

# Home All Year

As well as being an important roost for migratory birds, Rhyll Inlet supports many resident shorebirds and waterbirds.



Royal Spoonbill

*Platalea regia*

These regal birds can often be seen feeding in the inlet. Their long legs allow them to feed in relatively deep water. They swish their spoon-shaped beaks from side to side and an automatic trigger reflex snaps up animals such as shrimps. This allows them to feed successfully in muddy water.

When breeding, these birds have long, white plumes on the back of their head. Spoonbills breed in large colonies and these sites are threatened due to widespread degradation of wetlands across Australia.



Pied Oystercatcher

*Haematopus longirostris*

This coastal bird is easily recognisable with its black and white plumage and red eyes and legs. They are found only in Australia and are most at home feeding on the mudflats. Their nest is a simple scrape in the ground near the water's edge.

Pied Oystercatchers are not international migrants - but may disperse a few hundred kilometres along the coast before returning to traditional breeding grounds each year. Usually seen in pairs in summer, flocks of non-breeding birds can be seen in Western Port between March and August.

**One of the major threats to the waders and waterbirds roosting at Observation Point and feeding in Rhyll Inlet is human disturbance.**

If the birds are disturbed by humans walking, boating or fishing - their survival is threatened. Their response consumes vital energy needed for migration and they may abandon the site altogether.

