

This beach is an important site for shorebirds



Photos: Birds Australia

How can you help protect these birds?

- If you see one of the birds pictured above on the beach during nesting season, **please keep your distance**
- Please **keep clear** of any temporary fences or signs installed on the beach used to protect nests and chicks.
- If you go jogging, walking or horse riding (if permitted), try to avoid times of high tide and **keep to the water's edge** where nests are unlikely to occur
- Please obey all dog regulations. If dogs are permitted on the beach during nesting season, please **walk your dog on a leash**. An unleashed dog has a greater chance of stepping on a nest, disturbing incubating adults or scaring the baby birds into hiding
- Please **let the dunes remain a safe haven** for nests and chicks

For more information: www.amlrnrm.sa.gov.au



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Morgan's Beach - Snapshots in time

Morgan's Beach boasts three different types of sedimentary rocks from sediments deposited in the sea at three different time periods which had three, very different climates when the Australian continent was at three different positions on the Earth's surface.

Granite erratics litter the hilltop, and lie stranded on the beach where the sea has washed away the soft sediments. Some of the granites here have been matched with rocks from Antarctica. At this time, Backstairs Passage was probably a glacial valley.

520 million years ago Kanmantoo Group

The shore platform has been eroded across upturned sedimentary rocks of the Kanmantoo Group which were deposited in the sea about 520 million years ago. About 500 million years ago they were folded, metamorphosed, uplifted and eroded. At that time, Australia was north of the equator.

280 million years ago Cape Jervis Formation

Australia moved slowly south and, by about 280 million years ago, was near the South Pole, attached to Antarctica and the supercontinent Gondwana. At this time it was partly covered by an ice cap. When the ice melted, it deposited in the adjacent sea layers of clay, sand, gravels and cobbles which are called the Cape Jervis Formation - now well exposed in the cliff.

43 million years ago Point Ellen Formation

About 43 million years ago, Australia separated from Antarctica and is still moving northwards. At about 1.8 million years ago, the glacial sediments were under the sea and were covered by a fossil bearing limestone called the Point Ellen Formation when Australia was about 125 km south of its present position on the earth's surface.



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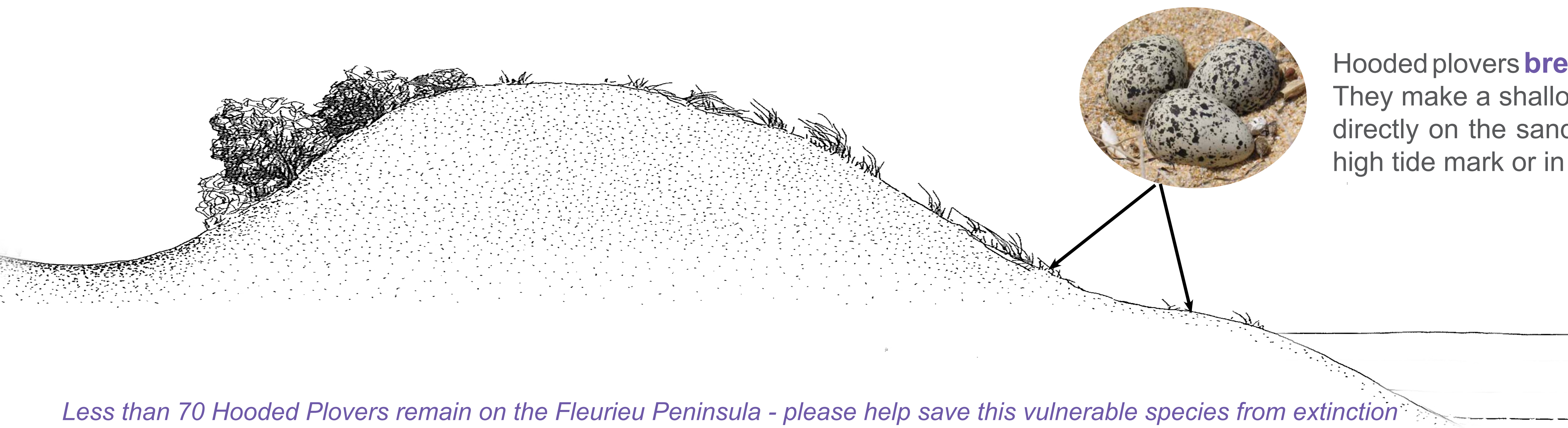
This Beach is an Important Nesting Site for Hooded Plovers



The adult birds are easily disturbed and will leave the nest **if you come too close** and will not return until you are out of sight.

When the camouflaged eggs and chicks are left unattended they are **easily stepped on, eaten by a predator**, or they can overheat or cool.

The **tiny chicks can't fly** and are easily frightened. They either crouch in the sand, by seaweed or run to the dunes to hide. If they hide too long, **they can starve to death.**



Hooded plovers **breed during August to February.** They make a shallow nest scrape and lay their eggs directly on the sand, either on the beach above the high tide mark or in the dunes

Less than 70 Hooded Plovers remain on the Fleurieu Peninsula - please help save this vulnerable species from extinction

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