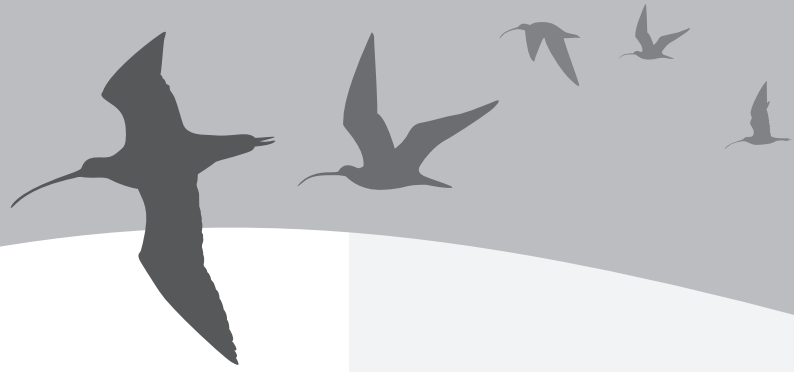


Rhyll Inlet & Observation Point Shorebird Site



World Class Wetland

Rhyll Inlet is renowned for its numbers and diversity of migratory and resident shorebirds and waterbirds. The walking track between Conservation Hill and Mc Ilwraith Road takes you through a paperbark woodland, along a mangrove boardwalk to spectacular views across Rhyll Inlet to Observation Point and the bay of Western Port - a significant shorebird site.

Observation Point is the most important site in the bay for medium to large waders such as Bar-tailed Godwits and Whimbrels. It is also a good site for Oystercatchers, Eastern Curlew, Red-necked Stints, Double-banded Plovers and Red Knot.

What Are Shorebirds?

There are 15 species of shorebirds that are resident in Australia and an additional 42 species that are regular migrants. Shorebirds (also known as waders) are birds which feed and live along our shores. There are two main types of shorebirds in this area:

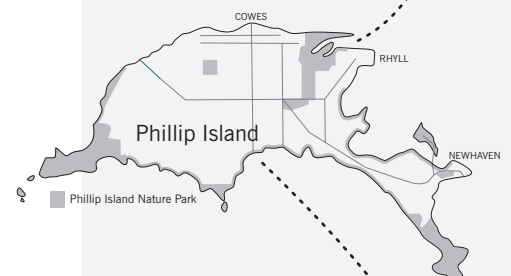
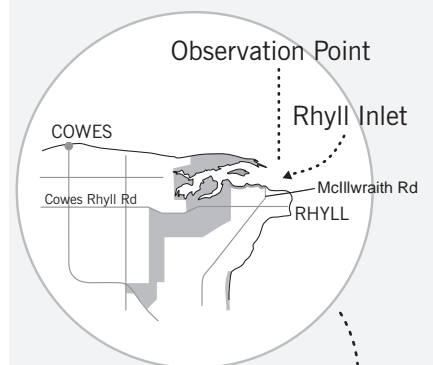
- resident shorebirds which live here all year
eg. Pied Oystercatchers
- migratory shorebirds which fly here from their northern hemisphere breeding areas in our summer eg. Eastern Curlews and Bar-tailed Godwits.

Life In the Fast Lane

Migratory shorebirds lead 'double lives' across an endless summer. They have adapted their entire existence to fly across the globe to places where food is plentiful.

The path the birds travel is called a 'flyway'. Birds stop at 'refuelling' points along the way where they rest, feed and accumulate fat reserves for the next stage of their journey. The journey of up to 12 500 km one way takes about two months. Birds on migration fly at around 70 kph and can cover over 1500 km in a day.

There are many migration flyways criss-crossing the globe, each used by different groups of birds. The East Asian-Australasian Flyway extends from the Arctic Circle (Siberia and Alaska) through eastern and southeast Asia to southern Australia and New Zealand.



East Asian-Australasian Flyway