



TOOWOOMBA BIRD OBSERVERS inc.

p.o.box 67 - darling heights - 4350

MEMBERSHIP : Adults/Families \$18 Students \$10

CLUB OFFICERS :

President -	Michael Atzeni	076 392761	Editor -	Ken McKeown	076 303774
Vice-P/Records -	Rod Hobson	074 627364	Librarian -	Sharyn Frederika	076 331169
Secretary -	Ann Shore	076 303207	Committee Member -	Pat Cleary	076 303352
Treasurer -	Nicci Thompson	076 343074			

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

NEWSLETTER No. 214 - NOVEMBER 1993

EDITORIAL:

The A.G.M. has been and gone. A new President and Editor (see above) have been elected and thankfully the executive has retained a very experienced nucleus to oversee proceedings. A note found in my letter box said it all:- Ann Shore would like to record her appreciation of everything that Pat Mc Connell and Don Gaydon did for the club during their time on the Executive Committee and to thank them for all the help given her as Secretary.

I'm sure all members echo these sentiments and wish the hard-working pair, "Good birding in the future", or perhaps a more interesting benediction I've heard somewhere- "May your line of sight frequently coincide with the location of fascinating birds", or perhaps the boys may relate to this quote from Leonardo da Vinci (c.1500)

Cheerfulness is proper to the cock, which rejoices over every little thing, and crows with varied and lively movements.

This edition has reports of the recent A.G.M., the President's Report, the recent state- wide Twitch-a thon and details of an interesting overseas outing.

Finally, I would like to thank Don for all his helpful suggestions regarding the November newsletter.

REPORT ON QUEENSLAND TWITCH COMPETITION 30/31 October 1993

The TBO once again entered a team in the Twitch-a-thon. An experienced team of Michael Atzeni, Pat McConnell, Lesley Beaton and Al Young from USQ had good and bad birding on the Saturday and Sunday. When it was good it was good and when it was bad it was very bad according to Pres Mick. The team registered 123 on Saturday and a paltry 35 the next day. The excuses were many and varied for the surprisingly low tally on the second day. Try these: -rain, fog, more rain and a king tide which certainly made the wading birds more difficult to find.

The TBO team deserves our congratulations because this year they came a creditable seventh overall in the state and second in the Brisbane/Toowoomba area.

These results following on a fifth placing in 1992 show we certainly have a some excellent birders in our club.

NATURE SEARCH 2001 CONFERENCE 23 and 24 October 1993

As many of our members are keen naturesearchers, here is a short report on a conference Ann Shore and I attended at the Maroon Outdoor Education Centre south of Boonah.

Held in a beautiful area below the rugged grandeur of the mountains of the Senic Rim in the Mt Barney National Park the conference boasted a galaxy of well-known naturalists and apparently it is quite rare for them to be found together. It was quite interesting hearing them comparing notes or disagreeing for instance - the merits of only using latin when naming specimens.

Although the contributors were all incredibly well qualified and experienced, Ann and I came away with the impression that all of them shared the same common passion whatever their interests.

It soon became obvious that most of them possessed an almost missionary zeal in trying to convert the majority of the 'birdos' present to become fervent believers in whatever persuasion they represented. In the short space of two days we all started to enjoy frogs, toads, bats, reptiles and dragonflies and anything else as long as moved.

In fact Nic Natrass explained that every waterhole we've explored for birds should also have dragonflies. I've checked recently and he's absolutely correct.

Two days was all too short to take it all in, but we tried, such was the quality of the speakers. The bird fraternity was well represented with Greg Czechura, Graham Pizzey, Glen Threlfo and Glen Holmes. Graham is a conservationist first, and birdo secondly. Glen Threlfo is well known for his videos and work at O'Reilly's and shattered any illusions we had about filming with a hilarious illustrated talk regarding the Jacana and of course the Lyrebird. Glen Holmes is an outstanding birdo currently working on a recovery plan for the endangered Coxen/ Fig-Parrot. It seems things aren't looking too good for this shy bird as Glen has investigated all possible sightings over the last twenty years.

Glen then presented a very sobering explanation of the work done by the Raptor Association's Rehabilitation Unit. Injured birds go through a 10 step process to full recovery. Unfortunately the magnificent Brown Falcon and Brahminy Kite exhibited could never be released because some unthinking person's intervention

A hectic two days and I urge all Naturesearchers to attend if held again in 1994.

Minutes of the A.G.M. of the Toowoomba Bird Observers Inc.
held on 11 October at the Q.C.W.A. Hall, Withcott.

1 **Opening of Meeting:** The President, Pat McConnell, opened the meeting at 8:45 by welcoming all those present; 16 members and 4 visitors (as per Attendance Book) who had just listened to a most interesting talk given by Dr Ian Gynther of Nature Search 2001 on bird navigation and migration.

2. **Apologies:** Received from Lesley Beaton, Frank and Nancy Belcher, Olive and Kaylene Booth, Lorraine Wilson, Janice Lyons, David Cleary, Laurie Atzeni, Col Dollery and Betty Hobson.

3. **Minutes of the 1992 A.G.M.:** The President explained that these had been approved, moved, carried and signed the Executive Meeting on 27 October 1992 and were printed in full in the Nov. 1992 Newsletter. They were now tabled for members to view.

4. **Business Arising:** Nil.

5. **Correspondence and Business Arising:** Nil.

6. **President's Report:** Pat reported on the club's activities in the past year. (see separate report). He moved that the report be accepted. Seconded by Rod Hobson. All in favour. Carried.

7. **Treasurer's Report:** Nicci Thompson circulated the Auditor's Report which she advised was more detailed this year in order to comply with the Associations Incorporation Act (Qld). Current Balance is \$268.19. She moved that it be accepted. Seconded by Ann Shore. Carried.

8. **Election of Officers:** The President was not seeking re-election and so remained in the Chair to conduct the Election, as follows:-

a. **President** - Michael Atzeni
nominated - Pat McConnell, seconded Nicci Thompson.

b. **Vice Pres / Records Officer** - Rod Hobson
nominated - Nicci Thompson, seconded Pat Cleary.

c. **Treasurer** - Nicci Thompson
nominated - Ann Shore, seconded Pat McConnell.

d. **Editor** - Ken McKeown
nominated Don Gaydon, seconded Rod Hobson.

e. **Librarian** - Sharon Frederiks
nominated Ann Shore, seconded Pat Cleary.

f. **Committee member** - Pat Cleary
nominated Nicci Thompson, seconded Ann Shore.

g. **Auditor** - Betts and Dighton
nominated Nicci Thompson, seconded Pat McConnell

There being no other nominations for any of the above positions the persons nominated were duly declared elected.

9. **Close of Meeting :** Pat McConnell closed the A.G.M. at 9:00 pm then the new President Michael Atzeni chaired an ordinary General Meeting, as recorded in the Minute Book.

Signed: Ann Shore, Secretary 15.10.93

Michael Atzeni, President 15.10.93

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Toowoomba Bird Observers A.G.M 11.10.93)

I have great pleasure in giving the President's Report tonight. Not only has it been a successful year for the club but it has also been a year of change. As was the case last year the club finances have finished on a healthy note mainly due to our realistic subscription fees and our fund raising evenings at the Repertory Theatre. The theatre night was well attended and very enjoyable and I encourage all members to attend those in the future. Special thanks to the organisers is due. This is also our first A.G.M. as the Toowoomba Bird Observers. I feel that the name change from the Toowoomba Bird Club was long overdue and our new name now truly reflects the club's aims and objectives.

The Toowoomba Bird Observers has a healthy 54 memberships and contains approximately 80 individuals. This is a healthy size for our club and is much the same as recent years. Size alone is not the only indication of a good club. The enthusiasm of its members is the most important criteria and going on the attendance of most of our outings enthusiasm is something we certainly have plenty of. The outings this year have diverse and have included Perseverance National Park, Coastal Brisbane, Cunningham's Gap, the Ipswich Botanical Gardens, Spicer's Gap, and our usual array of local outings. This year the club has also run alternative outings when some of our further ranging trips were being held. This enabled a greater variety of members to attend and were usually organised by the tireless Ann Shore.

The club and its members have also been involved in many outside but related activities. These have included Naturesearch, World Environment Day, Birdweek, and The Redwood Park Environmental Walk just to name a few. I would like to thank all our members who have contributed to these and other events.

The aim of the club is "To encourage the observation and the study of the birds of the Toowoomba area". Looking at the quality of our newsletter, our member's bird notes and our Annual Summaries we are certainly achieving this. Along these lines we have added four new species to the club list since our last A.G.M. These being Black-eared Cuckoo, Superb Fruit-Dove, Red-winged Parrot and Black-breasted Button-quail. These take our total list to 278.

Lastly I would like to say special thank you to all those members whose support has made my job this year enjoyable and easy. Rod Hobson, Ann Shore, Nicci Thompson, Don Gaydon, Sharyn Frederiks, and Pat Cleary my fellow club officers have all worked extremely hard throughout the year and have kept the club and its associated activities running smoothly. Barbara Wilson's help with the mailing of our newsletter is very much appreciated and I would also like to thank Graham Thompson and Alex Frederiks for the support they have given the club throughout the year. To the other members who have in any way, thank you.

I am retiring from the committee this year, and would like to wish the incoming committee all the best for a successful year.

DANGEROUS TIMES AT WITHCOTT Ann Shore 18.10.93

Ann Shore reported being disturbed during several nights recently by the raucous calls of Channel-billed Cuckoos as they feasted on her mulberries. During the daytime they often remain quietly in the trees for hours; just soft murmuring and movements of the foliage giving their presence away.

On 15 October whilst gardening Ann heard unearthly cries coming from these same trees. Looking up she saw two Channel-bills fleeing across the garden with a furious Pied Currawong in hot pursuit squawking loudly and all flying so low that had there been any passing traffic on the highway they must surely have been hit.

GREAT EGRET Joe Deuble 25.10.93.

This is part of a letter from Joe to Ann Shore.

..Spent the week-end of the 16th in Brisbane with my Son Peter and his family, visiting the Qld Rose Society Spring Show at the Botanical Gardens, had breakfast at the restaurant which is a covered, open fronted sun-deck overlooking the Lagoon. They have a Bird Feeding Station. Would you believe a White Egret came to the Feeding Station and stood there motionless about 2 metres from our table for up to half an hour awaiting a hand out.

I've done a lot of Bird Watching even before I knew what Bird Watching meant, but to see that Egret in full breeding plumage, spotless and motionless near our table for half an hour was the highlight of my Birdwatching Career. Even my two little Grand Children were fascinated, they eventually fed him with what seemed to be salad remains.

BLACK GALAH Ken McKeown

On a recent birding sojourn to Cameron's Corner I discovered that road near the Corner was very rough. In fact it turned out the last 50 kms were badly corrugated. Having a neck which rebels against prolonged rough jarring I resolved to stay in Tiboburra the only town around with a pub and a TV dish. By some chance of fate the NSW Rugby League Grand Final was to played that VERY day.

On hearing the reason I was staying in town, two fellow travelers also decided to abandon the day's trip. "It had nothing to do with a chance of enjoying hot showers, cold beer, great restaurant food AND the football," they earnestly told me.

Whilst we sat on the veranda eating cold ice-cream and watching a Black Honeyeater work over a huge Torquata, a local asked if we had seen the rare local Black Galah. When we said, "Don't be silly, there's no such bird.", he pointed to the roof of a beautiful old sandstone hall and sure enough there sat two black Galahs.

Realizing we were birdos, he told us many tourists were completely hoodwinked and photographed the birds and promised to contact newspapers to report the new species. The reason they were black he explained was to do with the lack of old dead trees around the town. Lacking a nesting place they climbed under the eaves and nested in an old fire-place. Sure enough, they were jet black. Almost sooty.

If you don't believe me, I've got the photos to prove it.

****** NEW MEMBERS ******

We welcome the following new members to the club :

Ritamay Roberts
4/3 Herbert St
Toowoomba 4350

John Hadley
Ms 546
PO Forest Hill 4342

May the birds follow you.

****** COMING EVENTS ******

November 1993 Outing:

Location: Stradbroke Island Campout
Date: 27/28 November
Leader: Rod Hobson (074) 627 364

Info: This outing will consist of one day spent watching waders along the foreshores of coastal Brisbane, followed by the next day at Straddie after whales, dolphins etc., and waders.

Past - Editor Don has generously offered those going O.S on Sunday the opportunity to camp at his humble abode on Saturday night.

Please contact Rod as soon as possible re details and transportation.

December 1993 Outing/
Christmas Break-up :

Location : Lockyer Wetlands
Date : 12 December
Time : 07:30 Lake Apex, Gatton
Leader : Mick Atzeni. 392 761

Info : An enjoyable jaunt in the Lockyer. BYO everything.
More in the next newsletter.

SURFACE MAIL

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