

CLUB OFFICERS

President	Michael Atzeni	355587
Vice-Pres./Records	Rod Hobson	075 661379
Secretary	Ann Shore	303207
Treasurer	Lesley Beaton	308481
Editor	Barbara Weller	329821
Librarian	Julie O'Connor	324594



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

No. 178 - November 1990

FROM THE EDITOR: The Bird-a-thon held on Sunday, 28 October was very successful in terms of the number of species observed on the day which was 143 altogether. This is very good considering it was a hot day and only a small number of club members participated. The absence of waders was very apparent, however it was a good day for cuckoos and nearly all those on our checklist were sighted on the day. The most noteworthy species seen on the day were Banded Lapwing, White's Thrush and the Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-shrike. Thanks to those who participated and please return any outstanding monies to Lesley.

The Annual General Meeting was a very enjoyable night for those who attended. The new Committee member is Rod Hobson who will have the joint role of Vice-President and Record's Officer. I'm sure Rod's knowledge and enthusiasm will be an asset to the club. A Certificate of Life Membership was presented to Ann Shore who has been an active club member for many years and secretary for the last ten years. Ann is the first club member to be given this honour. Neil M^CKilligan, a local reknowned Ornithologist, presented a very informative slide show/talk on the waders of S.E. United States.

RARE BIRD FIND: A Queensland bird expert has solved the 130 year riddle surrounding Australia's rarest parrot. The freak discovery of a carcass of the mysterious Night Parrot on a highway between Boulia and Mt Isa by Queensland Museum ornithologist, Mr Wayne Longmore, is the first confirmed recording of the bird this century.

The ground-dwelling parrot - *Geopsittacus occidentalis* - was last observed by scientists in 1867 when a specimen was sent to London Zoo, where it died of pneumonia. The Australian museum has confirmed the sighting and will be carrying out fornesic tests to assess its age. The reward of \$50 000 offered by the Australian Geographic Magazine for a positive sighting or capture of the bird will be claimed.

NEW MEMBERS: We welcome the following new members to the club and trust that their stay with us will be a long and happy one with lots of good sightings.

Dr. Clare Whittaker, c/- Toowoomba General Hospital. 316211
 Dr. Jennifer Gunn, 28 Central Avenue Paddington, Brisbane. 07 329 2338
 Minna Makinen, c/- Jasck, M.S. 499, Toowoomba Mail Centre, 4352.

MEMBERS' HOTLINE: Would those members who are on the hotline please send their twitchers list to Rod Hobson, 11 Robert St; Grantham, 4347. As Rod is a very experienced bird-watcher there are sometimes species he sees which would be a first sighting for others.

TOOWOOMBA AND REGION ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL: The Council has held several meeting since its election to office at the A.G.M. held on 30 August. The various avenues for funding have been investigated and the first newsletter has been despatched. The next fund raising activity will be a dinner at Lyndals, in the park on Friday, 7 December. Pat Comben, Minister for Environment and Heritage will be quest speaker and there will be live entertainment. Cost is \$35 per person for a three course dinner and complimentary champagne cocktails. If you are interested in coming could you please phone Kath on 301349, or Pat on 303352.

MINUTES OF THE A.G.M. OF THE T.B.C.23 OCTOBER 1990

1. **Opening of Meeting:** After refreshments beforehand, Michael Atzeni, President, opened the formal business of the evening at 7.58 pm by welcoming those present (as per Attendance Book) at the Toowoomba Education Centre, Baker St., Toowoomba. 12 members present and 4 visitors.
2. **Apologies:** Nancy and Frank Belcher, Joe Deuble, Lorraine Wilson, Pat Cleary, Terry Pacey, Colin Walker, Margaret Krimmer, Angela Kilmartin, Laurie Atzeni, Pat Fraser, James and Olive Booth.
3. **Minutes of the last A.G.M., 17 October 1989:** These minutes **had been printed in** full in the November 1989 issue of the Newsletter, were taken as read; moved that they be accepted by the Editor, Barbara Weller, and seconded by Beryl Walker. All in favour. Carried.
4. **Business arising from the Minutes:** Nil
5. **Correspondence:** Nil
6. **President's Report:** Michael Atzeni reported on the Club's past year. (See separate report). The President moved that his report be adopted. Seconded by Marilyn Jacobs. All in favour. Carried.
7. **Treasurer's Report:** Lesley Beaton reported on the Club's financial position during the past year, (See separate report) and moved that it be accepted. Seconded by Marilyn Jacobs.. All in favour. Carried.
8. **Records Officer's Report:** Pat McConnell reported on a satisfactory year from the records point of view. (See separate report). Pat moved that his report be accepted. Seconded by Ann Shore. All in favour. Carried.
9. **Election of Officers to the Management Committee:** The President asked Marilyn Jacobs to take the Chair as he was seeking re-election. Marilyn then called for nominations. One nomination only had been received beforehand by the Secretary for the following positions, President, Treasurer, Secretary, Editor, & Records Officer/Vice President. Elections proceeded as follows:
 - President - Michael Atzeni
Nominated by Ann Shore. Seconded by Lesley Beaton.
All in favour. Carried.
Michael then resumed the Chair and continued the elections.
 - Treasurer - Lesley Beaton
Nominated by Michael Atzeni. Seconded by Pat McConnell.
 - Secretary - Ann Shore
Nominated by Lesley Beaton. Seconded by Barbara Weller.
 - Editor - Barbara Weller
Nominated by Pat McConnell. Seconded by Lesley Beaton.
 - Records Officer/Vice President - Rod Hobson
Nominated by Pat McConnell. Seconded by Ann Shore.

Elections for the above positions were all carried unanimously.
- Librarian - Julie O'Connor (Nominated from the floor).
Nominated by Michael Atzeni. Seconded by Lesley Beaton.
All in favour. Carried.

Committee Member - No nominations were received so this position was left vacant. Subsequently Barbara Wilson agreed to help the Editor with the collection, assembly and despatch of newsletters but preferred not to sit on the Committee.

Auditor - Lesley Beaton, Treasurer, proposed that we ask Betts and Dighton to continue as the Club's Auditors and moved a motion accordingly. Seconded by Beryl Walker. All in favour. Carried.

That being the end of the formal business, the Treasurer presented the Secretary, Ann Shore, with a certificate of Life Membership of the Club. Ann accepted with gratitude but considered it to be quite undeserved.

10. Close of Meeting: The President declared the A.G.M. closed at 8.30 pm and members and visitors adjourned to enjoy a talk and slide show on "The Large Wading Birds of South East USA" given by Neil McKilligan.

Following the interesting talk for which Michael thanked the speaker, final arrangements were made for the Birdathon on the following Sunday, 28 October. Members available were divided into small groups to meet at Helidon for lunch at 12.30. The evening concluded by cutting and eating the Club's 15th birthday cake.

<u>Signed</u>	Ann H. Shore	<u>Secretary</u>	31 October 1990
	Michael Atzeni	<u>President</u>	31 October 1990

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 23 OCTOBER 1990

I have much pleasure in reporting on the club's activities in what has been a most eventful, fruitful and inspirational year.

Before saying anything else, let me point out that my role as President has been a very passive one due to full-time study commitments and, therefore, for this past year's crowning glories I am indebted to a dynamic, ever-helpful executive and the active participation of a larger than normal percentage of members such as yourselves, in our various activities - public relations exercises, club outings, recording of sightings, and newsletter contributions.

Without stealing the Records Officer's thunder, the year has been an extraordinary one for species recorded in and proximate to our local study area; so much so that we now have a "Hotline" operating successfully for rare and unusual sightings (such as the Brown Bittern recently found at Lake Clarendon by Pat McConnell and Rod Hobson).

The Club again took part in the Hobby-n-Craft Spectacular, World Environment Day, and currently, National Book Week, as well as our inaugural participation both at GardenFest and in a Special Environment Day walk through Redwood Park arranged by the Special Environment Advisory Committee. The executive agreed that both new ventures were particularly beneficial to the Club because they attracted people who were more likely to show an interest in our activities.

The Special Environment Advisory Committee was formed this year and Lesley Beaton has been actively representing our Club each month at their meetings with Toowoomba City Council representatives. In addition, the Toowoomba Regional Environment Committee had its inaugural Annual General Meeting on the 30 August and Barbara Weller was voted in as Secretary. The Club is fortunate to have these avenues of information and input into current local environmental issues and I would hope our involvement in both committees continues for obvious reasons. Thankyou to Lesley and Barbara for taking on these added responsibilities.

Other activities included the Club's first seabird trip, a well supported one off Brisbane in July; two radio interviews; finalisation of the Waterbird Habitat information board; and our first winter Birdathon.

Unfortunately, the highs are invariably accompanied by the lows and this year, a sincere and gentle man in every context of the words, and long term member passed away. Of course, I refer to John Shore, husband of Ann. In retrospect, I am certain he has been the unacknowledged, indirect stability the Club has so badly needed at various times over the years, through his support of Ann in her marathon stint as Secretary. Those who knew John regarded him highly. Those who didn't know John need look no further than Ann to gauge his qualities.

We will also miss the meticulous record-keeping abilities of Pat McConnell who is not seeking re-election this year. Pat has made a concerted effort to collate and prepare all the Club's records for computer entry in his 2 years as Records Officer. Beryl Walker, our Vice President this year, will also be missed. Beryl has been an enthusiastic and vibrant member and I am grateful for her backup support. In addition, our Bird Club bags are back in production thanks to her.

The Executive also discussed at length the directions of the club and reviewed the way members could contribute. We decided that members were happy with the current modes of contribution and to stick to the current monthly recording system. We also wish to start thinking seriously about a publication incorporating the club's records. This should be a prime goal in the near future.

All in all it was a remarkable year for the club despite a minimum of funds, but in a club like ours our wealth lies in its members and, of course, resides in the birds we admire.

To the members of the executive my sincerest thanks for all your support as I appreciate the ever-present difficulties involved with the individual positions.

RECORD OFFICER'S REPORT - 23 OCTOBER 1990

The checklists received by me to date show that 210 species have been recorded (so far) this year. The club has also recorded six new species during this time. This is a remarkable effort considering none were added last year. The six new species are: Blue-Billed Duck, Osprey, King Quail, Swift Parrot, Little Woodswallow and Masked Owl. These species take the Club total to 266 and show just how active listers have been this year. Recording has been very comprehensive and is an excellent record of species' presence or absence in our local study area.

It has come to my attention that the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service has assigned a person to study the movements of birds within Queensland and this brings me to the topic of our recording of data. People sometimes ask about the usefulness of our checklists. The Club has comprehensive lists dating back to 1975 and these lists can be a very useful tool in the study of bird movements within south-east Queensland. We are one of only a handful of clubs in Australia that record this sort of data and this is just the information that National Parks are trying to obtain. People sending in lists are increasing our understanding of the bird world and members should be very pleased to see that this sort of information can be used in such a way.

It is also the Club's intention to use this data, particularly the sector system data to produce a publication. This, I feel, is at least two years down the track but the Club is steadily working towards this goal. As members know, the sector system of recording only started in 1983. This does not mean that previous records will be neglected. Where possible records from 1975 - 1983 have been placed in sectors. Any publication though would contain a lot more information than this. This information would be taken from a combination of Newsletters and checklists where they relate to the local study area eg. outing reports, bird stories, members' notes etc,etc, dating back to the start of the Club.

MEMBER'S BIRD NOTES:

Crimson Rosella	15.9.90	Raff & Bridge Streets	Joe Deuble
Little Corella	1.10.90	Helidon	Rod Hobson
Red Goshawk (male)	8.8.90	Grantham	" "
Plum-headed Finch (20+)	8.8.90	Grantham Scrub Road	" "
Glossy Ibis (2)	10.8.90	Apex Lake, Gatton	" "
Little Eagle	12.8.90	Grantham Scrub Road	" "
			R.E. Hopkinson
Brown Bittern	28.9.90	Lake Clarendon	P.M ^C Connell
	29.9.90	" "	Rod Hobson, & P.M ^C Connell
			Ann Shore & L.Beaton
Painted Button-quail	16.9.90	Redwood Park	L.Beaton et al.

FUTURE OUTINGS

TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB

- Sunday, 25 November 1990 Range Escarpement. Meet on up road of Warrego Highway at Stevenson Street near where the Old Log Cabin used to be at 7.00 a.m. Leader Rod Hobson 075 661379
- Sunday, 27 January 1991 Cooby Dam. Meet at Picnic Ground below the dam wall at 7.00 a.m. Leader Lesley Beaton 308481
- Sunday, 24 February 1991 Ravensbourne National Park. Meet at first Picnic Ground at 7.30 a.m.
- Sunday, 24 March 1991 Wader's Outing on Brisbane's southside. Leader Pat M^CConnell 352980
- Sunday, 28 April 1991 Gatton Forestry. Leader Rod Hobson 075 661379

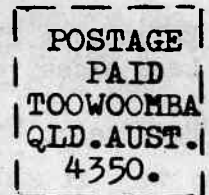
REMINDER

Subscriptions were due on 1st November. Please send to the Treasurer. \$13.00 family or single; \$10.00 student. Support your club in 1991!!

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