

## **The Kurnell Peninsula**

**There are a number of wetland sites on the Kurnell peninsula, including one artificial set of retention ponds established to filter water from a housing estate called the Greenhills Estate. It was done to protect the water quality running into Towra Point Nature Reserve**

**I have visited a number of sites over two days across this week and the combined bird list is as below.**

**Note that this is early in the season for returning migratory waders and that the first visit occurred at high tide. The second visit occurred half way between low and high and the mudflats were rapidly disappearing. I did not visit the Boat Harbour site and avoided the coastal heath areas this time.**

### **Bird List**

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Australian Brush Turkey              | 30. Common Koel               |
| 2. Short-tailed Shearwater<br>deceased) | 31. Channel-billed Cuckoo     |
| 3. Australian Pelican                   | 32. Laughing Kookaburra       |
| 4. Little Pied Cormorant                | 33. Sacred Kingfisher         |
| 5. Little Black Cormorant               | 34. Dollarbird                |
| 6. Australasian Grebe                   | 35. Superb Fairywren          |
| 7. Pacific Black Duck                   | 36. Variegated Fairywren      |
| 8. Chestnut Teal                        | 37. Spotted Pardalote         |
| 9. Hardhead                             | 38. Red Wattlebird            |
| 10. Dusky Moorhen                       | 39. Noisy Miner               |
| 11. Purple Swamphen                     | 40. Yellow-faced Honeyeater   |
| 12. Eurasian Coot                       | 41. Willie Wagtail            |
| 13. White-faced Heron                   | 42. Magpie-lark               |
| 14. Great Egret                         | 43. Figbird                   |
| 15. Australian White Ibis               | 44. Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike |
| 16. Royal Spoonbill                     | 45. Grey Butcherbird          |
| 17. Far Eastern Curlew                  | 46. Australian Magpie         |
| 18. Bar-tailed Godwit                   | 47. Pied Currawong            |
| 19. Pied Oystercatcher                  | 48. Australian Raven          |
| 20. Sooty Oystercatcher                 | 49. Welcome Swallow           |
| 21. Silver Gull                         | 50. Australian Reed Warbler   |
| 22. Caspian Tern                        | 51. Golden-headed Cisticola   |
| 23. White-bellied Sea Eagle             | 52. Little Grassbird          |
| 24. Crested Pigeon                      | 53. Silvereye                 |
| 25. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo        | 54. House Sparrow             |
| 26. Little Corella                      | 55. Common Myna               |
| 27. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo            |                               |
| 28. Rainbow Lorikeet                    |                               |
| 29. Crimson Rosella                     |                               |



River Mangrove - *Aegiceras corniculatum*



Samphire - *Sarcocornia quinqueflora*





Seablite – *Suaeda australis*



Far Eastern Curlew





Stretching



Bar-tailed Godwit, Caspian Tern and a pair of Pied Oystercatchers





Any later and we would have not seen any waders! That tide was coming in quickly!







One of the Shearwaters that fell, exhausted.

Having checked out the potential waders in the rising tide of Quibray Bay, we headed to Bonna Point to check out the entrance of Quibray Bay into Botany Bay and to see what other birds were around. This is Council land. Council has placed up signs about its importance for waders and has “banned” dogs from the actual point but the ban is often ignored.



Male Figbird





Female Figbird



But the highlights of this site were not recorded in the camera: the flock of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos and, especially, the Red Wattlebird that drove off the female Koel right before our eyes. I suspect Mrs Koel was planning to find a suitable “parent” for her egg!



And then morning tea at Kamay-Botany Bay National Park before a walk around this, the building site!



The visitors centre and offices are now closed and being removed. That area is fenced off, as is the “cricket pitch” and demolition and rebuilding will continue right through 2025 and into 2026.

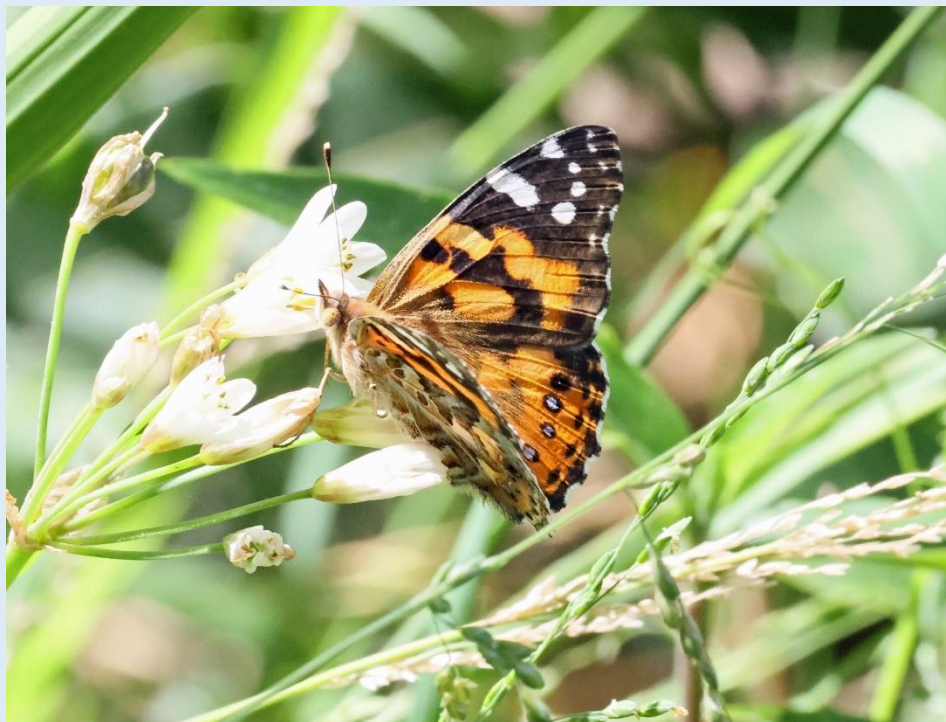
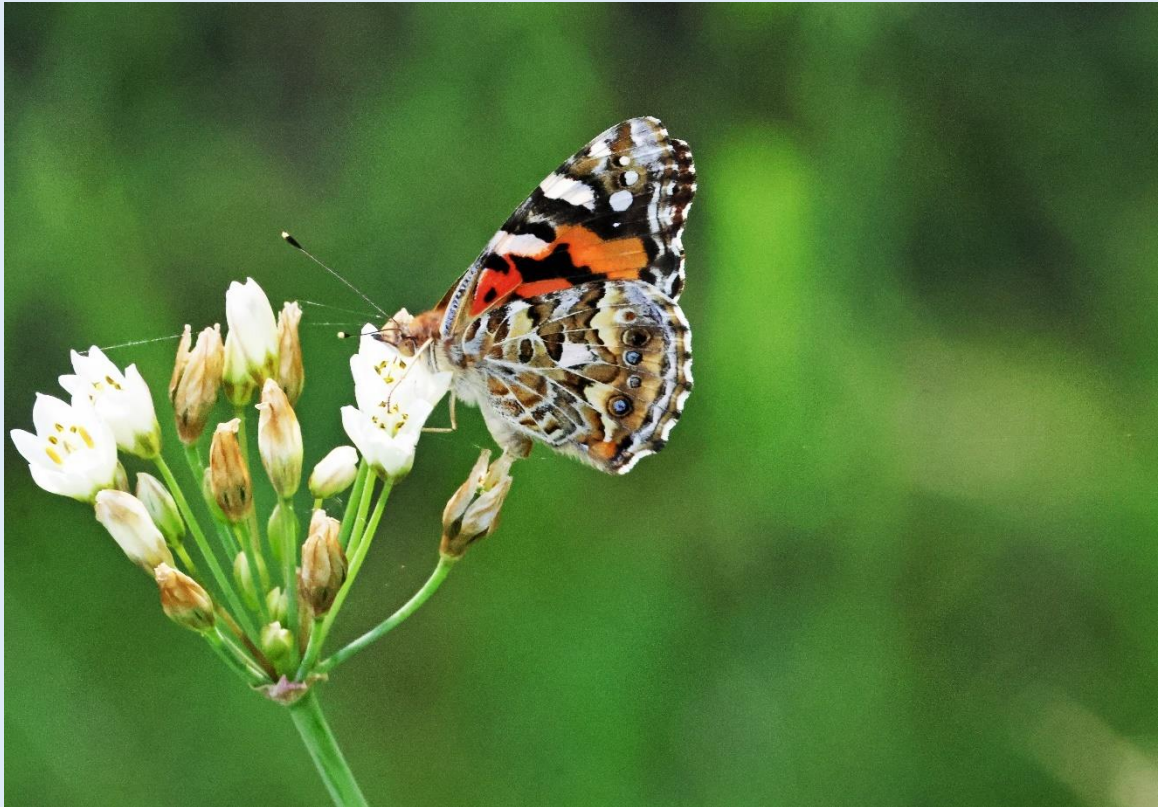
We then walked up over the old, silent soundscape to see the work along the foreshore and the new wharf!

The new southern wharf is well into construction. Presumably the northern one is at about the same stage. What we don’t have yet is any company willing to run a ferry service. Will the government (us) subsidise this linkage?







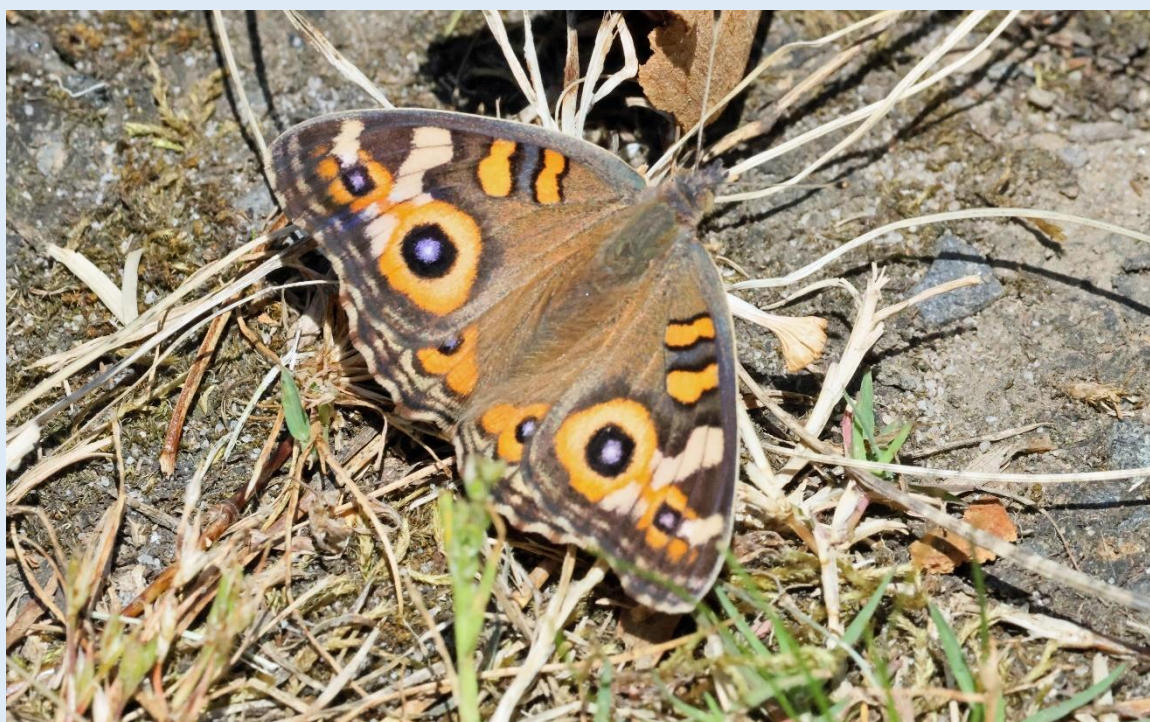


Australian Painted Lady (*Vanessa kershawi*) on Onion Weed









Meadow Argus (*Junonia villida*)

And after quickly dropping in to Yena Gap and the Whale-watching platform to search for migrating shearwaters – and finding two majestic White-bellied Sea Eagles – we departed for lunch at Bonna Point. I can recommend the grilled fish and chips!



Our last stop was Greenhills site and the retention ponds! They truly are a boon to this new suburb! I declare an interest. A friend of mine was the horticulturist who planned and provided the plantings for this and the fronting barrier to the sand dune.



Hardheads (*Aythya australis*)

The only true diving duck in Australia. The common name "hardhead" has nothing to do with the density of the bird's skull, instead referring to the difficulty encountered by early taxidermists in processing the head.







But apart from the birds - and there were many – it was nice to see the men gathering to race their “yachts” around a route! Apparently, they do it every Wednesday!







A two-headed tortoise?

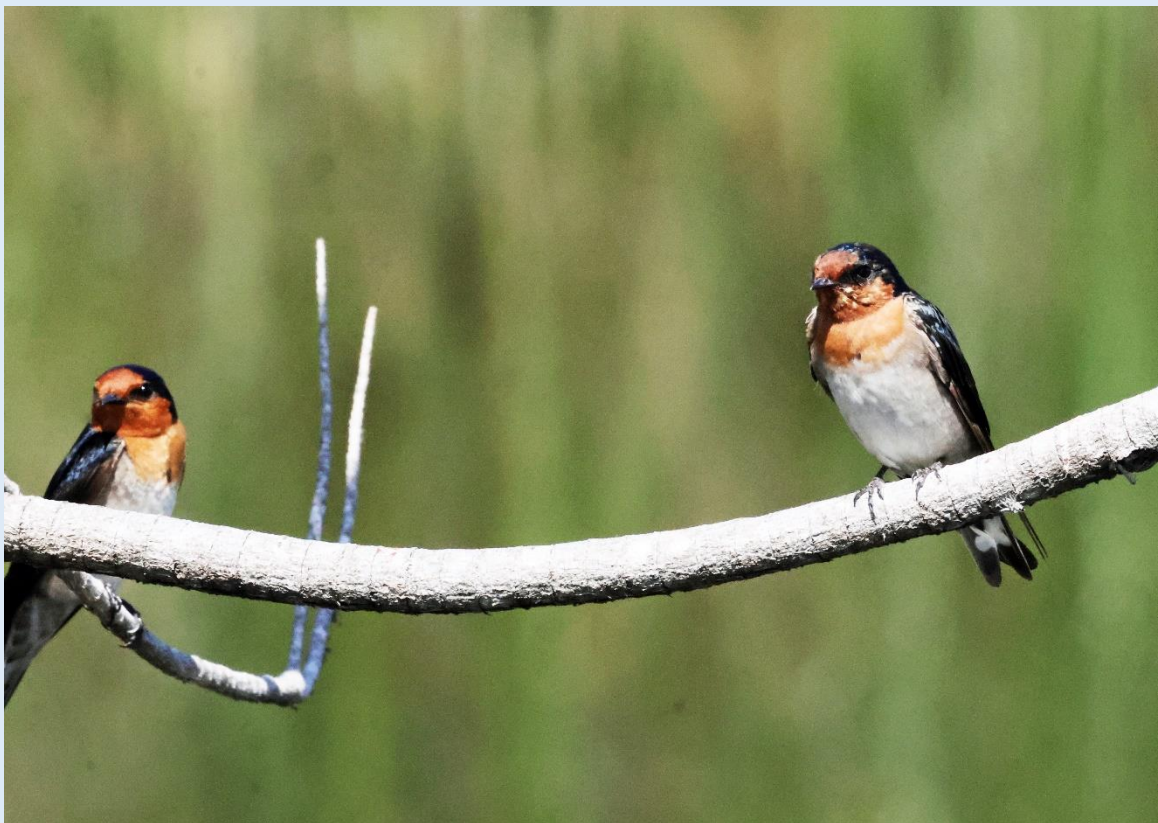


Willie Wagtail





Pacific Black Duck



Welcome Swallow





Swamp Lily - *Crinum pedunculatum*







Red Wattlebird keeping an eye out for female Koels.