

Birds need their energy to be 'shore'



LONG HAUL: The bar-tailed godwit makes the longest non-stop flight of any migrating bird. The birds stay airborne for almost a week, making an almost 11,000km beeline from wintering grounds in south-east Asia, Australia and New Zealand to their breeding range in Alaska, Siberia and Scandinavia.

Chris Barnes

SHOREBIRDS that have made their home in the Great Sandy Strait over the past few months are preparing for a gruelling task.

Burnett Mary Regional Group's business development and planning manager Sue Sargent said the birds were set to embark on a flight halfway across the world.

"The end of the shorebird season here means the birds will be

making their way back to their breeding grounds. Shorebirds fly great distances, with some species such as the Great Knot and the Bar-tailed Godwit breeding as far north as far north-eastern Siberia and Alaska," Sue said.

Sue said the birds needed a lot of energy for the long-haul flight.

"At the moment they're feeding and building up the fat deposits

that will sustain them on their long flights back to their breeding grounds.

"Shorebirds are susceptible to dogs and vehicles interrupting their preparations.

"One extra 'lift' off a beach following a disturbance from people, dogs or even vehicles may be the difference between life and death for these birds. They need every bit

of energy."

The local community is invited to a Dog Walker's Breakfast at the Boonooroo foreshore south of Maryborough on Friday, March 18 for a chance to learn about shorebirds that live in the Great Sandy Straits.

COOLOOLA NATURE LAUNCHES BIRDING COOLOOLA WEBSITE: P27

COMMUNITY DIARY

email

community@gympietimes.com

TODAY

Wolvi Hall yoga classes
WOLVI and District War Memorial Hall holds yoga classes, Thursdays, 6.30pm to 8pm. Accredited instructor. Cost \$12. Inquiries Mandy 5405 9305.

U3A Thursday classes: 9-11am, Spanish, contact Maureen Botterill 5483 7059; 9-11am, Book Ends, second Thursday, contact Jill Jones 5482 4518; 10am-midday, My Kind of Poetry, last Thursday, contact Joyce Lilley 5482 179; 1-3pm, cards, contact Marion Aves 5482 6896; 2pm-4pm, Music for Pleasure, first Thursday, contact Margaret Wilson 5482 1606.

OWN

BUS trip to the Silent Movies, Pomona, Thursday, March 3. Bus leaves Jay-Cee Way at 8:30am. Inquiries 5482 9933.

AP&SL

GYMPIE affiliate meets Senior Citizens Centre, 12.30pm, for cards and raffles. Afternoon tea to follow. Inquiries 5482 6738.

Country & Western Service HELD at Imbil Uniting Church, Sunday, March 13, 5.30pm. BYO food for barbecue. Inquiries 5484 5290.

TOMORROW

U3A Friday Classes: 9.30-10.30am: History. Contact Iris Steenstrup 5483 6493. 11am-noon: Cryptic Crosswords. Contact June Firth 5482 6918 (Class starts on February 18). 1-3pm: Beginners MahJong. Contact Marion Aves 5482 6896.

Social night

HELD at Wolvi & District War Memorial Hall, Friday, March 4. Doors open 5.30pm. Licensed bar until 9.30pm The kitchen will be open with hot food and soft drinks. Lights in the park for the children to play. Inquiries Mick 5486 7017, Rosey 5486 7339 or Dot 5486 7355.

Dore's dance

DORE'S old time and new vogue dance on Friday, March 4, at St Peters Church Hall, Lady Mary Terrace. Great music and supper. All welcome. Inquiries 5486 4434.

Pelvic Power

CONTINENCE info session for all women, at 21 Alfred St, Friday, March 4, 10am-11.30am. No cost. Bookings essential on 5483 6588.

U3A Friday: 9.30-10.30am History Contact Iris Steenstrup 5483 6493; 11am-12pm Cryptic Crosswords Contact June Firth 5482 6918; 1-3pm Beginners MahJong Contact Marion Aves 5482 6896.

SATURDAY

Gem Club workshops

SATURDAYS at Gympie Gem Club, 9am to 3pm. Learn a new hobby. No experience necessary. Inquiries 5484 0080 or 5482 4680.

Blokes business

LOOKING for a place where men can learn basic skills for life? Where men can pass on wisdom and skills built up over a lifetime of experience? Where men of all ages can pursue hobbies and talk with mates about anything and everything? Valley Men's Night on Saturday, March 5, at Kandanga Hall from 7pm. Gold coin donation for supper. Inquiries 5484 3143.

Little Haven Palliative Care
LITTLE Haven Palliative Care are hosting an old time/new vogue dance at Long Flat on Saturday, March 5 at 8pm. Home made supper. Music by Aquarius. Come along and support this worthwhile charity.

You must remember this – a kiss is just a kiss

PRIMO Bacio (First Kiss) is a beautiful short film from Australia screening at this year's Heart of Gold International Film Festival.

Primo Bacio documents the director Sarah Vassilas' grandparents' first kiss and how they believe kissing has changed over the years, "where a kiss today is not like it was once upon a time".

According to Sarah, today most men don't realise exactly how simple it is to kiss a beautiful woman and often the problem is they cannot master that technique which creates that magical feeling.

However one man, many years ago, accomplished this technique and now, 50 years later, he still remains in love with the woman who owns his very first kiss.

Before Connie and Lou share with us the story of their first kiss together, they enlighten us with the way kissing has changed over the years,



from being such a private fixation to something we now witness in the everyday. Sarah Vassilas will travel to Gympie to be in attendance for the festival, bringing her mother with her.

Sarah's grandparents have just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Primo Bacio won the award for "Most Positive Image of Age" at the 2010 St Kilda Film Festival and will kick off the 2011 Heart of Gold Festival at the Shorts 1: Young At Heart (the first session) on Thursday, March 17 at 9am, Gympie Civic Centre.

Tickets available now from www.heartofgold.com.au or phone 5483 7000.



BEAUTIFUL STORY: Primo Bacio documents the director Sarah Vassilas' grandparents' first kiss.

Contributed