



TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER

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"TO ENCOURAGE THE OBSERVATION AND STUDY OF THE BIRDS OF THE TOOWOOMBA AREA"

No. 147 - March 1988

February Outing - Murphy's Creek, 28-02-88

What a great morning of birding we had! It was such a pity that the dirty weather in Toowoomba deterred members except for four. To begin with the weather was threatening, but it remained dry and eventually became quite warm.

We came across pockets of intense bird activity where we were unable to keep up with the comings and goings. The highlight of the outing for me was at Fifteen Mile Creek on the Murphy's Creek to Hampton Road. Here we stopped for morning tea, and where we hoped to see the Yellow-tufted Honeyeater. Sure enough, we had great views as they posed in a small dead tree. While we munched biscuits and watched the antics of Yellow Robins, Dollarbirds, Willie Wagtails and the like, what should come softly through the trees and perch on a convenient branch ..... but a Grey Goshawk. What a magnificent opportunity to study it at such close quarters.

Another great sighting was a flock of 40-50 Plum-headed Finches. It's a long time since we've seen them in those numbers.

Seventy species seen on the outing.

Bird Highlights: Grey Goshawk, Little Lorikeet, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Rufous Songlark, Yellow-tufted and Fuscous Honeyeaters, Plum-headed Finch.

Members Present: Lesley Beaton, Ann and John Shore, Norma Thomas.

Lesley Beaton

Incorporation Meeting

There was a very small turnout for the Special Meeting - eight members; however the large number of proxy votes made up the quorum and I thank those that sent in their proxies so promptly.

I should like to announce that the special resolution was passed unanimously for incorporation and by the time you receive this newsletter the formal red tape will be well under way.

Under incorporation the Club will become the Toowoomba Bird Club Inc., and we are accepting the 'model rules' supplied by the Department of Justice as our constitution.

Other motions passed at the meeting were:

- (a) that memberships consist of ordinary, family, student and life memberships;
- (b) that the management committee consist of President, Vice President/Records Officer, Secretary, Treasurer and Editor, and any such other members that any general meeting may from time to time elect or appoint.
- (c) that the financial year should end on 31st August each year.

These three needed to be more specific to reach incorporation requirements.

Some members may be a little upset to see that the financial year has been changed again. However, this only means that the Treasurer will have to close his/her books and have them audited. Membership fees will be due at the time of the A.G.M. in October.

Hopefully, all this administration will be over very soon and we can return to the joy of birdwatching.

Lesley Beaton, President

#### The Hobby 'n' Craft Spectacular, 19th-20th February

This year, as for the past six, the Bird Club had a stand at Rotary's big Hobby 'n' Craft show at the Toowoomba Showgrounds. Twice now, we have shared a stand in the pavilion with Toowoomba Greenwatch and the Field Naturalists Club; the theme being the Bicentennial Waterbird Habitat. This year we decided to go our own way and promote both our club and the birds of the Toowoomba area generally. This worked well, in no small measure due to the excellent display of posters and photographs put up by Marilyn Jacobs, Sandy Pottinger and Angela Kilmartin. Also, and most importantly, we owe a big debt of gratitude to Marilyn for the loan of her slide shows and other material which certainly attracted peoples' attention and drew them in to talk and look at books in more detail. It was good to see so much interest among the many visitors to the show. A big 'thank you' to all those who helped at the stand to make the weekend such a success.

Ann Shore

#### Maggie Larks

During a recent conversation a few members mentioned that they understood that the widely distributed and well-known Magpie Lark or Peewee, was dying out. This certainly surprised me as there are always a number to be seen around 'Shorelands' and in many other locations that come to mind. It would, however, be interesting to know if other members have any comments on

this possibility or agree that the bird is in decline. And, if so, why should it be? Would it be due to environmental changes to habitat or because of the increasing use of pesticides.

Ann Shore

Members' Bird Notes

Jabiru (2)	14/02/88	Hood's Lagoon	LB, JB
Square-tailed Kite	27/02/88	Spring Creek, Euston Rd.	LB, JB
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	28/02/88	Fifteen Mile Ck, Murphys Ck/Hampton Rd.	LB, NT, AHS, JS
Grey Goshawk	28/02/88	Fifteen Mile Ck, Murphys Ck/Hampton Rd.	LB, NT, AHS, JS
Plum-headed Finch (40-50)	28/0 <sup>2</sup> /88	Paceway Stud, Junction Murphys Ck Rd and Old Toowoomba Rd	LB, NT, AS
Rufous Night Heron	09/02/88	'Tara Park', Gowrie Junction	GG
Rufous Songlark	28/02/88	Paceway Stud, Postman's Ridge	AS
Fuscous Honeyeater	28/02/88	Murphys Ck/Hampton Rd	AS

JB - John Ball; LB - Lesley Beaton; GG - Gloria Glass; AS - Ann Shore; JS - John Shore; NT - Norma Thomas.

New Members

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:-

Lonnie Hogan, 39 Fourth Avenue, Toowoomba.

Susan Watson and her family; Gary, Robert and Melissa, 4 McLeish Street, Toowoomba.

Norma Thomas, 8 Campbell Street, Toowoomba.

And welcome back to Poppy Levonis, 319 Margaret Street, Toowoomba who has rejoined the Club after an interval to two years.

March Outing

O'Reillys National Park Day. March 25th-27th.

Alternative Outing

Leader - Ann Shore. The outing is to Silver Pinch Rd. Meeting place MacKenzie Street end of the Water Bird Habitat, March 27th.

Book Launch

The Chinchilla Naturalists are having a book launch on Saturday 19th March at 3.00 pm at the grounds of the Chinchilla Museum. The book is called 'Going Bush with Chinchilla Nats'. Visiting clubs are welcome to the launch and a barbecue at 5.30 to 6.00 pm. Admission is \$1.00 per person with a maximum of \$4.00 per family.

Seagrass Beds of Moreton Bay

Once again a very special place on our coast is in danger, this time the area is just south of Amity on North Stradbroke Island. Four hundred plus hectares of some of the best seagrass beds in Moreton Bay is to be taken over for another marina and highrise hotel. Many of the places that should be for the use of Queenslanders are now only for the use of the very wealthy and overseas tourists, eg. Sanctuary Cove, Hamilton Island, not to mention the Iwasaki Resort.

This area is of vital importance to the ecology of Moreton Bay. The Dugong is one of the grazers of the seagrass beds and is also one of the animals taken to the brink of extinction since 'The Bay' was first settled. Dugongs were so numerous a profitable oil industry was based on their slaughter. Now, less than 300 is the estimated total population. When one realises that a female is 9 years old before she is sexually mature and only produces one young every second year, all the more reason for the seagrass beds to be totally protected.

Vast numbers of migratory waders also depend on the seagrass beds for food. As usual the only way to stop the destruction of the seagrass beds is to do the same as we did as a club for Christmas Island. Anyone interested in the protection of the seagrass beds can write to the Ministers concerned or ring me on 38 2404 and I will send you letters to post.

Hon. Neville Harper  
Minister for Primary Industries  
GPO Box 46  
BRISBANE Q. 4001

Hon. Don Neal  
Minister for Water Resources  
and Maritime Services  
PO Box 806  
BRISBANE Q. 4001

Angela Kilmartin

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\* TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB \*  
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\* ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:- Members \$10.00; Families \$12.00; Students \$5.00 \*  
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\* ACTIVITIES:- Field day and monthly meeting - fourth Sunday of each \*  
\* month. Camping trips and film and slide evenings. \*  
\* \*  
\* NEWSLETTER:- Published monthly, prior to the field day. Contributions \*  
\* are invited and should reach the Editor by the end of \*  
\* the month. \*  
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