Resident shorebirds

A variety of bird species spend their entire lives on local South East beaches. Often they go unnoticed and are well-equipped for living a cryptic life on the beach. The eggs and chicks blend into their surroundings, and the adult birds have sneaky behaviours to hide and to distract threats away from their young.

Shorebirds in peril

Almost all of our local nesting shorebird populations are in trouble. They can only nest on beaches that they must share with us humans. As an unintended impact from our beach activities their eggs and chicks are often exposed to predators or deadly heat, and sometimes they even get crushed underfoot or by cars. Consequently their breeding success is now so low that they may not survive into the future.

Thankfully local people are caring for these birds to help increase breeding success.

You can help give shorebirds a chance by:

• Keeping your dog on a lead
• Choosing to walk down to the beach instead of driving
• Looking out for birds that may be nesting and giving them space
• Walking or driving on the wet sand instead of near the foredune

For further information contact:
Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
11 Helen St, Mount Gambier
Phone (08) 8735 1177 or www.environment.sa.gov.au