

Opportunities
to
engage, educate and empower members of the public
whilst preserving a threatened species
at
Montforts Beach
(Mornington Peninsula National Park)

During the 2010 – 2011 summer, 98 % of Hooded Plover breeding attempts in the Mornington Peninsula National Park failed. There are fewer than 600 Hooded Plovers left in Victoria.

Currently there are two Hooded Plover chicks at Montforts Beach. They have been there for around 11 days.

Unfortunately, Parks Victoria have not erected signage at this beach to inform the public of the chicks existence. They are not using this breeding attempt to educate the public, engage the public in shorebird conservation or empower supportive locals to become involved. Parks Victoria are missing a unique and great OPPORTUNITY.

Simple A4 signs could be printed at the Rosebud office and laminated at the local news agency for a couple of dollars each. If Parks Victoria cannot afford this the Friends of the Hooded Plover inc (Morn Pen) could help.



This is the **entrance point to the beach**. It provides a great opportunity to introduce the concept of Shorebird Conservation. Even if it's only a hand full of people who use this access.

The sign should be supportive, positive and educational. It should talk up the opportunity for the public to help in protecting these chicks.



This is an existing sign directing people to Montforts Beach. It's also a great point to have another supportive sign making people aware they are getting closer to the chicks.



These steps and lookout provide a funnel point where another sign could be erected to give supportive and positive messages.



This post has no sign despite it being designed for such. What another great opportunity but there is nothing on it!



Steps leading down to Montforts Beach. Another great funnel point where a sign could be providing a message warning people they are getting closer to an endangered native species.



And here we are on the beach where the chicks are currently feeding and resting, (I hope) not a sign in sight. Nothing to inform the public of the chicks presence.

The friends of the Hooded Plover for the Mornington Peninsula have invented a banner that is now being used on beaches all over South East Australian beaches by many Hooded Plover volunteers and managers but there is nothing on this beach.

What a lost opportunity.

Malcolm Brown

0403 997 831

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