



## WELCOME TO THE CUCKOO BIRD CLUB

The Cuckoo Bird Club was started in May 1998 by Monty Brett. Monty particularly wanted the graduates of his Sappi Brett Beginners Bird Course to enjoy birding with fun people who would encourage new birders. And so, The Slightly Cuckoo Bird Club was hatched. From that time the Club has been known for its laid-back attitude to birding, for fun, and for combining knowledge and pleasure – and from that we get our motto, **20% Birding, 80% Fun.**

We are fortunate to have the world-renowned bird expert and artist, Clive Hopcroft, as our President. Although he no longer participates regularly, we do still see Clive occasionally as a speaker or guide.

### Guests and New Members

Guests are most welcome at our meetings. Once you have attended two meetings or outings, we encourage you to become a permanent Cuckoo Club member.

Our Annual Membership for 2026 is R320 for individuals, or R420 for families or couples.

New members joining in January through to the end of June pay the full membership fee, and anyone joining after that pays half the normal fee.

### Contact us

- The Newsletter has current details of the Committee and Office Bearers
- You can access Newsletters on our website: [www.thecuckoobirdclub.org.za](http://www.thecuckoobirdclub.org.za)
- Email us at [info@thecuckoobirdclub.org.za](mailto:info@thecuckoobirdclub.org.za)
- We have a Facebook Page – The Cuckoo Bird Club  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1439497636373229/>
- If you would like to be included in the Cuckoo Bird Club News What's App, please contact Bev Williams [bevjiwil@gmail.com](mailto:bevjiwil@gmail.com)

### e-Newsletter (Editor – Debbie Jennings)

We put out an e-Newsletter every two months with details of future events, as well as accounts of outings and items of interest. Debbie welcomes contributions in the way of articles and photographs – please send her your material at [deb.jiq@gmail.com](mailto:deb.jiq@gmail.com)

### Monthly Meetings

The Club has an evening get-together once a month (except in December, when we have a glorious Sunday breakfast instead).

Some people have an informal supper, drink and chat in the pub before the meeting.

Each meeting begins with a *brief* overview of club plans, followed by a presentation from a guest speaker. We have had some fascinating talks over the years, and are always thrilled to welcome new guest speakers.

<b>WHERE</b>	The Wanderers Club, Illovo. Check the noticeboard at reception for room details
<b>WHEN</b>	The third Tuesday of the month (unless notified otherwise)
<b>WHAT TIME</b>	Usually 6.45pm for 7.00 pm and normally finished by 9.00 pm Or meet in the pub from about 6.00pm
<b>COST</b>	R20 for members, and R40 for non-members All food and refreshments are for your own account

### Day Outings (Bev Williams)

These are almost always on the last Sunday of the month, and we tend to make an early morning start. Some of the more unusual outings have been a game drive, and an overnight camp-out at the zoo.

<b>WHERE</b>	Various places close to Johannesburg
<b>WHEN</b>	The last Sunday of the month (unless notified otherwise)



**FORMAT** Varies depending on the venue – details in the Newsletter. Usually meet early at the outing location for coffee

**FORMAT** Walk or drive for a few hours. Perhaps a picnic lunch.

**COST** Free, but members are responsible for their own transport, food and entry fees.

It is usually not necessary to book, but if you would like to attend, please let Bev know to expect you so that we don't set off without you by mistake!

You can contact her at [bevjiwil@gmail.com](mailto:bevjiwil@gmail.com) 0631406344. Bev also welcomes suggestions for outings.

### **AWAY TRIPS – (Marion Melville)**

Away trips vary greatly:

- Normally a two-night weekend (Friday and Saturday night) at a location two to three hours drive from Johannesburg.
- Sometimes a three-night weekend a little further afield.
- Occasionally a longer trip. 2019 saw visits to the Kgalagadi and Northern KZN, 2020 to Mapungubwe, and 2025 to Sekoma Island Zambia.

We generally stay in self-catering accommodation, and very occasionally we camp. Communal catering is a major highlight, and definitely part of the 80% fun! You always need to book for these trips. You will find the cost and details in the newsletter, and these are also discussed at meetings. The Club welcomes suggestions for trips.

### **MID-WEEK OUTINGS**

Local mid-week outings on the second Thursday of the month, which are proving to be very popular. The morning starts, generally at 07h00 in the car park of whichever park is being visited and we walk (gently) for a couple of hours. At the end of the walk, coffee and chat and, depending on where you live, you can be home by 10h00.

Dennis is keen to find new places to visit, so if you have any ideas, please let him know.

[Dennis.townsend4@gmail.com](mailto:Dennis.townsend4@gmail.com)

### **BIRDLIFE SOUTH AFRICA**

The Cuckoo Bird Club is an affiliate member of BirdLife SA, but this does not give individual members of our Club direct membership.

Joining BirdLife South Africa provides some material benefits, but the most important thing is that through your membership you will be contributing to the conservation of our Country's birds and their habitats.

To join BirdLife South Africa in your own right:

Go to the Birdlife South Africa website, <https://www.birdlife.org.za>  
Select Support Us and Become a Member.

You can also sign up for the free monthly BirdLife South Africa e-newsletter. Once you are on the mailing list, you will receive various notices and invitations.

Go to the Birdlife South Africa website, <https://www.birdlife.org.za>  
Select Media & Resources and click on the link to the E-Newsletter

