



# The Albatross

**SOUTHERN OCEAN SEABIRD STUDY ASSOCIATION INC.**

Issue No. 35

December 2005

**School of Hard Knocks** by Inger Vandyke  
Photos by Fabian Rabufetti and Inger Vandyke.

**Special points of interest**

- Tristan Albatross caught off Wollongong
- What is a Tristan Albatross?
- Seals of the Illawarra
- Are you a chimp?
- Humans and shearwaters

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Giant Petrels (or GPs as they're affectionately known) have a tough start in life. It's almost as if they are born to fight and have evolved endearing habits like rounding up King Penguin chicks on a cliff edge so they can chase them off, knock them out and eat them. It's hardly the sort of behaviour adopted by



**Fabian Rabufetti (third from left) with volunteers on the Patagonian Island breeding grounds for Southern Giant Petrels**

fairy-tale animals. In fact, when compared with other legendary Procellariiformes like the albatross, few people are even aware of the awesome nature of Giant Petrels in their own habitat. Their flight records and their ability to survive are noble characteristics of their reputation that have been marred by their highlighted gruesome scavenging seen in documentaries.

Since photographing a very young, banded Southern Giant Petrel in April this year during a pelagic trip off Wollongong

pelagic (see 'The Albatross' Issue 34) I have received several interesting pictures from Fabian Rabufetti of Aves Argentinas who works with volunteers on the breeding grounds off the coast of Patagonia in South America.

It appears that Southern Giant Petrel chicks start their lives by being born onto cold stones on an island that is so desolate and lacking in any significant vegetation, buffeted by strong winds and freezing temperatures, it's no wonder that they are so tough.

Sadly Giant Petrels are in decline around the world with some breeding populations decreasing by over 20% over the last 40 years. Although not as severe as some petrel populations it is suspected that



*This is the last newsletter for 2005 so we would like to wish you a*  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ALL SOSSA'S MEMBERS AND FRIENDS**

*From the Committee and Staff at SOSSA*

School of Hard Knock continued...

Above: Fabian's International Southern GP conservation campaign

*continued from page 1*

these declines are also linked to interactions with fishing vessels in the Southern Ocean.

Throughout this winter I've been watching Giant Petrels display some extraordinarily odd behaviour. They are extremely aggressive in competing for food which I guess prepares them for the islands where they will barge in on other's dinners looking to gobble up any entrails left over from incidents like seal afterbirth, weak chicks or dead seals.

The most curious behaviour was that of two Giant Petrels on a Tasmanian pelagic. These two birds never drifted more than a foot away from each other for the entire day. They just stayed together, often moving around in unison. Then, in some weird per-



Above: Cold start – Isla Arce Southern Giant Petrel colony, Patagonia, Argentina.

Below: Aggressive posturing off Eaglehawk, Tasmania

sonal space invasion, if one came too close they would "face off" with each other, spreading their wings, fanning their tail feathers and craning their heads forward. This was the preliminary to some spectacular duelling involving head butting, bill snapping, biting and chasing.

So just where do GPs go after they leave their breeding grounds? Do they deflect off the weaker Falkland Island current and hit the stronger oceanic currents and winds of the Antarctic Convergence? Most GPs that visit Australian waters are young and amazingly individuals turn up in Australia within months of fledging. Immature birds of both Giant Petrel species can be a uniform chocolate brown colour with their characteristic pink or green tinge in their bills the only real diagnostic as to their species. However, some Southern Giant Petrels have distinct white plumage.

The first time I ever handled GPs I was amazed at how relatively docile they were when captured. I was





**School of Hard Knocks** continued from Page 3 also impressed at how beautiful their plumage is on close inspection with breast feathers that are tear drop shaped. After letting them go and heading home, I did notice that I had a rather odd smell permeating my pelagic gear. That odd GP kind of smell summed up by Peter Milburn perfectly, the smell of musty books or old libraries. Despite these less lovable characteristics, it's hard not to admire GP's. They thunder through other seabirds, establishing their authority like rambunctious school kids in a playground.

Fabian's work with Southern Giant Petrels continues and hopefully his work will assist in the stability of SGP numbers in the future.

### Wedge-tailed Shearwaters At Sea Project

by Lindsay Smith

Once again the Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus* has returned to our local waters right on schedule for the breeding season. Numbers built up slowly, with only two birds being captured on the 20th & 21st of August 2005, one of which was recapture. This bird (162-43186) was banded as a breeding adult, sex unknown, while incubating an egg in a burrow in

the North Study site on Big Island No1 Five Islands N.R. Wollongong by Michael Jarman on the 7th of January 1998.

A further six birds were captured on the 3rd of September. Numbers of birds continued to increase over the next three weeks, 139 birds were caught on the 24th of September and a further 36 on the 25th of September.



### Five Islands Nature Reserve Report

by Lindsay Smith

In early October we had planned to monitor the return of the Wedge-tailed Shearwaters but sadly the weather conditions prevented us from going to the Islands as planned.

Instead Allan Keast (see Visitors to SOSSA HQ, this issue) and I had to view the Islands from Hill 60, a promontory on the mainland opposite. From our vantage point it appeared that the solar panels on the Consett Davis Hut had been damaged.

Later, an on-site inspection and assessment of the damaged solar system was made by myself and fellow SOSSA member Brent Kelly. The solar panels and associated wiring had been destroyed. Vandals and/or wind damage are suspected.

Without this solar system the Consett Davis Hut has no power for our electrical monitoring equipment. This places the Web Cam Project (see 'The Albatross' Issue 34) in jeopardy. It also places a great limitation on on-going projects.

During this brief visit we checked the breeding Pelicans and Sacred Ibis on Big Island No 1 on behalf of Geoff Ross NSW Parks Service.

#### The three damaged solar panels on the Consett Davis Hut (L. Smith)



### SOSSA's Mystery Bird

by Richard Baxter.

Welcome to a new regular feature in SOSSA's newsletter - SOSSA's Mystery Bird. Every issue we will publish a photo of a mystery bird. Some may be common birds looking strange some may be strange birds looking like something you've never seen before!

The issue's mystery bird (left) has been sent in by Richard Baxter, coordinator of the Newcastle pelagic (is that a hint?). Please write and tell us what species this is. Answers should be sent to:

[mysterybird@sossa-international.org](mailto:mysterybird@sossa-international.org)

The answer and the name of those that guessed correctly will be announced in the next Albatross.

## Seals in the Illawarra Text and photos by Lindsay E. Smith

Over this past winter there has been an increase in the number of seal sightings along the Illawarra coast, southern NSW, Australia. Most reports have come to us via the general public and the various wildlife care groups, Wildlife Information Rescue Emergency Service (WIRES) and the Native Animal Network Ambulance (NANA).

The number of sightings of seals reported by local fishermen and from SOSSA's regular pelagic trips has also increased significantly over this time. **Australian Fur Seals, New Zealand Fur Seals** and **Leopard Seals** have been seen.

The two species of Fur Seals are frequently recorded as hauling out on Montague Island on the far south coast of NSW. Their occurrence in the Illawarra region is considered unusual, with few sightings of individual animals or more infrequently pairs of animals.

David Cunningham of the NSW parks service Ulladulla reports that several animals are hauling out on Brush Is off the Murramarang coast.

**Leopard Seals** are regarded as rare visitors to The Illawarra region and the two recent reports/ accounts of beached animals, hauled out are of great interest!



Above: New Zealand fur seal, Bellambi point, NSW.  
Left: Leopard Seal, Coniston Beach, NSW.

### Visitors to SOSSA H.Q.

**Walter Boles**, Curator of Birds at the Australian Museum has at last emptied my freezer! We are grateful to Walter for collecting the specimens. It was also great to catch up and discuss the new taxonomy of albatrosses and other birds. We, like so many others, eagerly await the publishing of the new official list of Australian Birds.

We also recently enjoyed the pleasurable company of the eminent Australian ornithologist **Allen Keast**. Allan has had a personal interest in the Five Islands since visiting them in 1937 - at the invitation of Consett Davis after whom the Five Islands research Hut is named.

It was wonderful to share a few days in the company of such a learned man and to discuss the Five Islands NR as it was in the 1930s - almost seventy years ago! There were no Australian Pelicans breeding there then. And what of the Sacred Ibis, when did they arrive?



Allen Keast surveys The Five Islands NR 68 years after his first visit. (Photo LE Smith)



## Recent Band Recoveries by Lindsay Smith

### Tristan albatross *Diomedea dabbenena*

**Band No J09313 / 140-34794** was recovered on Gough Is in the Atlantic Ocean between January 27<sup>th</sup> and February 2005 by the South African Banding Scheme.

*This is the first record of a Tristan Albatross banded off Wollongong being recovered on Gough Island.*

**Band No JO-9313** was fitted to a chick on Gough Island on October 30<sup>th</sup> 1992 by the South African banding scheme.

**Band No 140-34794** was fitted to the bird on the 5/10/1997 off Wollongong 11,340 km from Gough Island by the NSW Albatross Study Group.

*This was the first known Tristan Albatross to be recorded in Australian Waters. It was known to be five years of age.*

### Southern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes giganteus*

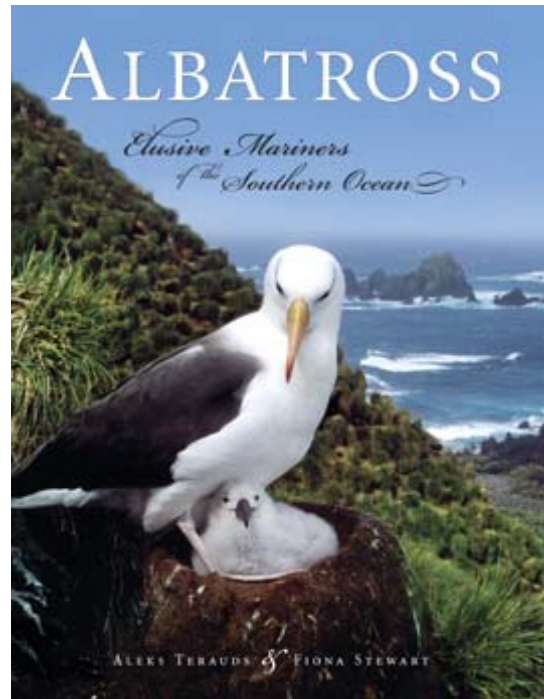
Band No 14500 was recovered on 06/08/2005 at sea off South West Rocks NSW.

Lat: 30 56 0secS Long: 153 6min 0sec E  
Released alive with band by Laurie Mcenally.  
Banded on 25/02/2005 at Potter Peninsula, King George Island, South Shetland Islands  
Lat: 62 14 0 sec S Long: 58 38 0 sec W.  
9271 km bearing of 207 degrees.  
Banded by The Argentine Banding Scheme.

### Campbell Albatross *Thalassarche impavida*

A Campbell Albatross fitted with **Band No M 25402** was captured at sea off Wollongong NSW.  
Lat: 34 25 0 sec S Long: 151 0 00 sec E on the 26/06/2005 by members of the NSW Albatross Study Group. Released alive with band. This band was placed on a nestling at Bull Rock, Campbell Island, New Zealand Lat: 52 33 0 sec S Long: 169 9 0 sec S on 22/04/1971 by the New Zealand Banding Scheme.

Time between banding and recovery is 34 years.



### **Book review: ALBATROSS - Elusive mariners of the Southern Ocean.** **Aleks Terauds & Fiona Stewart.**

This beautiful book describes the biology and breeding locations of the four albatross species that breed in Australian waters. The Shy Albatross breeds closest to the Australian mainland on three windswept islands around Tasmania. The other species (Wandering Albatross, Black-browed albatross and Light-mantled Sooty Albatross) breed on Australia's subantarctic Macquarie Island. The author has worked on all these islands and clearly has deep respect, passion and concern for these birds. Throughout, the book is adorned with stunning images of albatrosses and the many other intriguing denizens of these remote and precious islands. This book is not a scientific text but an approachable summary of Australia's role in albatross conservation. The albatross populations on Macquarie are precariously small thus both the island and its surrounding waters must be managed and monitored wisely. Regulars on SOSSA's pelagics will know that the title of the book is a misnomer - these birds are far from 'elusive'. In Australia it is very easy to jump on a boat and see these magnificent, awe-inspiring birds doing what they do best, effortlessly soaring over the open ocean. Come jump on a SOSSA pelagic and we'll show you!

For more information visit:

<http://www.andrewisles.com>

## Human Encounters and other tales by Neil Belling

I'm not sure when or where my interest in birds developed – it has evolved over time, so it was fortuitous that when I transferred my employment it was to the same school as Coffs Harbour's Wedge-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus pacificus*) researcher, Narelle Swanson.

It wasn't long before I joined the research group and embarked on our weekly trip to 'The Island'. My initial attempts at catching the birds were fairly clumsy, to say the least, but after a few nights and quite a few blood-drawing bites I was able to hold my own.

My two sons, Lewis and Thomas, have shown an interest and have often joined the group. Lewis maintained his interest for several years and became very skilled at catching the birds. Unfortunately, part-time work and Friday Night Football has lured them away for now – but some interest remains – they always want to know the details after each trip and perhaps they will join us again in the future.

My role now is to specialise in the recording of the banding numbers and weights of the birds and any incidental comments that may be of use at a later date.

Almost weekly Narelle and I can manage to come up with a new theory on just what is happening on the island – why are the birds doing what they are doing? How does it all fit together? We never run out of queries and theories and we will always have something to consider. I enjoy these activities greatly, however, I also have an interest in human nature and behaviour.

Coffs Harbour is very fortunate (although some may say unfortunate!!) to have a rookery right on its doorstep. Mutton Bird Island Nature Reserve was originally an island approximately 500 metres from shore. It has since been joined by a break-wall and it is also the most southerly boundary of the Solitary Island Nature Park. The surrounding area now encompasses a marina, take-away food outlets, restaurants and commercial enterprises. It is a gentle walk from the Jetty precinct making it easily accessible for many. This is where human encounters begin – we have met people ranging from the ignorant, the crazy, the unusual, to the genuinely interested. I would like to recall some of our encounters and observations.

The views at night on the island are quite spectacular – the moon will often illuminate the water

or highlight the Great Dividing Range to the west – forming a natural boundary for Coffs Harbour. The thousands of lights flicker in the distance yet, strangely, very few people venture out to the island at night. Rarely do we get more than a handful of people and those that do we have classified as 'walkers', 'fishers', 'sitters', 'tourists' and 'birdos'.

Mutton Bird Island is ideal for the local romantics, they buy their take-away food or pack a picnic basket and head to the island to watch the setting sun. Seats are conveniently placed to make the most of this event but rubbish bins are not available and, sadly, some leave a trail of rubbish as they go. Bins encourage rats to fossick for leftovers, but what do the rats eat once take-away is off the menu? You guessed it – the eggs and young chicks of the Muttonbirds!!

It is always amusing watching people taking their 'evening constitutional' upon leaving the restaurants. Suits, fancy dresses and high heels somehow look out of place, but whatever the outfit, it is encouraging to see people showing an interest. The locals provide a wealth of information and amusement. Take Vince for example – an inhabitant of the Caravan Park, who told us about the chick he had saved by 'putting it back into its burrow' and pointed out the locations of all of the fox dens in the foreshore area. For some reason the foxes have not made their way onto the island, one of the topics that Narelle and I theorise over (and over). Another local with a strong Irish accent (still present after living here for thirty years) told us how he had 'trained' a young chick to come out of the burrow by scratching the burrow entrance!! The poor chick's expectation of a feed of fish was surely dashed. A yachting enthusiast told us about an unusual sight he had seen - eighty fairy penguins resting on the rocks at the Harbour entrance. The fisho's too are always interested in what we are doing. They manage to find their way to the waters edge by walking along the rocky outcrops – well away from the burrows. They pass on snippets of information and I like to believe they may be true naturalists at heart.

The youth of today demonstrate the extremes of behaviour. Last year we had a group who came to Coffs to avoid the Gold Coast Schoolies week. They were articulate, polite and genuinely interested in what we were doing. Contrast this to the teenager from Canberra (nick-named the Canberra Crazy) who had three cameras slung over his shoulder and was demanding, to the point of becoming aggressive, that we take a chick out of the burrow and hold it up for him, to aid in his quest to get a picture of a chick. He thought he knew it all...sadly, his manners

## Human Encounters and other tales continued...

indicated he knew nothing. We still wonder if he had anything to do with the young chick abandoned at the burrow entrance right where he was standing, and we did feel sorry for his grandmother who was fighting a losing battle to placate him.

The NSW Parks and Wildlife with their Discovery Tours are promoting and encouraging more to visit the island and it's great to see a lot of kids involved- our conservationists of the future. We did however meet one lady who has lived all of her life in Coffs Harbour and this was her first visit to the rookery. She was twenty-nine years old. I would suspect that there are many more like her, and many people who have never ventured up onto the Island to take advantage of this natural resource.

Overseas visitors are encountered on a regular basis – we meet many backpackers from Canada, Japan and Germany. In fact, German birdo's have been most numerous

this year, just edging out the United Kingdom. One, a Mister Wright from Cornwall was most concerned about the lack of protection offered to the rookery and felt that more controls should be implemented to protect the birds. I tend to agree. The area is well sign-posted, however, people still leave the path to take photos – destroying the burrows as they go. Why do they do that? Maybe the island should be closed during peak breeding periods!?!

I hope I have provided an interesting insight into the range of people that we meet on the island and finish by saying that I look forward to my next weekly sojourn when I can indulge my enjoyment of bird research and human encounters.

### Lily Lucic by Narelle Swanson

Lily Lucic is one of the regulars with the Shearwater study group in Coffs Harbour. Lil has a passion for wild-life and two species in particular, the Wedge-tailed Shearwater and the Tawny Frogmouth, both birds of the night.

She is a very active member of the Coffs Harbour WIRES, and seems to be always organising her life around her babies, the "tawnies", that are tossed or tumble from their nests in spring and the Shearwater chicks that become stranded as they leave Mutton Bird Island in autumn.



**Lily Lucic of the Coffs Harbour Wedge-tailed shearwater team**

Lil also likes to walk either before or after work as part of her daily routine. On one of her regular walks over Mutton Bird Island in early September this year, she noticed what appeared to be a dead adult shearwater. Then its wing appeared to move and she decided to investigate. In her best walk-

ing clothes she carefully crawled out to the bird and found the wing wave was just the wind but the bird was alive. The rescued bird was wrapped in a jumper. Just as well as for her troubles the bird gave her a few determined bites, on the way back.

There were no obvious external injuries, the Vet's diagnosis was head or neck injury which was causing paralysis. The bird had a band which is not unusual, as a lot of birds have been banded on Mutton Bird Island. Lil's plan was to find out the banding history when she came back from her holidays. The local Vet it seems couldn't wait and contacted the banding office. It turned out to be a very fortunate find. The bird was originally banded as a chick in 1981 on the southern side of the island but well down the slope, which was a possible reason it has not been recovered since. Lil was happy that the bird was euthanised, rather than a slow death in the sun. The bird although now dead is still the oldest recovery so far this season.



## Do you chimp? Digital Seabirding Terminology by Inger Vandyke

About 14 months ago, a new revolution swept across the regular pelagic seabirders on Sandra K – the advent of digital photography.

Digital photography is a beautiful medium for working with seabirds, not only can you trash all of your rubbish shots instantaneously, you can see straight away the quality of shot you have taken. I have thoroughly enjoyed taking a digital SLR to the islands with Lindsay Smith and many an amusing and late night has been spent looking at pictures taken that day over a glass of red with dinner.

It has spawned a new evolutionary phase of competition, who has the best gear, who got the best pics of the rarest bird etc etc. Then came 'digital speak' and terms such as resolution, pixelation, memory cards, gigabytes, megabytes, white balance, photoshopping, photo-shopped, started to be bandied about by the members of SOSSA who quickly adopted this new form of photographic fun.

Accompanying this new craze of photography was an almost lunatic quality exhibited by the converted that could be rivalled by people walking around the street 'talking to themselves' on blue-tooth mobile phones, the quiet art of



'chimping'.

Chimping is the act of switching your sight from where it should be i.e. through your lens to get a good shot, to where it shouldn't – looking at the screen of your digital camera in order to establish bragging rights over the shot you've just taken. Why was the word "chimping" chosen for this? Perhaps the looks on our faces peering into a screen that measures 3x4 cm with chins doubled up and frowns upon our faces makes us look like some of our pongidae ancestors! And who said we are moving forward on the evolutionary scale?

On a recent weekend of Eaglehawk pelagics, conversation was punctuated by people whispering "chimper" every time they caught someone looking into the wrong end of their camera. This was initiated by Mike Double and spread quickly like an infectious disease.

Now we are all victims of it to a greater or lesser degree and it seems "chimping" is escalating the severity of seabird 'nerdiness' to a new level.

Still, it's what allures us most to new technology and this shouldn't be suppressed.

And besides, who's going to point the finger at us all acting like deranged individuals with binoculars when we are so far out to sea?



## What is a Tristan Albatross? by Mike Double

Look in any recent Australian bird book and you'll struggle to find a Tristan Albatross. And you won't find them in most specialist seabird books either. So why does SOSSA list a Tristan Albatross among the recent band recoveries (Page 5)? Do Tristan Albatrosses really exist? Well read on and I'll try to explain.

In October 1997 a Wandering Albatross was caught at sea off Wollongong by Carl Loves, skipper of the Sandra K, and a member of SOSSA and the NSW Albatross Study Group. Carl found a band on the bird and, through SOSSA, duly reported it to the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme (ABBBS). The ABBBS then corresponded with the equivalent organisation in the country where the band was issued. The ABBBS then told Carl that the band (JO 9319) had been fitted by the South African Bird Ringing Unit when the bird was a chick on Gough Island in October 1992. In early 2005 this same bird, now a breeding adult, was resighted on Gough Island (see Page 5).

SOSSA has submitted reports on birds banded in New Zealand, Crozet Islands, Prince Edward Islands, Kerguelen Island, Macquarie Island, Antarctica, Patagonia, Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and of course, Australia but Carl's recovery in 1997 was the first of a Wandering Albatross from Gough Island. This is significant but what made the sighting all the more important was that in 1998 a scientific paper proposed that the Wandering Albatrosses of Gough Island should not be grouped with the larger Wandering Albatrosses (*Diomedea exulans*) of higher latitudes but should be recognised as a separate species—the Tristan Albatross (*Diomedea dabbenena*).

This taxonomic revision remains controversial even after a genetic study by Theresa Burg and John Croxall of Cambridge University and the British Antarctic Survey showed that the Tristan Albatross is genetically distinct from not only the larger Wandering Albatrosses but

also from the similar-sized *Diomedea* albatrosses of New Zealand. Significantly Birdlife International, the leading avian global conservation organisation, plus government departments both in Australia and overseas now recognise the Tristan Albatross as a separate species. But the field guides and seabird books have yet to catch up.

Although the newly designated species is called 'Tristan' the breeding population on Tristan da Cunha Island is now extinct and only a few pairs breed on the nearby Inaccessible Island. The main breeding population of Tristan Albatrosses is on Gough Island an overseas territory of the United Kingdom some

350kms south-east of Tristan da Cunha. This population of 9,000 to 15,000 individuals recently hit the news when it was discovered that the unusually large introduced mice on the island were preying upon their chicks. Impacts such as these, and the mortality associated with fishing activities in their main mid-Atlantic foraging range have probably caused the gradual decline of birds breeding on Gough (28% over 45 years). This together with their restricted breeding distribution led to classification of Tristan Albatrosses as Endangered by The World Conservation Union (IUCN).



In 2003 a report by a research team led by Richard Cuthbert showed that Tristan Albatrosses can be reliably distinguished from the 'exulans' Wandering albatrosses found in the Atlantic using bill measurements alone. However, for SOSSA life is a little more difficult. Cuthbert noted that, based on reported measurements of New Zealand's *Diomedea* albatrosses, it is unlikely that Tristan Albatross can be distinguished from these birds using body measurements.

The more experienced members of the SOSSA research team, who are deeply familiar with not only the body measurements but also the plumage characteristics of the Wandering group of albatrosses, suspect that Tristan albatrosses may regularly visit Australian waters. However, unless genetic analyses of blood samples from birds caught at sea pinpoint other Tristan Albatrosses, it seems likely that Carl's report will remain the first and only record of the endangered Tristan Albatross in Australian waters for many years to come.



## SOUTHERN OCEAN SEABIRD STUDY ASSOCIATION INC.

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## New Members...

Graham Barwell  
Ron Broomham  
Val Dolan  
Peter Findley  
Jane Findley  
Brent Kelly  
Jenny Kelly  
Jacky Lawes  
Jasmine Lawes  
Daniel Mantle  
Peter Marsh  
John Martin  
Ashley Murrie  
Peter Roberts  
Master Monty Williams

## NEXT SOSSA MEETING

7.00 pm Saturday 25th February 2006  
held at SOSSA HQ.  
10 Jenkins Street - Unanderra. NSW.  
We only supply the Coffee or Tea!

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR FROM SOSSA**

## SOSSA Pelagic trips...

17th December\*  
\*bought forward as 4<sup>TH</sup> Sat Xmas Eve

### DATES 2006

28th January  
25th February  
25th March  
22nd April  
27th May  
24th June  
22nd July  
26th August  
23rd September  
28th October  
25th November  
16th December\*

\*Dec bought forward 1 week.

Members: \$ 65.00  
Visitors: \$ 80.00  
These prices are on the web

## AGM - SOSSA MEETING

10th September 2006  
11.30am Sausage Sizzle  
held at SOSSA HQ. 10 Jenkins Street -  
Unanderra. NSW.  
Guest speaker to be announced.

## The Albatross SOSSA's newsletter

The Albatross is published four times a year (roughly Jan, Apr, Jul & Oct). The editor welcomes (is desperate for!) articles from members and friends on issues relating to pelagic seabirding, seabird research and marine conservation. Please advise the editor if you intend to submit an article and submit the piece at least two weeks before the start of a publication month. Thank you!

### Please send us your email address

To save SOSSA postage costs and receive 'The Albatross' as a colourful pdf or web file then please send your email address and current membership number to the current editor of 'The Albatross':  
[Mike.Double@anu.edu.au](mailto:Mike.Double@anu.edu.au)



**A young Buller's Albatross seen off Eden in October. Photo: Brook Whylie**

### Please help...

SOSSA membership fees remain unchanged even though costs have increased greatly across the board. We would really appreciate any donations from those whom may be able to afford it.

Thanks again for your support!!