

Invitation

Birding NSW Annual General Meeting & Arnold McGill Memorial Lecture



Dear Birding Colleagues,

We are privileged to welcome scientist **Nicholas Carlile B.A. MSc.** to present a talk entitled:

30 Years of Seabird Restoration Science: Applying our Learnings for the Winds of Change

Date: Tuesday 3 December 2024

Time: Meeting starts at 7.30pm | Lecture starts at 7.40pm

At: The Henry Carmichael Theatre, 1st floor,
The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt St Sydney



Gould's Petrel (*Pterodroma leucoptera*)

Since the early 1990s, the science of seabird conservation and the restoration of seabird habitat has expanded exponentially. Over these years, I have been involved in habitat restoration, translocation and attraction for petrels, shearwaters and storm-petrels on islands while working for the NSW government. As a result, all of the islands within the State's boundaries (2,000 km coastline with 53 islands, including the Lord Howe Group) are now free from alien ground mammals. My involvement with seabird conservation began with the endangered Gould's Petrel *Pterodroma leucoptera*, and our development of artificial habitat and subsequent research including into translocation processes has been so successful as to allow its national down-listing. In collaboration with others, this knowledge was developed and expanded across a range of procellariid species, in Australia and overseas. Recent colony expansion work with surface nesting Kermadec Petrel *P. neglecta*, involved trials of artificial habitat and protective camouflage covers to assist in establishing new colonies. None of this work has been a 'quick fix' but is always underwritten by adaptive management research and conservation focused science.

With the rise in offshore wind farm developments in the southern hemisphere, the techniques to increase breeding participation and breeding success of seabird species are possible potential mitigation measures for collision impacts. Unlike fixed foundation windfarms in the shallow waters of the northern hemisphere, deep coastal waters around Australia will require new floating platform technology and will bring turbine proliferation into the deeper waters most favoured by procellariid species. We know they spend much of their time dynamic soaring, particularly in strong winds. It is now, more than ever, that we must look to apply such restoration measures as we accommodate essential green energy production alongside the conservation of our seabird populations.

Bookings are essential

To reserve seats please text or email Ian Bailey:

Mobile: 0412 251 337 (no voice-mail please) | **Email:** ibails@bigpond.net.au

Bookings will be taken in order. Regular Birding NSW Members have reserved seating.

The Committee, Birding NSW inc.