



toowoomba
bird club
inc.

TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER

CLUB OFFICERS

President	Michael Atzeni	Ph 355587
Vice-President	Beryl Walker	Ph 435352
Secretary	Ann Shore	Ph 303207
Treasurer	Lesley Beaton	Ph 308481
Editor	Barbara Weller	Ph 329821
Record's Officer	Pat M ^c Connell	Ph 352980
Librarian	Julie O'Connor	Ph 324594

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

No. 166 - November 1989.

From the Editor: A very successful Bird-a-thon was held on Sunday, 22nd October when over 150 species were spotted by club members. A full report from the record's officer will be given later. It was pleasing to see so many members participate and we especially welcomed the help from the newer members of the club who joined us in the birding or for lunch at the Waterbird Habitat. Thanks to all for your assistance.

Please forward any outstanding monies from the day to the Treasurer to finalize the accounts. The bird of the day for me would have to be the Dollarbird which was at every area our group surveyed.

I hope members are taking advantage of the extended hours of daylight provided by daylight saving to go birding. On my last visit to Redwood Park I could not help but be amazed by the number of Scarlet Honeyeaters. Their tinkering call was audible everywhere. There have also been a number of sightings of male Regent Bowerbirds at the lower end. I was fortunate to see the female but not her colourful mate.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Toowoomba Bird Club Inc.

17th October, 1989

1. Opening of Meeting: Angela Kilmartin, President, opened the meeting at 7.45 p.m. at the Toowoomba Education Centre, Baker Street, and welcomed all those present. (See attendance book), Fifteen members and two visitors, who took out membership during the meeting, were present.
2. Apologies: Received from Bill & Eileen Jolly, Lyn Rowan, Jane White, Frank Belcher, Nicki Thompson, Alison Evans, Roy & Peggie Beaton, Margaret Krimmer, Joe Deuble.
3. Minutes of the last A.G.M., 18th October, 1988. Read by the secretary who then moved that they be accepted. Seconded by Barbara Weller. All in favour. Carried.
4. Business Arising from the Minutes: Nil.
5. Correspondance: Nil.
6. President's Report: Angela Kilmartin gave her report on the year's doings by the club. (See separate report.) The president moved that her report be adopted. Seconded by Michael Atzeni. All in favour. Carried.
7. Treasurer's Report: Keith Treschman reported on the club's financial affairs. (See separate report.) Keith then moved that his report be accepted. Seconded by Lesley Beaton who congratulated him and enquired if all the money collected and donated for the Waterbird Habitat had been spent. Yes. All members were in favour of the report which was duly carried.
8. Record's Officer's Report: Pat M^cConnell gave a short report on the club's records. (See separate sheet.) This was seconded by Laurie Atzeni. All in favour. Carried.

9. Editors Report: Barbara Weller reported on her year as editor. (See separate report). She moved that it be accepted. Seconded by Pat M^CConnell. All in favour. Carried.
10. Election of Officers to the Management Committee: As the President was not seeking re-election, she remained in the chair to conduct the election of new officers, as follows:-
- President - Michael Atzeni
Nominated by Ann Shore. Seconded by Lesley Beaton.
- Secretary - Ann Shore
Nominated by Angela Kilmartin. Seconded by Beryl Walker.
- Record's Officer - Pat M^CConnell
Nominated by Michael Atzeni. Seconded by Keith Treschman.
- Treasurer - Lesley Beaton
Nominated by Pat M^CConnell. Seconded by Laurie Atzeni.
- Editor - Barbara Weller
Nominated by Keith Treschman. Seconded by Nancy Belcher.
- Vice-President - Beryl Walker
Nominated by Laurie Atzeni. Seconded by Keith Treschman.
- Librarian - Julie O'Connor
Nominated by Ann Shore. Seconded by Michael Atzeni.

As all the above nominees accepted the positions and no other nominations were received they were duly declared elected with all members in favour.

11. Appointment of Auditor: Messrs. Betts & Deighton were re-appointed for the coming year.
12. Close of Meeting: There being no further business the ex-President then closed the meeting at 8.20 p.m. and vacated the chair for the incoming President, Michael Atzeni, to preside at the ensuing Ordinary General Meeting, to be recorded in the minute book.

Signed	Ann H. Shore	Secretary	20 October 1989
	Michael Atzeni	President	30 October 1989

President's Report, 1989.

First of all, I would like to thank the executive members for the support and help I have received in these last twelve months. As a very incapacitated President at the time of the election, I'm afraid that the work fell on the rest of the executive for the first three months of this term, also on the last two months of this term because of extended air-strike induced holiday. The Toowoomba Bird Club has once again had a successful year with membership of 50 families or 79 singles. This membership I feel is most encouraging, and maybe used as an indication of people's growing awareness of natural history.

The noticeboard has finally been completed at the Waterbird Habitat and my thanks go to Keith and Barbara for the work that they did in connection with this noticeboard. The hiccups that were evident at the beginning of the year regarding the content of the noticeboard were finally resolved in poster form.

The Record's Officer is to be congratulated on his efforts in getting the Toowoomba Bird List and all the records placed on computer - no small task, but I'm sure will make the job of Record's Officer easier in the future. ^it

The new format of mailing the newsletter has proved very successful with much less work for the Secretary and Barbara is to be congratulated on this innovation. Also the new Children's section in the newsletter has proved to be a success. The monthly outings arranged by the committee have been attended by a good number of our members plus, quite frequently, visitors to Toowoomba.

I'd like to thank Michael for his work as acting Secretary while Ann was overseas. Thank you for stepping in and doing that most important of jobs.

One of the important aspects of this club has been the collection of records for the Toowoomba area. I don't feel that there are many organisations with such a comprehensive record list in Queensland as the T.B.C. and it would be a shame if these records were not used to produce a booklet that has been planned for so long. The club needs at this time to make definite moves towards this end and maybe they can obtain some sort of grant from the Recreation Council and/or the Toowoomba City Council with this in mind.

Lastly I would like to thank Ann for her magnificent job of Secretary. The T.B.C. would find it very difficult to operate without Ann's constant and loving care. Once again thank you, Ann.

I would also like to thank Keith for the excellent job he has done as Treasurer/Librarian and we are very sorry that pressure of work makes it impossible for him to accept nomination this year.

To the new executive, I wish you good luck, happy birding and I leave this position in the knowledge that you will carry on successfully.

Signed: Angela Kilmartin
President

Record's Officer Report: 1988/89.

Since the last A.G.M. only one new species has been added to the Toowoomba bird list. A Chestnut Teal sighted on 5/11/88, took our bird list to 260 species. So far, no new species have been added during 1989. However the summer months are the best for birding in Toowoomba so we still have a chance. Since the club first started in 1976 every year has produced at least one new bird and I'm hoping 1989 won't be an exception.

The records produced so far this year have been very thorough and it is clear that listers have been giving the area a good coverage. But I would also like to stress that those listers who send in records from a specific area (e.g. back yard) are also doing a very valuable job. Without exception everyone who sends in lists has contributed to what is becoming a very comprehensive data base for our local area and I would like to encourage more people to participate.

The September newsletter showed 62 species were still to be seen this year. I am pleased to say that this list has now been reduced to 54. In the November newsletter I hope to update the species still to be seen so that some time in December can be devoted to looking for these species.

The past year has seen our checklist computerised and updated, thanks to Bill Jolly. It has also seen the records computerised i.e. both the month/sector lists. I would like to thank Dave Gleeson for his help in this. Also, thanks are due to Michael and Karen Atzeni for their help in collating some of this data. At the moment all the sector lists are being compiled for each year back to 1984. These will then be combined, with historic records where applicable, to form a complete list of sector records. Using this and other information received from club members Michael and myself hope to produce a publication for the club. Any help would be appreciated.

would like to thank those members who have contributed to the records over the past year and I wish them good birding for the future.

Pat M^CConnell

Editor's Report: Perhaps the most noteworthy happening during my year as Editor has been in the change of mailing format of the newsletter. Previously envelopes were hand-addressed by our Secretary, Ann. Some members had their newsletter hand-delivered to try to save postage costs. The new sticker system of addresses allows us to post all the newsletters at a bulk postage rate which also is cheaper than previously.

Eleven newsletters were posted out to members last year there being a combined one for December/January. Thanks to the many people who contributed articles - they are appreciated.

I have recently started an educational section with an ongoing series of articles on bird behaviour. A children's section has sometimes been incorporated with puzzles for the young and not so young.

We have recently started printing the newsletter on recycled paper as our contribution to the environmental protection.

Barbara Weller

TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB, INC.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the financial year ending
September 27, 1989.

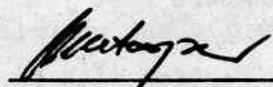
<u>Receipts</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>\$</u>
Subscriptions	605.00	Newsletter	255.86
Sale of 1989 Calendars	180.00	Post Box Rental	24.00
Sale of other Merchandise	55.50	Postage	283.85
Raffle	99.00	Bank Charges	4.60
Bird-a-thon	136.15	Incorporation Insurance	68.00
Bank Interest	24.08	Habitat Structure	583.00
Donations	85.50	Habitat Noticeboard	349.00
Waterbird Habitat	400.00	Habitat Posters	16.00
+ Excess Exp./Rec.	299.85	Hobby-n-Craft	22.00
	-----	Room Hire	5.00
	1 885.08	Audits	40.00
	-----	Membership T.E.C.	30.00
		Calendars 1989	150.00
		Stationery	53.77

			1 885.08

Balance at 31.08.88	26.68	<u>Habitat</u>	
Habitat Contributions :			
1986/87	210.35	1986/87	210.35
1987/88	298.99	1987/88	298.99
	-----	1988/89	400.00
	536.02		-----
- Excess Exp./Rec.	299.85		909.34
	-----		-----
	236.17	Expenditure	948.00
Balance at 27.09.89	236.17		-----

AUDITORS REPORT

We have examined the Financial Records of the TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB for the period ended 27th September, 1989 and advise that the above statement of Income and Expenditure fairly sets forth the operations of the club for the year ended.



 K A Beets & F T Dighton
 Public Accountants

The Behaviour of Birds - Taking Off and Landing (Part 4 of a series)

Taking off is a strenuous, energy draining action and the ability to lift straight off depends on the bird being able to generate enough power to get it airborne without the help of airflow over the wings to give it lift. Most birds spring into the air to allow the wings to beat fully. The tail is fanned to deflect the airstream downwards, and it may beat shallowly up and down to increase the lifting effect. The loud 'clap' made by a pigeon or dove taking off in a hurry is due to the outstretched wings hitting each other above the body, in an action which is thought to give extra lift at the start of the downstroke.

Some birds cannot take-off by jumping either because their legs are too short, as in Swifts, or because their legs are set well back on the body like those of many seabirds. Their easiest way of taking off is to drop from a perch or ledge, spread their wings and let gravity provide the momentum for attaining flying speed. Hence, seabirds take off from clifftops by leaping over the edge.

When leaping or dropping is not possible take-off has to be achieved by running like an aeroplane accelerating down the runway. This is especially true for waterbirds. Some ducks and geese can leap straight into the air but swans, cormorants, petrels etc. patter over the surface of the water wings beating rapidly but shallowly, until flying speed is reached. A wind can be very helpful by increasing the airflow over the wings and so generating extra lift, and these birds, again like an aeroplane, take-off into the wind.

Many birds can hover for a short time while picking an insect off a leaf or choosing a landing place, but few can sustain it for long since it is an energy draining exercise. Prolonged hovering is mainly limited to specialists such as Hummingbirds. Birds such as kestrels in reality, do nothing more than fly steadily into a light wind as they lack the muscle power to hover properly in still air.

To touch down gently, a bird must lose height and slow down; yet maintain enough lift to keep control and prevent a crash. Fanning the tail and changing to deep wingbeats as in take-off, help to slow down the bird and also provide extra lift. If landing on a perch, further braking can be achieved by approaching from below and flying up so that gravity is helping to check the forward momentum. Ducks and geese 'whiffle' when they drop sharply to land. ie. they tumble and slide side to side so air spills between the widely spaced primaries shedding enough lift to lose height quickly. They then turn the wings into air-brakes before they hit the ground. Sometimes they twist onto their backs and so lose lift completely.

by Barbara Weller

Adapted from "Bird Behaviour" by Robert Burton, Granada Publishing 1985.

Future Outings:

Sunday, 26 November Lockyer Wetlands led by Michael Atzeni. Meet at Helidon Picnic Grounds at 7.00 a.m.

January, 26-29 1990 Camp-out at Buramba Field Study Centre.

Sunday, 25 February Kleinton area.

Sunday, 25 March Jubilee Park.

New Members: We welcome the following new members to the club and wish them lots of good birding.

Fiona & Ken Wells, 14 Wentworth St; Warwick. Ph. 076 612547
John Sheath & Joan Sheath, 96 Mackenzie St; Toowoomba. Ph. 325573
Sylvia Millington, "Cosy Hills", Blanchview Rd; MS 224. Ph. 303339

We welcome back to the club the following past members:

Rob Hobson, 11 Robert St; Grantham. 4347
Ron Hopkinson, 50 Bass St; Toowoomba. Ph. 354952

Waterbird Habitat: This now closes at 7.30 p.m. to allow the public to take advantage of daylight saving.

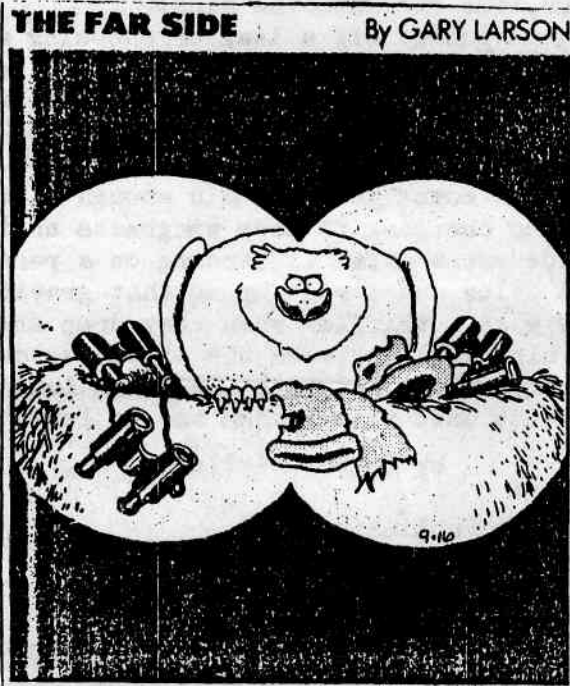
Calendars: There are still three R.A.O.U. bird calendars left. Cost \$10.00.
Contact Lesley Beaton if interested.

Hood's Lagoon: Hood's Lagoon is under new management but T.B.C. club members may still visit. Please do the right thing e.g. close gates, keep the group small, don't park in the driveways. The new warning signs erected are a legal requirement but we still have access.

Members Bird Notes:

Australian Brush Turkey	18/9/89	Blue Mtns. Estate	L.B. J.B.
Red Wattlebird	30/9/89	" "	" "
Grey Goshawk	2/7/89	Waterbird Habitat	K.T.
White Breasted Sea-eagle	29/10/89	Hood's Lagoon	M.A.
Black Bittern	7 & 14/10/89	Helidon Weir	P.M. M.A. L.A.
Red-backed Kingfisher	7 - 22/10/89	Flagstone Ck	P.M. M.A. L.A. & L.H.

L.B. - Lesley Beaton; J.B. - John Ball; K.T. - Keith Treschman; M.A. - Michael Atzeni; P.M. - Pat McConnell; L.A. - Laurie Atzeni; L.H. - Lonnie Hogan.



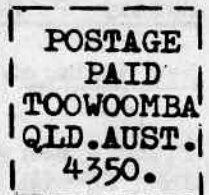
SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE!!!

SINGLE / FAMILY	\$13.00
STUDENT	\$10.00

SUPPORT YOUR CLUB IN 1990.

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