



## *Werribee Birdwatchers.*

*January/February Newsletter, 1999*

*Editor Shirley Cameron*

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### *Welcome to Birdwatching 1999.*

A few unilateral decisions have been made. Newsletters will be published bi-monthly. With the assistance of Marion & Doug Blood, Mary & Philip Richmond & Carol Popham the year's program has been drawn up. Thank you to those who submitted their ideas. We tried to vary the places, bush birds and waders.

As my memory now functions on 3 cylinders we will always meet at Centenary Hall, car pool or meet the Community Bus and depart from there. The Community Bus is confirmed for February, the City is unable to guarantee the other dates as they work on a half-yearly basis. Name are in '*italics*' indicate are yet to be confirmed.

### *My Day Out With The International Wader Study Group.*

I joined Dr Clive Minto and 16 other at the shearing shed on Beach Rd., Western Treatment Plant We went off to Paradise Road and out the back of the first ponds you come to on the left-hand side. The cannon went off and the net entangled 300+ birds. Quickly we lifted those on the water onto dry ground, covered them all with shade cloth. The experienced "taggers" extricated the birds and novices like myself collected them, 3 at a time in cloth bags, and placed them in holding cages. When all birds were out of the net the cages were covered with shade cloth and the work of measuring, tagging and weighing the birds commenced. We worked in teams of 4. I was quite good at collecting birds from the holding cages, weighing them then carrying them to have the orange identification flag put on. I found it very interesting. The smallest Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was 47grams, the largest 73grams. Absolutely amazing when you consider they had flown from Siberia!

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