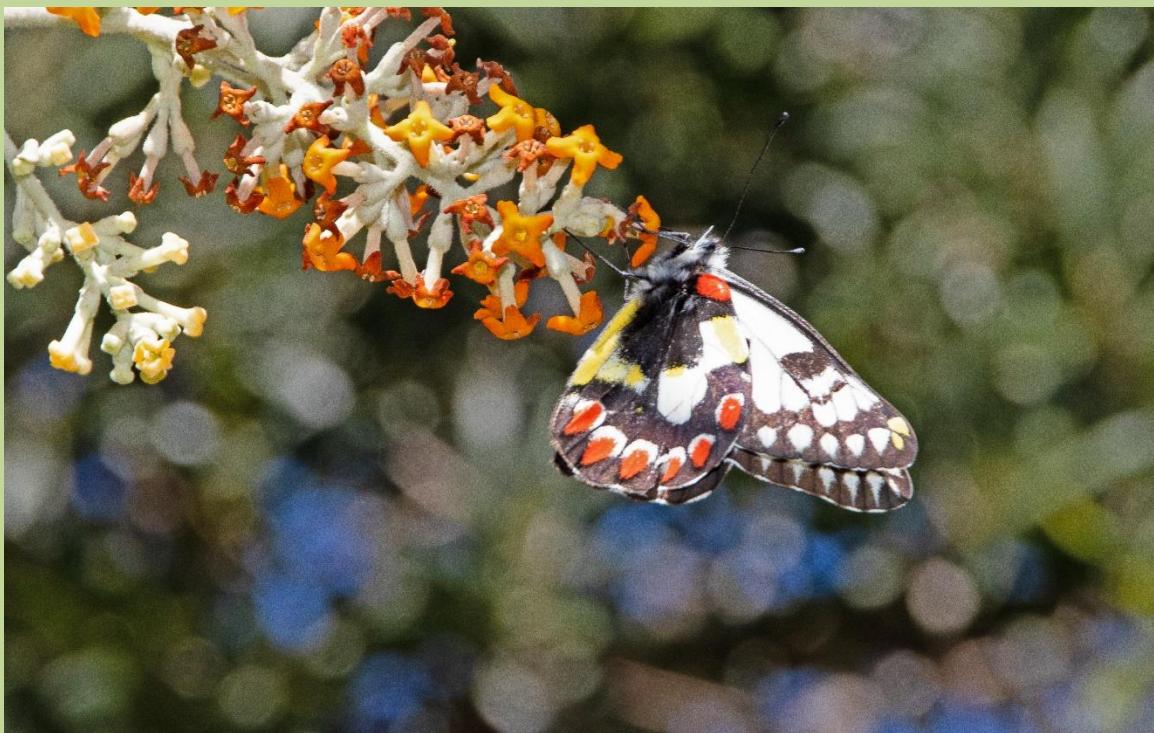
designed by celebrated architect Sir John Sulman with substantial input by Bishop Sydney Linton
built by local contractors Butterworth and Sylvander

use of iron exterior walls and zinc-coated tin plate interior walls with cedar batten strapping over the plate joints in most rooms, plaster in public rooms.

walls insulated with saw dust

cypress pine timber, resistant to termite attack was used throughout the house

raised ventilating ridging on the hips and ridges of the roof, ventilators under the eaves for all rooms and substantial footings to allow for free movement of air circulation under the building



Red-spotted Jezebel (*Delias aganippe*)

low window sills on double hung windows with boxed counter weights allow for the windows to be opened low down or high up to better the ingress of cool air from the verandahs and the egress of hot air from the rooms

separate kitchen block to keep the house cool and minimise the risk of fire spreading
recycled tank stands, formerly for harvesting rainwater

stained glass windows in the private chapel

a total area of about 115 squares (978 sq metres), 45 of which are verandah
kitchen block is an extra 14.5 squares

verandahs are 9 feet deep (2.7 metres)

ceiling height is 14 feet (4.3 metres)

there are 24 rooms in the house including a dining room, a drawing room, a sitting room, several bedrooms and chapel.

Ref: <https://www.visithay.com.au/explore/location/bishop-lodge-historic-house/#about>



Australian Admiral⁵

This afternoon we went down to the red gum forest path on the Murrumbidgee River at the bridge separating Hay from South Hay and walked the forest amidst the mud to spot more birds. This area is known as The Bend!



⁵ We also saw Caper White today



White-plumed Honeyeater





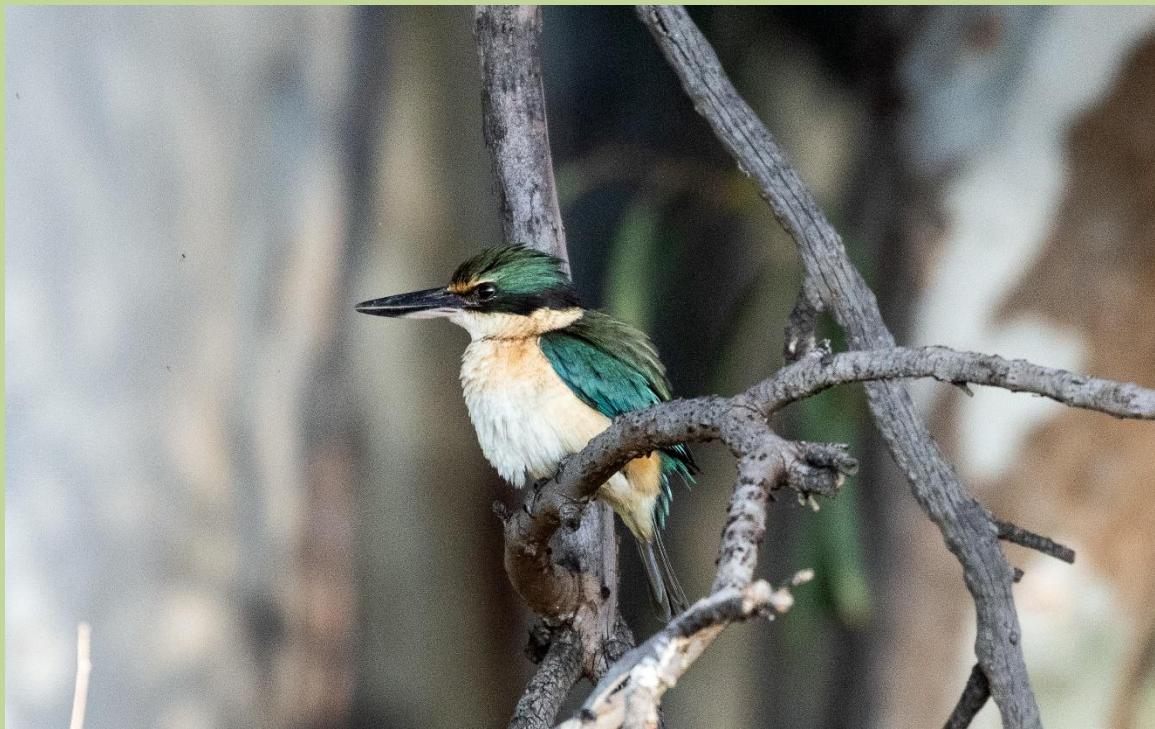
We turned back here



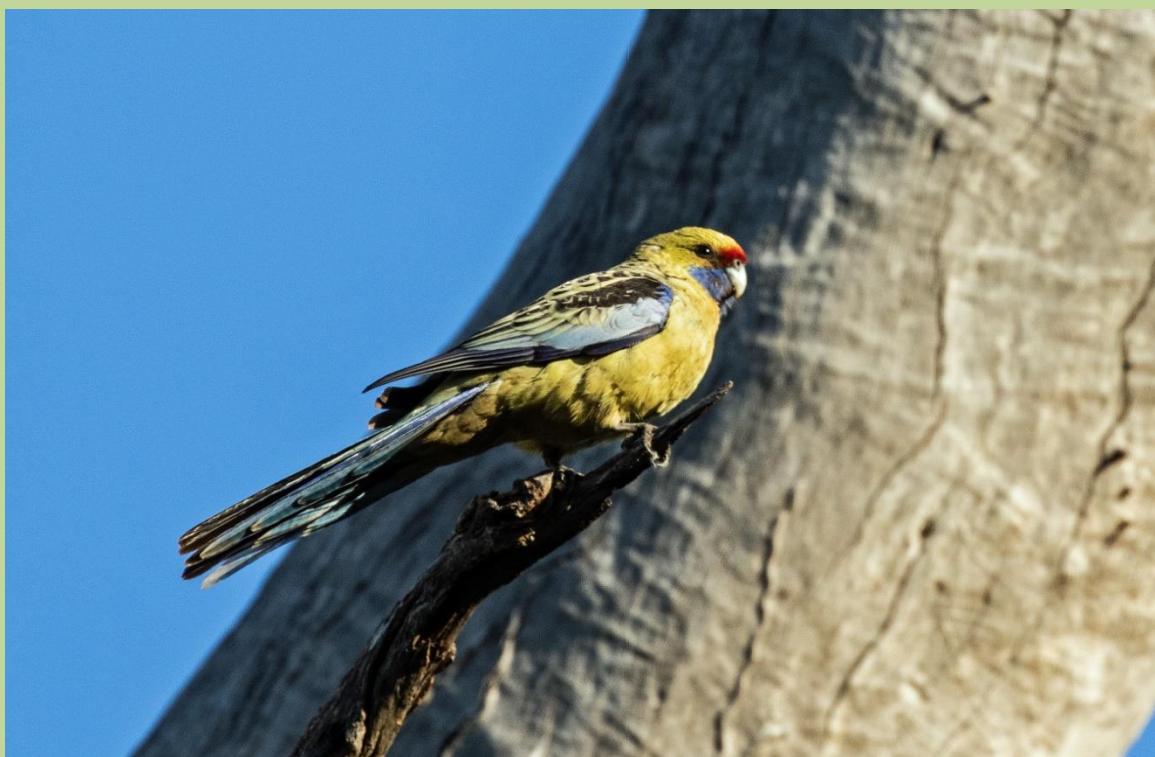
Brown Treecreeper



Little Friarbird



Sacred Kingfisher, above, and Yellow Rosella, below



And now, having dined at the Riverina Hotel, we watch the royal funeral!