



TOOWOOMBA BIRD OBSERVERS

To encourage the observation and study of the birds of the Toowoomba area.

No. 448
January '17

Editorial

Sandy Robertson

Hi all,

I hope everyone has had a wonderful festive season and are looking forward to an exciting 2017.

We have a full calendar for the year planned, however if you have any outings suggestions or would like to lead a particular outing, please contact the outings coordinator Mike McGoldrick.

Nikki has also been hard at work prepping a simple spreadsheet for members to use to report monthly bird sightings, see page 4.

Thank you to everyone who sent in photos for the newsletter last year. Please keep them coming, but I also need some people to send in some interesting or informative articles that

This Issue

November Outing Report

Members Photos

Members Bird Notes

Bits and Pieces

Coming events

can be included to make the newsletter more interesting for members. Remember there are newer members of the club that could benefit from the knowledge and experience of longer term members.

Stay cool in this heat, don't remember to fill up your bird bath, our native animals also suffer in these heat waves.

Happy reading
Sandy Robertson

Date Claimers 2017

Proposed outings calendar

January – Sat 28th
Prince Henry Drive

February Sunday 26th
Goomburra

March Date TBA (tide dependent)
Fort Lytton and Manly

April Sat 29th
Ravensbourne National Park

May 27/28 optional camp out
Peach Trees, Kilcoy

June 24/25th
Raptor survey weekend

July Sat 29th
Highfields Falls

August Sun 27th (Rain dependent)
Lake Broadwater, Dalby

September 30th/1st Campout
Duraki and Coolmunda

October 29th /29th
Census weekend

November 25th (rain dependent)
Lockyer Wetlands

December TBA

Membership Fees for 2016/2017 were due at the end of August and are now overdue

Annual subscription remains at:
\$45 for adults and families.

\$40 for pensioners and students

Fees can be paid by cheque or money order payable to

Toowoomba Bird Observers Inc

Fees can also be paid by direct transfer to Heritage Bank to:

BSB 638-070 A/c 4312503 S21



TOOWOOMBA
BIRD OBSERVERS

P.O. Box 4730, Toowoomba East 4350
www.toowoombabirdobservers.org

MEMBERSHIP: Adult/family \$45
Pensioner/student \$40

Breakfast with the birds, Nov 26, 2016

A small group joined the birds for breakfast on Saturday the 26th November for the clubs end of year breakup at Picnic Point in Toowoomba.

After breakfast, a walk down over the escarpment resulted in an encounter with a brush turkey keeping the walking track clear by scraping all fallen litter off the path and over the edge to his precariously placed nest mound. Further down we encountered a commotion in the one clump of bushes consisting of a number of rufous fantails, scrub wrens, thornbills and silvereyes.

The Clerodendrum (lollybush) was flowering profusely, as was the ochna which was quite widespread and is a major weed of the escarpment parks.

We also saw scaly breasted lorikeets and rainbow lorikeets feeding on acacia seeds and lantana berries.

Bird List: Australian Brush Turkey, Rock Dove, Rainbow Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Australian King Parrot, Pale-headed Rosella, Common Koel, Laughing Kookaburra, Variegated Fairy-wren, Striated Pardalote, White-browed Scrub-wren, Large-billed Scrubwren, Brown Thornbill, Noisy Friarbird, Noisy Miner, Lewin's Honeyeater, Eastern Yellow Robin, Grey-crowned Babbler, Eastern Whipbird, Leaden Flycatcher, Magpie Lark, Rufous Fantail, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Cicadabird, Figbird, Grey Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Red-browed Finch, Silvereye.



Clerodendrum in flower



Ochna , an environmental weed

Members' Photo Page



Sacred Kingfisher, Hirstglen
Photo: Sandy Robertson.



Peregrine Falcon, Cambooya
Photo: Charles Dove



Red-browed Finch, Hirstglen
Once again I am loath to mow down the patch of green panic in a small area of my front yard as the red-browed and double bar finches just love it. This pic was a long zoom, so it's a bit blurry, but they are such a pretty little bird.
Photo: Sandy Robertson

Masked Owl, Toowoomba

St Lukes Church on the corner of Ruthven and Herries Streets attracts many visitors, but one of the more unusual visitors in August last year was a little reluctant to leave.

After spending a few days inside the church, despite open doors and windows, this Masked Owl was carefully captured by churchgoers and released outside.

By all accounts, an interesting sighting for Toowoomba.

Thanks Judi Gray for letting us know and forwarding the photo



Members' Bird Notes

MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES:

New records Officer, Nikki Thompon has done up a monthly checklist in an excel spreadsheet, broken up into the club areas 'grid zones' that members can use to record and forward sightings for inclusion in the monthly members "Bird Notes"

Below is a plan of the grids. Actual maps are available from the secretary

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| W1 Kingsthorpe | N1 Gowrie Jtn | N2 Highfields | N3 Murphy's Creek | N4 Helidon Hills |
| W2 Gowrie Mtn | C1 NW T'mba | C3 NE T'wmba | C5 Withcott | C7 Helidon |
| W3 Athol/ Umbiram | C2 SW T'wba | C4 SE T'wba | C6 Upper Flagstone | C8 Lower Flagstone |
| W4 West Cambooya | S1 Cambooya | S2 Ramsay | S3 Rockmount | S4 Fordsdale |

If anyone wishes to submit bird notes or would like a copy of the checklist, please email Nikki on thompson.nicolette8@gmail.com

Bits and Pieces

TBO Online

Website and facebook:

toowoombabirdobservers.org.au

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Toowoomba-Bird-Observers/175472075881350>

Coming Events

January Outing

Date: Saturday 28th January

Where: Prince Henry Drive,
Toowoomba

Details: Meet at the gates on the northern end of Prince Henry Drive at 6:45am for a 7:00am start. Parking is available here.

Please bring binoculars, sunscreen, water, your morning tea and wear walking shoes and a hat. After the birding walk, morning tea will be at nearby Webb Park.

Leader: Mike McGoldrick Ph
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Committee Members

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
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| Web/Facebook coordinator | Mick Atzeni and Judi Grey | |

Deadline for articles for the next Newsletter is Friday 3rd February 2017
Please e-mail or post articles and photos to the Editor.

**If undeliverable return to
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PO Box 4730, Toowoomba East Q 4350**

Surface Mail