

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hoodies Hatch! 6 chicks on Surf Coast

6 threatened, Hooded Plover chicks have hatched on the Surf Coast and everyone is urged to look for signs, keep dogs away and give them space.

There's currently two chicks at Point Impossible (nudist beach) and three more at Point Roadknight, while one chick has hatched at 'Guvvos' (managed by Parks Victoria).

GORCC Conservation Supervisor Georgie Beale said all five vulnerable babies were striving to survive on the busy beaches they share with people and their pets.

"A second nest at Point Roadknight has three eggs that are due to hatch this week.

"Unfortunately, three eggs at Moggs Creek were recently taken by a fox, however it is hoped that the adult pair will attempt to breed again this season," she said.

The Friends of the Hooded Plover Volunteers (Surf Coast), led by BirdLife Australia, are working around the clock to warden and monitor these precious chicks.

The volunteers partner with the GORCC Conservation Team and Parks Victoria in protecting 'hoodies' across the Surf Coast.

"GORCC is grateful to the volunteers for their tireless efforts," said Ms. Beale.

GORCC's local 'Save the Hoodie' competition has had 161 entries so far and the conservation team has observed a noticeable change in beachgoer behaviour and attitudes.

"The community is really coming on board and helping to spread the word, encouraging everyone to give hoodies space and keep dogs away from breeding zones," said Ms. Beale.

For local information on hoodies on the Surf Coast or for more details on the competition and how you can win, visit www.savethehoodie.com.au.

BirdLife Australia coordinates the state-wide and national recovery of the Hooded Plover. For more information on Hoodies or to become a volunteer contact BirdLife Australia at hoodedplover@birdlife.org.au or visit www.birdlife.org.au/beach.

- Ends -

Caring for the coast and community

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