

# WADER WATCHING IN COMFORT – HIDE AT DANGER POINT

Maureen Christie

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The last 12 months has seen an explosion in wader infrastructure in the South East of South Australia. Two new bird hides have been built — at Danger Point and at Robe. Students of the Regional Building Trades program (located at Grant High School), Friends of Mount Gambier Area Parks and DEWNR staff, along with Friends of Shorebirds SE built the hide at Danger Point.

It overlooks an area often covered with banks of weed and stagnant pools which provide a first-class foraging area for Ruddy Turnstones and Red-necked Stints, as well as Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Pacific Golden Plovers and Curlew Sandpipers.

Sanderlings feed along the adjacent sandy shore and use the area as a roosting site. Small numbers of Fairy Terns and Little Terns, along with Red-capped Plovers, nest just in front of the hide.

The hide at Robe was built by Robe Coastcare and overlooks Fox Lake and the estuary of Drain L. The site is important for Latham's Snipe, but a variety of other waders and wetland birds can be seen there. An information shelter at Beachport (built as a joint project with Beachport and Rivoli Bay Lions Club) has a set of three signs. So too does the information shelter at Blackfellows Caves (built as a joint project with Friends of Mount Gambier Area Parks).

## Flock of Sanderlings and Red-necked Stints at Danger Point (Photo: Digger Jackson)



Signs have been included in the Friends of Butchers Gap bird hide and information shelter.

Information boards have been installed at Port MacDonnell, Wrights Bay, Boatswains Point and Carpenter Rocks.

The Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources has added wader signs to their information shelter at Piccaninnie Ponds Conservation Park. Signs have been incorporated into the Robe bird hide, and a 'tern' sign has been installed at the Fairy Tern nesting site

at the Obelisk. The landowner at Nora Creina has given us permission to erect an information board on his property.

The project was funded by a grant made to Friends of Shorebirds SE from the South East Cooperative Coastal Conservation Initiative as part of their Caring for Our Country funding.

Help in designing the signage developed for this project involved cooperation of just about everyone you can think of — the VWSG, AWSG, BirdLife, DEWNR... The signs are available to download from the VWSG website [www.vicnet.net.au/~vwsq](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~vwsq).

## Inspection of Danger Point hide by members of South East Local Government Association (Photo: Maureen Christie)



This has been a huge project, requiring many hours of dedicated work. Thankyou to all involved!

There are also bird hides at the Bool Lagoon Ramsar site, Butchers Gap Conservation Park at Kingston SE and Lake McIntyre in Millicent.

## Signs at Port MacDonnell (Photo: Jeff Campbell)

