

The new bird hide at the Dick Dent Bird Sanctuary, Strand.

by John Clements, Somerset West Bird Club.



photograph supplied by John Clements.

The new hide after completion in January 2012.

On Christmas Night 2010, the bird hide at the Dick Dent Bird Sanctuary was completely destroyed by fire, very likely due to the activity of vagrants.

However, thanks to a group of Technicon Students, who were spending their final year at the Helderberg Nature Reserve, the structure has been rebuilt. The students, during their third year in the field, are required to carry out a number of projects one of which had to be the planning, design and construction of a useful field structure. The structure had to provide basic facilities for bird watching but discourage vagrants from taking up lodgings. This was a win-win situation and the result is a new hide at minimal cost.

We are sincerely grateful for the help and cooperation received in this project from Owen Wittridge, the Reserve manager, and his staff. The hide was formally opened by Ward Councillor Stuart Pringle at a small ceremony on 7th March 2012.

The sanctuary habitat has recovered after the fire and we are now able to resume our programme of outings on the 2nd Saturday of every month. 1500hrs May to September and 1600hrs October to April.

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