

TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER

POSTAL ADDRESS

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toowoomba bird club

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

No. 145 - JANUARY, 1988

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS - CELEBRATE BY BIRDING

TO INC. OR NOT TO INC., THAT IS THE QUESTION?

At the 1987 A.G.M. the Executive was asked to investigate the pros and cons of incorporation. This has been duly done, and I should like to take the opportunity to discuss our findings before the members have to decide at the meeting on February 23rd.

ADVANTAGES

- Queensland is one of, if not the only, state to have Incorporation legislation. Its purpose is to assist small non-profit organisations such as ourselves in handling legal matters.

e.g. - ownership of property

- legal liability of committee and ordinary members.

- At present our Club has no legal entity therefore in the case where a person sues the Club for some reason, it is the individual members, particularly Committee members who would be liable - not the Club.

- Even if we feel it is irrelevant to our situation at the moment we should think of the future, perhaps it may be needed later on.

- Far larger bodies than ourselves have taken advantage of Incorporation. They must have looked into the issue as we have and decided it was worthwhile.

DISADVANTAGES

- It costs approximately \$45 to become Incorporated with an annual fee of \$15 (at present).

- We must have a Public Liability Insurance which costs approximately \$60 per annum.

- We would have to change our Constitution.

DISCUSSION

Initially, I couldn't see the need for Incorporation, nor understand why there was a sudden rush of Incorporated organisations. Since finding out some facts and figures, I have been persuaded that it is beneficial.

The Legislation has only been in operation for about five years and is purely for the benefit of organisations such as ours, therefore I suggest we take advantage of it.

If you are not convinced, want to learn more about Incorporation, or simply love playing "devil's advocate" and enjoy lively debates, join the meeting Tuesday, February 23rd. The venue will be announced in next month's Newsletter.

At the very least, let us know your feelings on the subject by writing in to the next Newsletter.

Lesley Beaton.
President.

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HOOD'S LAGOON

Hood's Lagoon has figured prominently in the Club's records as an excellent birding spot for many years. So, it was with some consternation that we heard that Mr. John Hood had sold the property to the Nitro Nobel Pty. Ltd. This company has built an explosives factory behind the Hood's Lagoon paddock, as I'm sure most members are aware.

The Secretary, Ann Shore, contacted Nitro Nobel about our monitoring of the Lagoon habitat and they have been more than co-operative in allowing us to continue our birdwatching.

We can visit the property at any time, as we have done in the past, and if there is no lock on the Air Force Road gate, we may drive up to the old shed and park our cars there, CLOSING ANY GATES WE OPENED.

The company is going to send us forms for us to sign that waive any responsibility on their part. Please contact Ann (303207) if you would like to bird at Hood's and need to sign a form.

A reciprocal show of community spirit and support will ensure continued co-operation and interest by such companies as Nitro Nobel in our club. A personal note of thanks could be appreciated.

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IF YOU THOUGHT '87 WAS GREAT, WATCH THIS SPACE IN '88!!!

MEMBERS BIRD NOTES.

(7)	Long billed Corella	12/87	Sector 4	LH, LA
(1)	Cattle Egret	16/12/87	Junct. Silver Pinch & Topps Roads	LFB
(4)	Baillon's (Marsh) Crake	17/12/87	W'Bird H.	LFB, LA
(12)	Black-headed Finch with Chestnut-breasted mannikin	17/12/87	W'Bird H.	LFB, LA

MEMBERS BIRD NOTES Cont'd...

(2)	Red-breasted B.Q.	07/1/88	Flagstone Ck.	LFB
(13)	Plum-headed Finch (approx. 12)	08/08/87	Reeds at salt pans on Spa-Iredale Rd.	LA
(3)	Buff-banded Rail - as above			
(5)	Marsh S'piper (2)	14/08/87	Hood's Lagoon	LA
(7)	Long billed Corella	30/08/87	Puzzling Gully Ck Iredale	LA
(8)	Horsefield Bronze Cuckoo	30/08/87	" "	LA
(6)	W'headed Pigeon	09/08/87	Queen's Park	JD
(11)	Chestnut-rumped Heathwren (Hylacola) pair	10/09/87	Girraween N.P.	DB, GG
(9)	Spotted Quail - thrush (male)	12/09/87	Girraween N.P.	DB, GG
(10)	Brown Songlark	06/12/87	Keong's Lagoon, Oakey.	AHS

LA: Laurie Atzeni

JD: Joe Deuble

AHS: Ann Shore

LFB: Lesley Beaton

DB: Dianna Beal

LH: Lonnie Hogan

GG: Gloria Glass

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BI-CENTENNIAL BIRDING -- BE IN IT!!!

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BIRD NOTES

We have some really interesting bird notes this month, so hold onto your binoculars as we burst into song and the new year!

The Cattle Egrets were the deepest Lesley had ever seen in that area of the range. Red-breasted Button Quail are probably far more common than are seen. They were flushed when lucerne was being cut.

If you thought that was good, what about this

The Waterbird Habitat is attracting quite a large number of species. The shy Marsh Crake is a good one to see in the reeds of the centre lagoon. Early morning viewing from the Aberdeen Street observation platforms is always lucrative.

Escapees feature prominently with Long billed Crellas being seen in the Iredale area and at the Waterbird Habitat. The latter has been sighted for about ten years now, always in the company of Galahs. It was interesting to note the Black-headed Finch that seemed to be quite at home with the Mannikins.

The sightings from Girraween National Park would be two of the more shy species of that area and would have been great birds to see.

Bird Notes Cont'd

Keep those sightings rolling in!!!

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An open invitation is extended to all members to attend the opening of the Waterbird Habitat on 26th January, 1988.

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The Information Board will not be ready for the opening, but we are hopeful that it will be up by the time the Hide is built.

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Hobby & Craft - once again we are having a stand and need volunteers again to help in manning the stall. Please let Ann know the times you can help.

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1988 Bird Calenders - There are still 4 of these Calenders available.

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Overdue Subs - Please ignore renewal slip if you have already paid.

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January outing - 24th January, 1988 Bridge Street entrance to Redwood Park. 7.30a.m. sharp. Leader - Angela.

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Incorporation meeting - 23rd February, 1988. 7.30p.m. Qld. Uni Centre, 27 Jellico Street.

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