



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 4 July 2005

BIRDS OF A FEATHER TO TAKE “CENTRE STAGE” AT BANROCK STATION’S INAUGURAL BIRD DAY OUT

Interested in birdlife but have trouble putting names to the wide variety of species found in the Riverland and the Mallee?

Banrock Station Wines may have the answers for you with its inaugural Bird Day Out this Saturday (9 July).

The leading eco-wine maker has assembled some of the most authoritative bird watchers and ornithologists in the region for the event that emphasises education and entertainment.

Novice or beginner bird lovers will learn how to spot and identify the region’s birdlife, including endangered species, and gain insights into bird habitats and behaviour in a day of free seminars presented by local and South Australian experts.

A highlight of the day will be a presentation by one of Australia’s leading ornithologists, Dr David Paton, from the University of Adelaide, who will speak about what birds can teach civilisation about the health of the environment.

With more than 160 species of birds recorded at Banrock Station during the year, there's a good chance of spotting and identifying many mallee and wetland birds.

These include the endangered Regent Parrot, the colourful Mallee Ringneck parrot, tree creepers, butcher birds, sacred kingfishers, whistling kites and swamp harriers.

Other birds on the water and inhabiting the shallow margins of the wetland include spoonbills, herons, egrets, several species of ducks and a number of waders.

Other seminar speakers include:

- ❑ Wildlife Officer and Guide, Mr John Gitsham;
- ❑ Birds Australia Gluepot Reserve Manager, Mr Duncan MacKenzie;
- ❑ Jolly Goodfellows Bird Tours Proprietor, Mr Bob Goodfellow;
- ❑ SA Department of Environment and Heritage Officers, Mr Peter Cale and Ms Leanne Mladovan;
- ❑ Local expert on Regent Parrots, Mr Kevin Smith, and;

- River Murray Catchment Board scientist, Mr Peter Waanders.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for bird lovers and watchers from around South Australia to learn from some of the State’s most authoritative experts, all in one location on one day,” Banrock Station Manager, Mr Tony Sharley, said.

“Banrock Station and its surrounds are a hive of constant bird activity – the difficulty for many of us is knowing how to identify the different bird species, and where to find them,” he said.

The Bird Day Out program commences with an avian “treasure hunt” and pancake breakfast at 7am, and culminates with a three-course dinner and Banrock Station wines in front of a log fire at the Wine and Wetland Centre.

The seminars are free of charge, but bookings are essential, by Wednesday 6 July.

Bookings are also required for breakfast (\$10 per person), lunch (\$15 pp) and dinner (\$39 pp, pre-paid by credit card) by contacting Banrock Station Tourism Manager, Ms Sandy Iosefellis, on (08) 8583 0299 or fax (08) 8583 0166.

Visitors to the Bird Day Out are encouraged to wear warm, casual clothing and footwear, and bring binoculars if possible.

To register, further information is available on: www.banrockstation.com. Brochures are also available from Riverland Visitors Information Centres.