

MARCH 1985



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

toowoomba bird club

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Annual Subscription

Ordinary / Family Membership	\$8.00
Student Membership	\$4.00

Activities

Field Outings and Monthly Meeting - 4th Sunday of each month usually leave from Pigotts' car park at 7.30 am.

Camping trips, film and slide evenings.

News-Sheet

Published monthly, before the outing. Articles have a deadline of the last day of the month, and should be mailed to the Editor.

EDITORIAL

It was with much pleasure that I read of Rockhampton's Tree Ordinance. Congratulations, Rockhampton! Obviously a City Council conscious of its environment. One day, I hope we will see laws nationwide for protection of our trees.

Can we dare hope that Toowoomba, "The Garden City", will follow Rockhampton's lead in the protection of our trees.

Other good news this month is that the signs have gone up for the Water Bird Habitat in the Mackenzie and Alderley Streets area, and that the development of Horn Park into an Environment Park has been mooted by the City Council. Let us hope that this goes ahead. An Environment Park so close to the city, and the Water Bird Habitat could give Toowoomba's tourist potential a great boost, and provide areas of learning for our children.

ANGELA KILMARTIN

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NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome two new members to the Club, and we hope to see them on our outings: ROSAMUND LAVERS and LEE BALDWIN.

We also welcome back to the Club after an absence JOHN & RUTH WALTERS.

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LIBRARY NOTES

The Bird Observer, Dec 1984, No. 635
Jan-Feb 1985, No. 636
The Darling Downs Naturalist, Feb 1985, No. 368
Q.O.S. Newsletter, Jan 1985, Vol 16, No.1
Urimbirra, Jan & Feb 1985, Vol 19, Nos 1 & 2
Wildlife Australia, Summer 1984, Vol 21, No. 4

It's lovely to see the library being used at long last. A number of members have taken advantage of the publications being available for loan before the Outings.

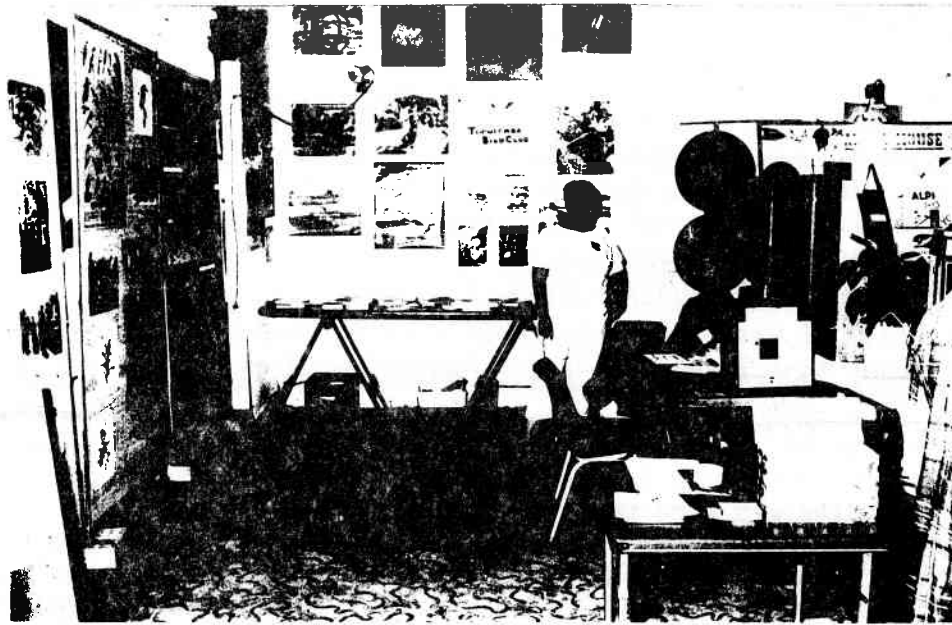
One new magazine has been added to our list 'Wildlife Australia'. This is a beautifully presented quarterly, published by the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland. It has many notable articles, illustrated with quality colour photographs. There are children's items, including stories and competitions. Very good reading.

LESLEY BEATON, Librarian

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EIGHT DAY HOLIDAY in PAPUA-NEW GUINEA - Travel by plane, large and small, and helicopter, to Ubaigubi Lodge, which has been built especially to view the Birds of Paradise from hides in the Crater Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary. Cost \$1990 incl all fares, meals & accom, May to October - See Angela for further details, which will at least send you to find bird books to look up ... Blue Bird of Paradise, Princess Stephanie, King of Saxony ...

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Lesley Beaton and Ron Box are shown in our stall on Saturday afternoon.
Photo by the Toowoomba Photographic Club.

Despite the power strike, the Ninth Annual Hobby and Craft Show went ahead, thanks to a large generator which was made available to the South Toowoomba Rotary Club. Without this generator, the Show most certainly would have been cancelled.

Highlighting our stall this year were three large display panels borrowed from the DDIAE, with photographs, bird pictures and several charts of common urban and garden birds. The charts were very popular with all those who visited the stall.

A continuous slide presentation, featuring 160 slides of Toowoomba and Barrier Reef birds delighted the children, and proved to be the most popular part of the stall. Many people participated in the Bird Quiz, with almost 50% correctly identifying the following ten common Toowoomba birds: Straw-necked Ibis, Kestrel, Masked Plover, Crested Pigeon, Pale-headed Rosella, Tawny Frogmouth, Sacred Kingfisher, Whipbird, Superb Blue Wren and Noisy Miner.

The drawing for a free 1985 Club Membership proved popular with 84 entries. Congratulations to the winner - MRS J. EZZY of 71 Alderley Street.

The success of our stall would not have been possible without the enthusiasm and help of a number of Club members. Many thanks to Lesley Beaton and Sandy Pottinger for helping me set up the Stall on Thursday night, and to the following people who worked during the three-day Show: Michael Atzeni, Lesley Beaton, Peggy & Roy Beaton, Ron Box, Dean Collins, Don Gaydon, Gloria Glass, Angela Kilmartin, Lyn Rowan and Vera Simon. Also thanks to Lesley, Lyn & Michael for helping me dismantle the stall.

I feel we accomplished our main aim - that of publicising our Club to a wide cross-section of the Toowoomba community.

MARILYN JACOBS

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Angela

I had a great sighting on Saturday January 19, 1985 - a 'Shorelands Hawk'. I was hovering over a grape orchard in the Withcott Hotel area - a 'first' for me, but if any other members have reported seeing this 'Bird', then coupled with my report, that would make it a confirmed sighting!

Re your report on the Superb Blue Wren in the January Newsletter, a few years ago at Capalaba, Brisbane, I saw a Red-backed Wren carrying the petal of a red nasturtium flower in his bill. I was completely fooled until I was able to get a clear view of him as I thought that I was stalking a Red-backed Wren with a red head.

'The Observers Book of Australian Birds' by Pat & Peter Slater, kindly lent to me by Joyce Bartenstein, carries the following in an article on the Red-backed Wren:

'Many of the displays were performed by a bird with his crimson back feathers so puffed out that he gleamed like a red coal; he would fly straight up into the air, then away from the female, presumably to show his back to full advantage. In another display male and female "leap-frogged" over each other as they sat side by side on a fence-wire. During some of his displays, the male carried a scarlet petal from a milkweed flower in his bill, echoing the colour of his back.'

Regards, JOE DEUBLE

Has anyone ever heard a Whip-bird mimicking a train? While I was birding at Rangeview last week, a train descended noisily. After it had gone, the Whip-bird started his "train" up, and it was so good I spent some time looking for another train, until ... A.K.

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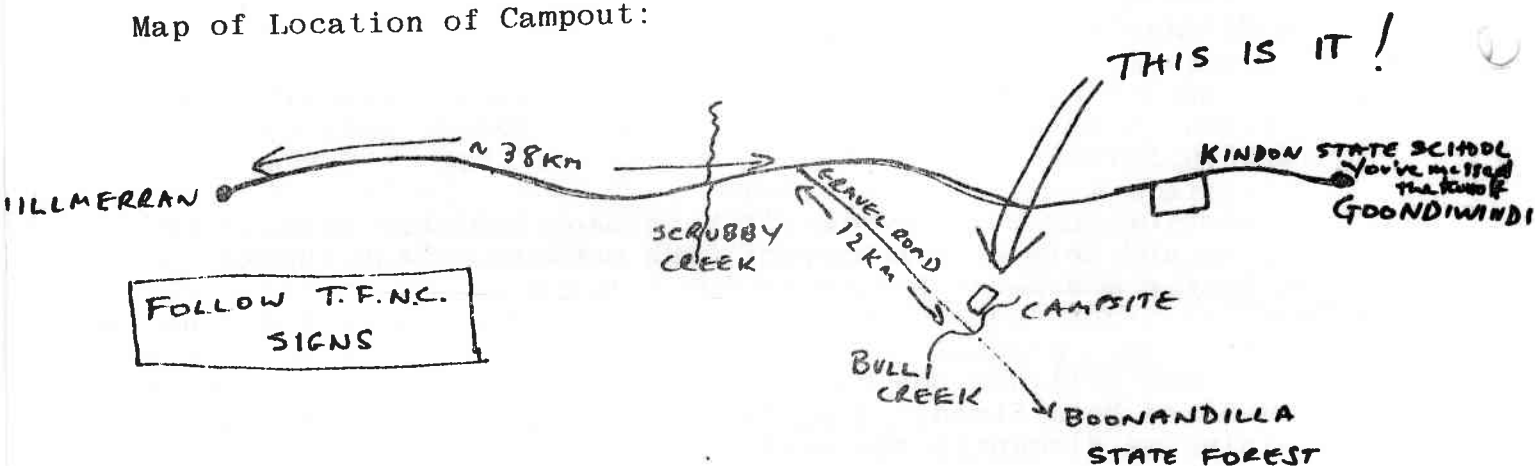
EASTER CAMP-OUT with the TOOWOOMBA FIELD NATURALIST CLUB

Date: 5th to 8th April 1985

Place: BULLI CREEK
Near BOONANDILLA STATE FOREST

Assembly Point: 9.00 am Ruthven Street entrance to K-Mart

Map of Location of Campout:



What to bring: Drinking water
Insect repellent
Raincoat (past experience at Easter)

Entertainers required: Talented musicians, singers, tale tellers, we'd appreciate your company.

If you intend joining the Field Nats, could you contact Ray Viljoen 382212, or Mary Ann Law 351571.

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OUTING REPORT - MURPHY'S CREEK and HOOD'S LAGOON 24 February 1985

A relatively large roll-up of fifteen, and a reasonably fine morning set the scene for what turned out to be an enjoyable morning's outing. Unfortunately, the bird-watching started very slowly and the first two stops yielded very little. But as the morning progressed, we were rewarded for our persistence by some fairly decent sightings of some of the area's lesser known birds.

Murphy's Creek is an area with heaps of potential for wildlife, and although we did not see Murphy's Creek at her best (5.30 to 8 am), we certainly did see an impressive display of her bird-life, which, despite the heat, was appreciated by all present.

Some of our party also visited Hood's Lagoon after Murphy's Creek, and were rewarded for their travels by some satisfying water-bird sightings, which capped off a good morning's bird-watching.

Members Present: Lee Baldwin, Lesley Beaton, Ron & Elaine Box, Don Gaydon, Gloria Glass, Ron & Nancy Gooding, Marilyn Jacobs, Rosamund Lavers, Angela Kilmartin, Harvey Price (visitor), Ann and John Shore and Andree Griffin (visitor).

Murphy's Creek: Little Black Cormorant, Pacific Heron, White-faced Heron, Rufous Night Heron, Straw-necked Ibis, Pacific Black Duck, Brown Quail, Masked Lapwing, Feral Pigeon, Peaceful Dove, Crested Pigeon, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Pale-headed Rosella, Azure Kingfisher, Laughing Kookaburra, Dollarbird, Welcome Swallow, Fairy Martin, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Jacky Winter, Rufous Whistler, Grey Shrike Thrush, Leaden Flycatcher, Grey Fantail, Willie Wagtail, Eastern Whipbird, Golden-headed Cisticola, Brown Songlark, Superb Blue Wren, Red-backed Wren, White-browed Scrub-wren, Speckled Warbler, White-throated Gerygone, Brown Thornbill, Buff-rumped Thornbill, Varied Sitella, White-throated Treecreeper, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Lewin's Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Brown-headed Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, Mistletoe Bird, Spotted Pardalote, Striated Pardalote, Silvereye, Red-browed Firetail, Double-barred Finch, Chestnut-breasted Mannikin, Common Starling, Common Myna, Spangled Drongo, Aust. Magpie Lark, Grey Butcherbird, Pied Butcherbird, Aust. Magpie, Pied Currawong, Torresian Crow.

Hood's Lagoon: Australasian Grebe, Darter, Little Black Cormorant, White-faced Heron, Cattle Egret, Intermediate Egret, Straw-necked Ibis, Yellow-billed Spoonbill, Plumed Whistle-Duck, Pacific Black Duck, Grey Teal, Pink-eared Duck, Hardhead, Wood Duck, Masked Lapwing, Black-fronted Dotterel, Pied Stilt, Latham's Snipe.

MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES

"Shorelands Hawk" !!! 19.1.85, Grape Orchard, Withbott Hotel Area, JD
Western Spinebill, 31.10.84, Yalgorup N.P., WA, PB, RRB
Broad-tailed Thornbill, " " " PB, RRB
White-tailed Black Cockatoo, 18.9.84, Kalbarri, WA PB, RRB
Black Swan (4), overhead, North Street west, 9.2.85, AK
White-browed Scrub Wren, Mabel Street, March 85, AK
Rainbow Bee-eater, Paterson Street, ahead of cyclone Pierre, 2.85, GG

F I L M E V E N I N G

Date: THURSDAY, 14 MARCH 1985
Time: 7.15 pm for 7.30 start
Place: Toowoomba Education Centre, Baker Street
FILMS: A Property in the Country British R.S.P.B. Film
Year of the Kings Alaska Film
Flight of the Snows Canadian Film
Great Blue Heron Canadian Film

Please bring a Plate

FIELD DAY FOR MARCH

Date: Sunday, 24 March 1985 Place: REDCLIFFE WADER OUTING
Assembly Point: Pigott's Car Park
Time: 7.15 am for departure at 7.30 SHARP

For this outing, it is hoped to hire a Mini-bus. If we can get 15 members and/or visitors, the cost per person will be only \$6 plus share of petrol cost. Because the bus is going to cost \$90 to hire we will have to know in advance just who is coming.

Because of the bus hire, we must have all moneys paid in by 15 MARCH, so please let us know as soon as possible.

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R.A.O.U. Congress is to be held in Toowoomba, from the 27th to 29th September 1985, at the D.D.A.I.E. More news of this at a later date.

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FIELD DAY FOR APRIL

Date: SUNDAY, 28 APRIL 1985 Place: FLAGSTONE CREEK
Assembly Point: PIGOTTS' CAR PARK
7.15 am for departure at 7.30 am SHARP

Flagstone Creek is a good birding district, and we are assured of a good spot for lunch for those that would like to picnic.

Anyone wishing transport, please phone Ann on 303207 or Angela on 321540.

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If there is a RED tick in this box, I am afraid you are unfinancial, and this will be the last News-letter you are eligible to receive.