



## 2020 Get together on Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> July.

Jan, Hans, Richard, Steve, Stu and Heather met at the Becton golf course car park at 8 am. It was a cool overcast morning with the occasional shower and the tide was high. This is the first count that we have undertaken at these sites, Belongil and the Byron STP wetlands, for the 2020 Shore Bird study.

It was so good to have Hans and Steve along. Steve has a great ear and the eye of an eagle and a telescope to match. Hans has in depth knowledge that is readily called on. There were two disturbances of the resting birds today by dogs off leads and with owners nearby. During the week the beach area is usually dog free. The weekend seems to be when the dog walkers are out, and some ignore the 'no dogs past this point' sign south of the estuary. This is a big disappointment.

The Belongil estuary has shifted its mouth once again and is now entering the ocean opposite the golf courses southern end.

Steve spotted 3 Double Banded Plovers and 4 Red Capped Plovers near the fence on the ocean side. This was good to hear as Heather had not seen them on her regular weekly visits for 3 weeks and was getting concerned, as a fox scat had been observed in the area. Several Bee-eaters are staying for winter although the majority of them have left. And the gannets have been off the beach fishing for the last two months. After finishing the bird count at the Belongil the group drove over to the Byron STP Wetlands to do a count of the birds there.

### Belongil Bird Count 2020

Site A	Site B	Site A & B Riparian	Site C Modified
Gannets several Pelican 1 Brahminy Kite 1 Whistling Kite 1 Masked lapwing 1 Double-banded Plovers 3 Red Capped Plovers 4 Pied Oyster Catcher 2 Silver Gulls Crested Terns 121 Sacred Kingfisher 3	Black Cormorants 5 Little Pied Cormorant 1 Pied Cormorant 1 Pelican 1 Little Egret 1 Australian White Ibis 3 Royal Spoonbills 2 Brahminy Kite 1 Black-winged Stilts 4 Sacred Kingfisher 1	Whistling Kite 1 Scrub Turkey Bar-shouldered Dove Top Knots Fan-tailed Cuckoo Bee-eater Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike Varied Triller Eastern Yellow Robin Rufous Whistler Little Shrike-thrush Grey Fantail	Black Cormorant 1 Masked Lapwing 7 Black Duck 4 Wood Duck 38 White-faced Heron 1 Crested Pigeon Noisy Minor Little Wattle Bird Australian White Ibis 1 Straw-necked Ibis 1 Pied Butcher Bird Grey Butcher Bird Grey Fantail

		Willy Wagtail Whip-bird Variegated Wren White-browed Scrubwren Brown Thornbill Little Wattle Bird Blue-faced Honeyeater Lewin's Honeyeater White-cheeked Honeyeater Eastern Spinebill Scarlet Honeyeater Brown Honeyeater Striped Honeyeater Silvereye Striated Pardalote Fig Bird Drongo Torresian crow Currawong	Magpie-lark Royal Spoonbill 2 Australian Grebe 1 Rainbow Lorikeet Scaly-breasted Lorikeet Purple Swamp-hen 9 Willy Wag-tail
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### Byron STP Wetlands Bird Count 2020

Site A	Site B	Site C
Australian Grebe 17 Little Pied Cormorant 1 Intermediate Egret 1 White-faced Heron 1 Swan 3 Pacific Black Duck 5 Hardhead 7 Coot 1 Dusky Moorhen 4 Swamp Hen 5 Grey Tea 21 Sacred Kingfisher 1 Jacana 1 Fairy Martin Grey Shrike-Thrush Grey Fantail Red-backed Wren White-browed Scrubwren Golden Cisticola Rufous Whistler	Australian White Ibis 12  Glossy Ibis 6 Straw-necked Ibis 1 Royal Spoonbills 8 Masked Lapwings 9 Black-fronted dotterels 3 Swan 1 Black Duck 17 Hardhead 1 Coot Dusky Moorhen Swamp Hen 55 Swamp Harrier Welcome Swallow Jacana 4 Rainbow Lorikeets Tawny Grass Bird Little Grass Bird Superb Wren	No sightings

Brown Thornbill Scarlet Honeyeater Brown Honeyeater Pied Butcherbird	Little Wattle Bird Little Friar Bird Whipbird White Throated Gerygone Brown Honeyeater Magpie Lark	
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