

Alison Kuitert



Karen Joynes

FAR SOUTH COAST 2023-24 SEASON SUMMARY AND DRAFT RESULTS

South Coast Shorebird Recovery Program

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that today we meet on Aboriginal land.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and we show our respect for elders past, present and emerging.



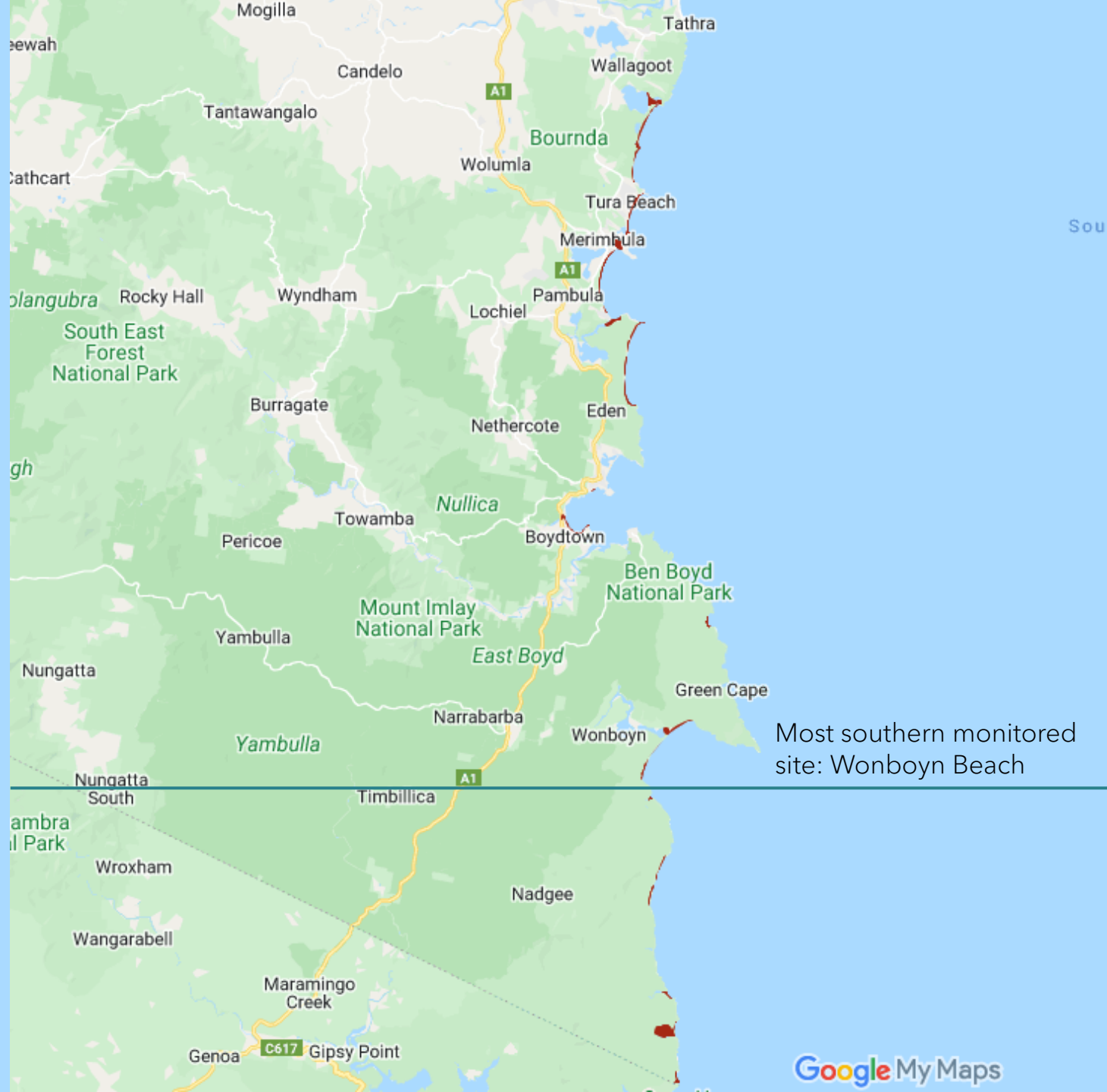
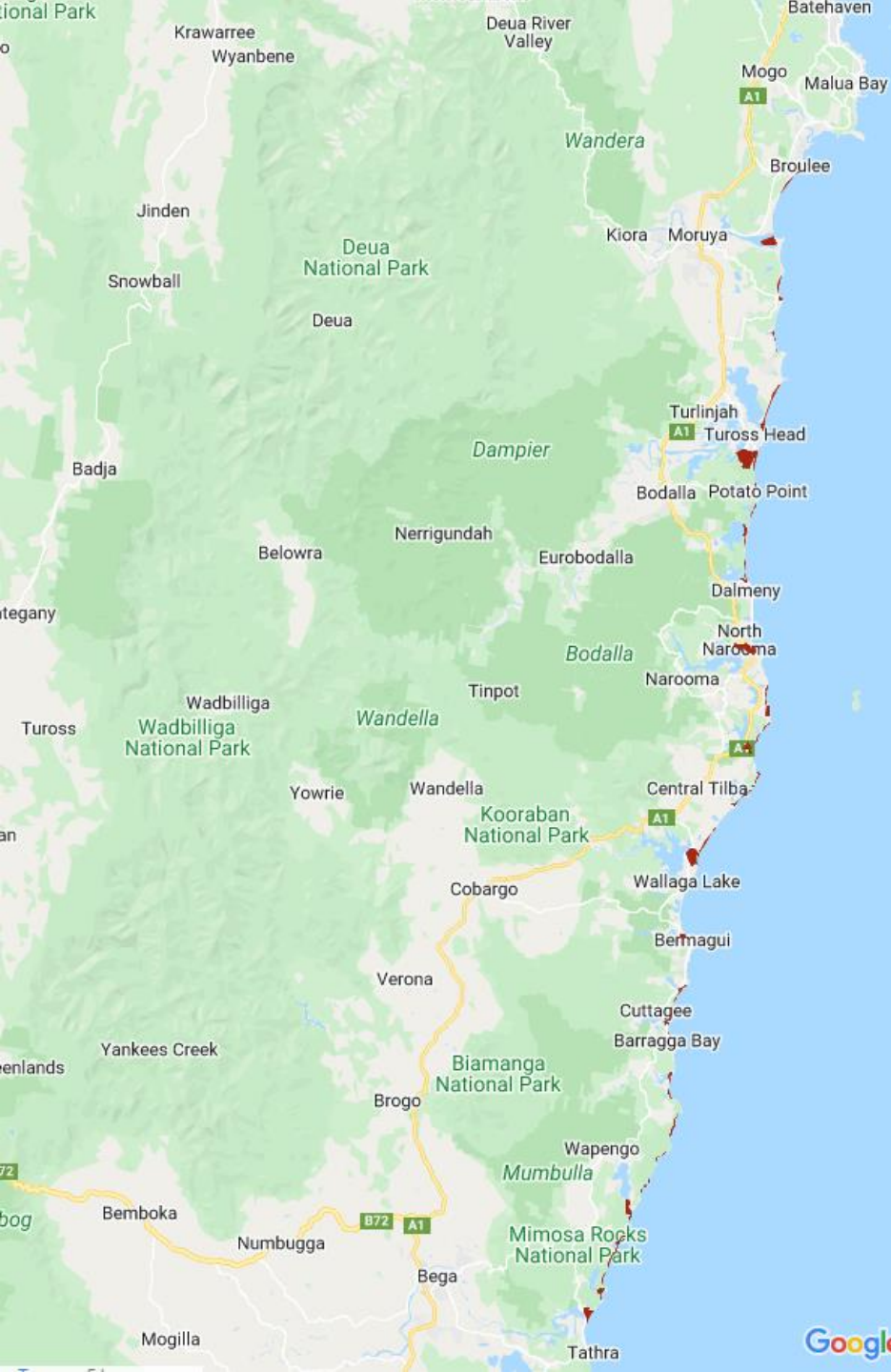
Planning,
Industry &
Environment

Nikita Ridgeway

FAR SOUTH COAST

- 40+ active volunteers
- 840 hours volunteered
 - That's only the combined time of 11 people!
- Monitored approx. 42 nesting sites and beaches
- Nesting ran from 19th August 2023 to 3rd March 2024





Most southern monitored site: Wonboyn Beach

Spring 2023 – Pied Oystercatchers

- First nest was captured on camera 19th August at Congo (3 days earlier than last season)
- 36 breeding pairs observed
- 16 chicks fledged



Pied Oystercatcher chicks fledged at:

- Congo (1)
- Tuross Lake (1 confirmed)
- Brou Lake (1)
- Mummuga Lake (2)
- Wagonga Inlet - Lewis Island (2)
- Corunna Lake (1)
- Tilba Lake/1080 Beach (1)
- Baragoot Beach (1)
- Aragunnu (1)
- Bithry Inlet (1)
- Nelson Beach (2)
- Mogareeka (1)
- Wallagoot to Bournda (1)





Brou Lake



2023-12-06 6:49:26 AM M 1/3 20°C

Lake Tarourga - new site

HC600 HYPERFIRE

RECONYX



Brou Lake



Tuross Lake



Congo

000000000000 075°F 23°C 17/10/2023 16:52:18

001200000000 075°F 23°C 06/12/2023 18:34:48

Baragoot Beach

- First known nesting in 18+ years
- Successfully fledged 1 chick on the first attempt





Little Terns

- First Little Terns sighted 27th September at Wallaga Lake
- First nests found 11th November at Mogareeka
- 66 breeding pairs observed
- 3 chicks fledged



Peter Collins



Little Terns Sites:

- Tuross Lake
 - No nesting
- Brou Lake
 - 6 breeding pairs
 - 0 fledglings
- Wallaga Lake
 - No nesting
- Mogareeka
 - 35 breeding pairs
 - 3 fledglings
- Wallagoot Lake
 - 25 breeding pairs
 - 0 fledglings



Hooded Plovers

- First nest found 31st August at North Tura Beach (a month earlier than last season)
- 16 breeding pairs observed
- 13 chicks fledged!



Hooded Plover chicks fledged at:

- Bogola Head (2 + 2)
- Murrah Beach (1)
- Wallagoot Lake (1)
- Quondolo Beach (3)
- Nullica Bay (1 + 1)
- Greenglades (2)





Quondolo Beach - all 3 chicks fledged

Sooty Oystercatchers

- 2 potential nesting sites and scrapes observed in Bournda NP
- 1 chick/fledgling sighted near Narooma Golf Course rocks



Beach Stone-curlews



FLEDGLINGS

Pied Oystercatchers

- 36 breeding pairs
- 16 fledglings

Hooded Plovers

- 16 breeding pairs
- 13 fledglings

Little Terns

- 65 breeding pairs
- 3 fledglings



Phil Jones

Challenges

- Inundation
- Predation – Foxes, Silver Gulls, Ravens, Goannas
- Domestic dogs in prohibited areas
- Illegal vehicle access on beaches



Inundation



Foxes

20 nights of predator control shooting operations

Targeted operations were conducted at:

- Wallaga Lake
- 1080 Beach
- Bithry Inlet
- Middle Beach

Fox baiting was conducted regularly throughout the season in National Parks

- Bait station locations were reviewed and refined



Fox predation of Bithry Inlet POC nest



Native predators





2023-11-30 4:25:37 AM M 1/3

15°C



HC600 HYPERFIRE



Dogs and vehicles



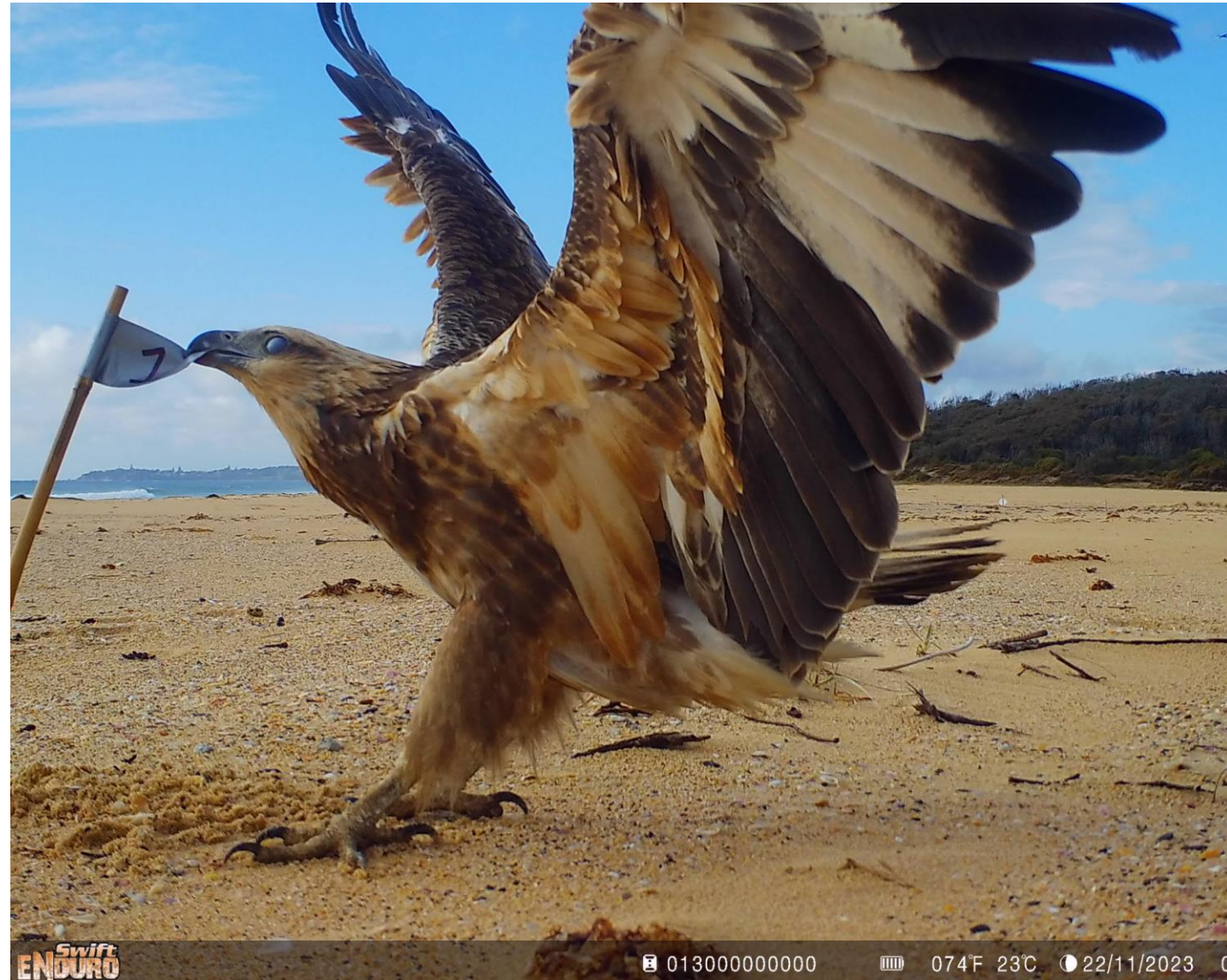
LAW ENFORCEMENT

- 15+ fines issued for dogs on beaches in National Parks
- 2 fines issued for vehicles on beaches in National Parks
- Worked with Council Rangers to coordinate patrols for shorebird nesting site protection
- Education of beach-goers by Shorebird Volunteers and NPWS staff



4G TRAIL CAMERAS AND MACHINE LEARNING TECHNOLOGY

- Continue improving and adapting use of cameras
- Allowed us to:
 - Determine the cause of a greater number of nest losses
 - Detect predators, particularly on less frequently surveyed beaches
 - Access real-time information on predator movements
 - Enhance pest control operations
 - Enhance law enforcement activities
 - Observe interesting behaviour and near-misses





HC600 HYPERFIRE

RECONYX

HYPERFIRE

RECONYX

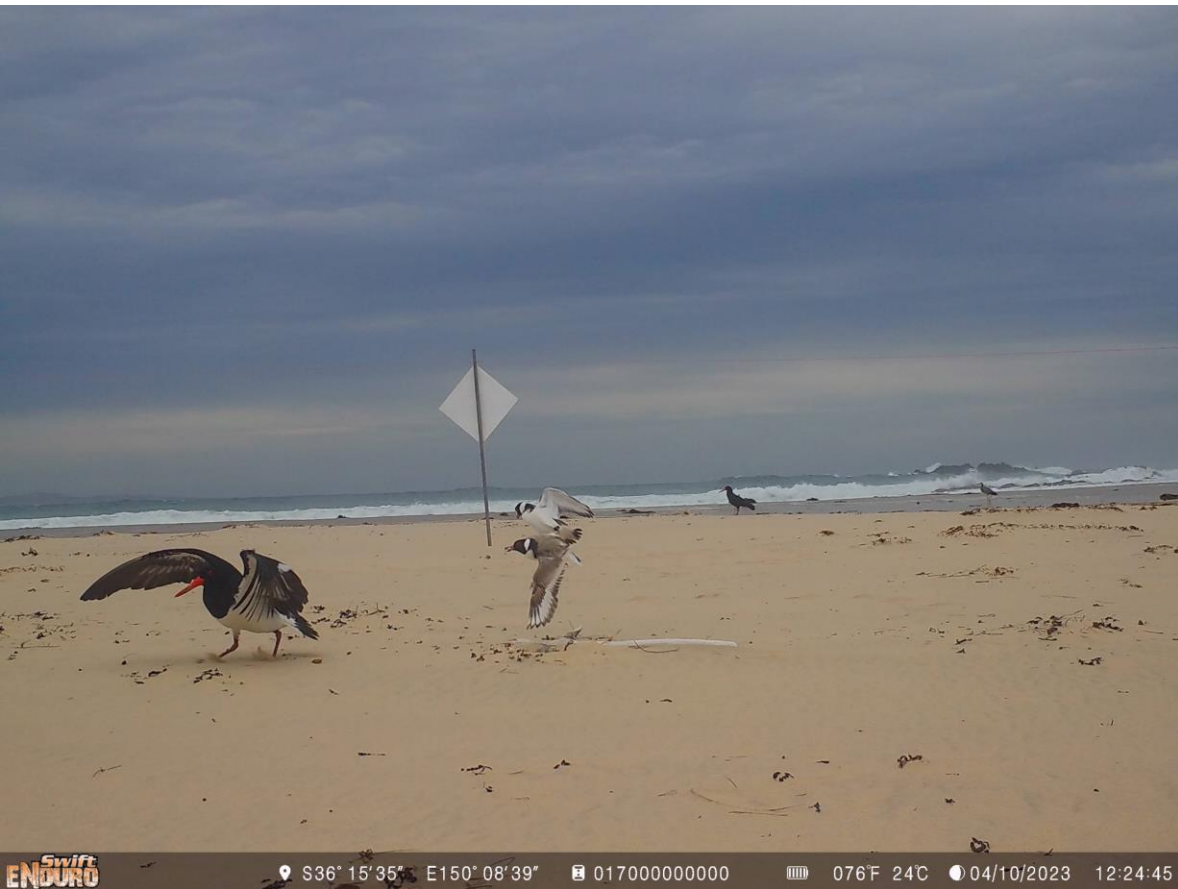


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Hooded Plover banding program

17 more hoodies banded and flagged
in last 12 months



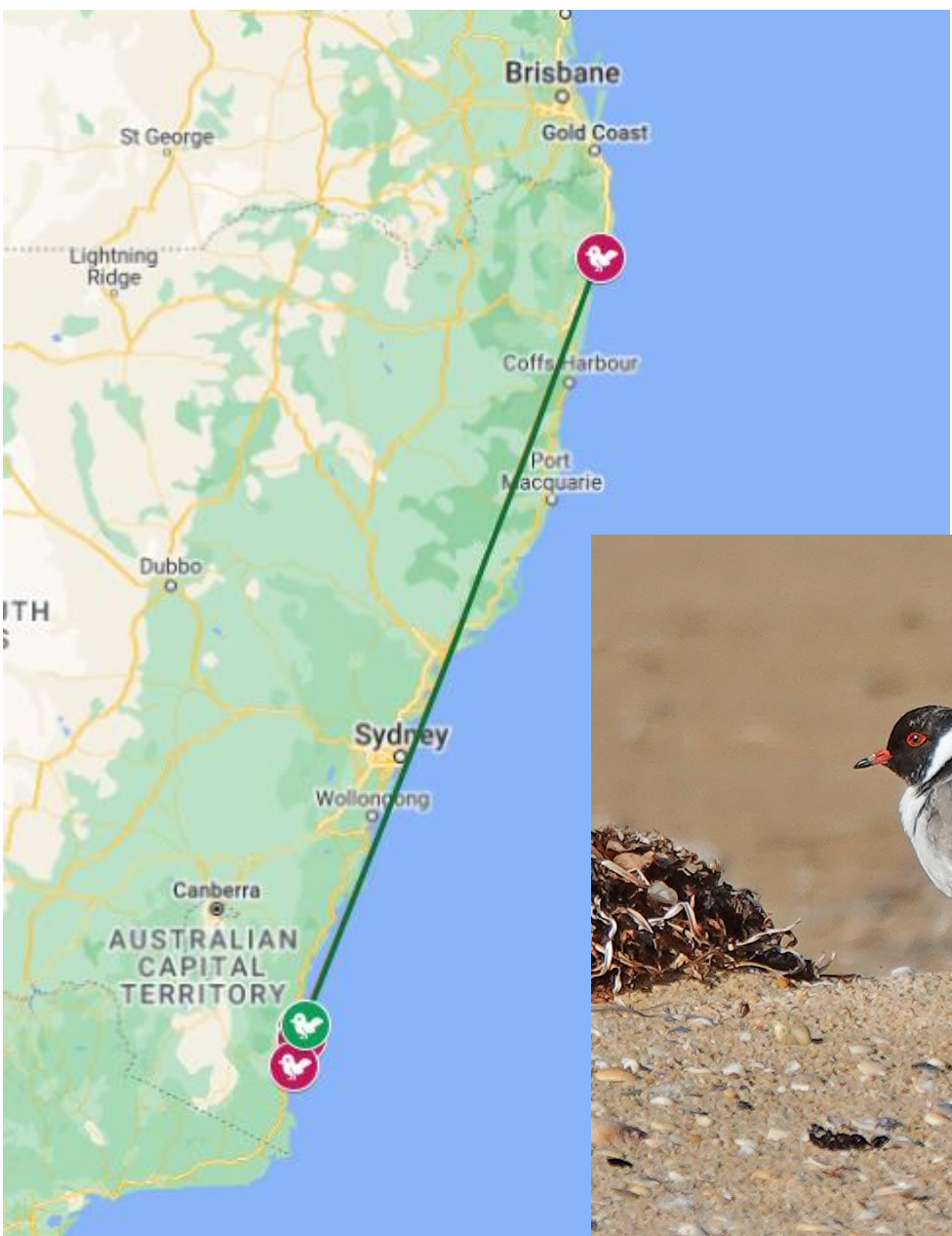
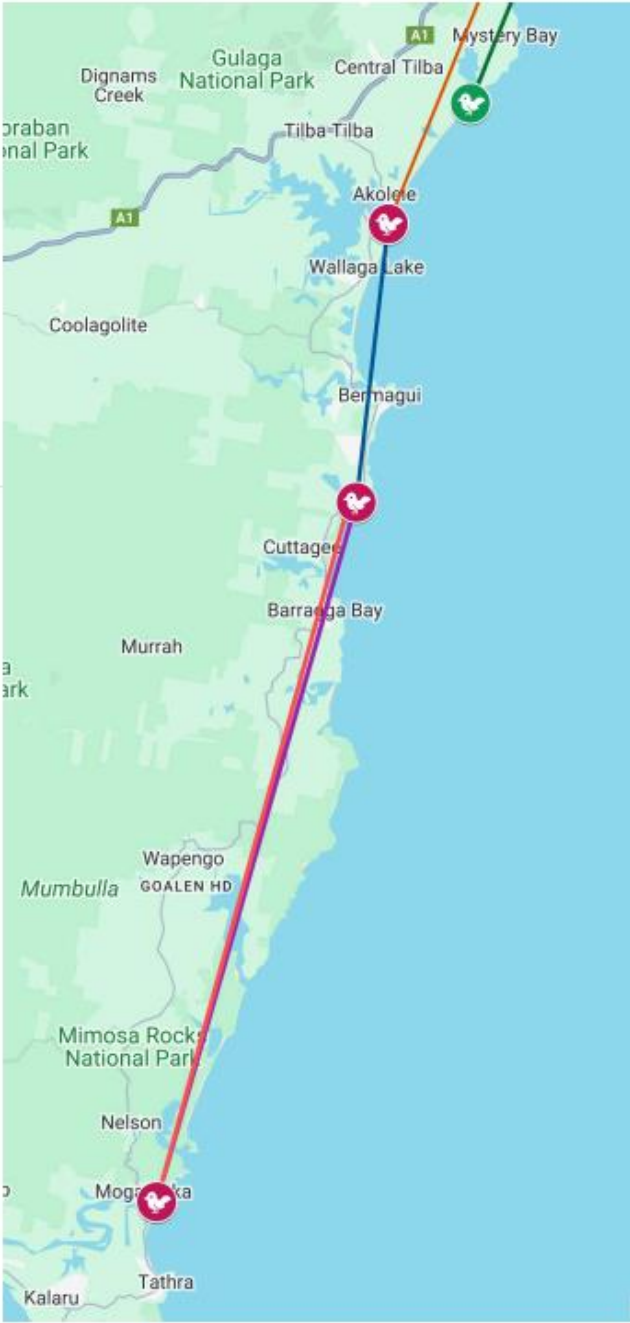




Hoodie T7s Intrastate Adventures

T7 stopovers

- Wallaga Lake
- Baragoot Beach
- Mogareeka
- Broadwater NP
- Back to Baragoot
- Wallaga Lake
- Baragoot Beach
- Mogareeka
- Broadwater NP
- 1080 Beach - fledging beach



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Murrah



Little Lake



Quondolo Beach



Murrah



V4



Nullica Bay



Wallagoot Lake



Baycliff



Bogola Head

Second parent and all four fledglings banded





Bogola Head's 2nd successful clutch
Alison Kuitert

Going forward

- Learn from experiences, challenges and feedback
- Continue Hooded Plover banding program
- Review management and timing of predator control
- Continue training camera AI to improve predator control
- Improve compliance
- Best practice guidelines currently being updating





Marianne Bekker



A huge THANK YOU to everyone for your help
and dedication!

We couldn't do it without you

