



TOOWOOMBA BIRD OBSERVERS inc.

p.o.box 67 - darling heights - 4350

MEMBERSHIP: Adults/Families \$20 Students \$10

CLUB OFFICERS :

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

'To encourage the observations and study of the birds of the Toowoomba area'

NEWSLETTER No. 237 - October 1995

EDITORIAL:

For those of you unable to attend the AGM, this newsletter will deal with reporting the details of the night. By law, the financial report must be included and speaking of money, the club's financial year now closes on 31 August, so subscriptions are due by 01 September at the rates mentioned in general business. Please note, this contradicts information from the previous newsletter.

On the weekend, we had the Annual Species Survey. At last count, 147 species were seen in the area. Not a bad total given the current state of waterbird habitats. We look forward to a full report when all the sightings have been submitted and collated. Thanks to all participants.

OUTING REPORT - HELIDON, 17/9/95

Knowing full well there would be a dearth of birdlife in the Helidon Hills because of the drought we concentrated the first session along Lockyer Creek on the Back Flagstone Creek Rd. There were plenty of species around with Scarlet Honeyeaters, Bee-eaters, Chestnut-breasted Mannikins, Zebra and Double-barred Finches the most numerous. An Australian Hobby bolted pass from upstream and White-backed Swallows were in good numbers overhead. The abundance of callistemon bloom had attracted the Scarlet Honeyeaters but unlike this time last year, no Black Honeyeaters were to be seen amongst them nor the huge flocks of Masked and White-browed Woodswallows.

We then proceeded along the 17 Mile Road to an area of State Forest in the Helidon Hills. En route, a brief stroll along a section of the road yielded Speckled Warblers, Little Lorikeets and a large group of White-bellied Cuckoo-shrikes. Two cuckoo-shrikes in particular caught our attention, as they seemed engaged in some elaborate courtship ritual, shuffling their wings in synchronised fashion while perched face to face. On pulling up at the State Forest, two raptors were spotted overhead. One proved to be a Whistling Kite, the other a Pacific Baza. The forest, as expected, was rather quiet with Grey Shrike-thrush and Rufous and Golden Whistlers about the only bird life evident (despite my very best 'pishhing' efforts). A Pallid Cuckoo I'd heard during a brief reconnoitre before the outing, failed to put

in an appearance like he was supposed to. After a quick stop in Helidon, we then headed to 'Old Faithful', the Helidon Dip, where we were treated to a Peregrine Falcon overhead and then a veritable feast of birdlife as we stood on the cattle yard observation platform watching various species coming into the troughs to drink.

It provided a perfect chance to observe the differences between Brown-headed, White-naped and White-throated Honeyeaters without kinking your neck. We waited patiently for a Black-chinned Honeyeater to complete the set so to speak but none materialised. However, there has been a couple of reports of this elusive species at the Dip since the outing. A Jacky Winter frolicked nearby and Crested Shrike-tits were heard but skilfully avoided our field of view. After the outing, Ann, Dana and Adele returned to our first stop at the creek and reported Plum-headed Finch, Red-backed Fairy-wren and Yellow Thornbill to cap off a list of some 80 species.

Michael Atzeni

Minutes of the AGM of the Toowoomba Bird Observers Inc.
held on Monday, 9 October 1995 at the QCWA Hall, Withcott.

1. **Opening of Meeting:** The President, Michael Atzeni, opened the meeting at 7:26 pm welcoming those present to the club's 20 th AGM. Nineteen members present as per Attendance Book.
2. **Apologies:** Received from Barbara Wilson, Olive, Jim and Kaylene Booth, Lorraine Wilson, Wendy McKeown, Dana McCown and Adele Warburton.
3. **Minutes of the 1994 AGM:** These had been printed in full in the November 1994 Newsletter and had been duly confirmed and signed. They were now tabled for members to peruse.
4. **Business Arising:** Nil
5. **Correspondence and Business Arising:** Nil.
6. **President's Report:** Michael reported on the club's activities during the last year. (See separate report). He then moved that it be accepted. Seconded by Pat McConnell. All in favour. Carried.
7. **Treasurer's Report:** The Acting Treasurer, Gloria Glass, gave details of the Auditor's Report which signified that all was well with the club's finances. This would be published in the newsletter. Gloria moved that it be accepted. Seconded by Laurie Atzeni. All in favour. Carried.
8. **Election of Officers:** As Michael was seeking re-election, he vacated the chair which was temporarily occupied by Laurie Atzeni who called for nominations as follows:-
 - a. **President** - Michael Atzeni
Nominated Pat McConnell, seconded Ken McKeown.
 - b. **Vice-Pres./
Records Officer** John Harris
Nominated Michael Atzeni, seconded Michael Hirst
 - c. **Treasurer** Gloria Glass
Nominated Ann Shore, seconded Pat Cleary

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| d. Editor | Ken McKeown
Nominated Sharyn Frederiks, seconded Gloria Glass |
| e. Secretary | Ann Shore
Nominated Sharyn Frederiks, seconded Laurie Atzeni |
| f. Librarian | Sharyn Frederiks
Nominated Gloria Glass, seconded Michael Hirst |
| g. Committee Member | Pat Cleary
Nominated Sharyn Frederiks, seconded Ken McKeown |
| h. Auditor | Betts and Dighton (Tony Hooper)
Nominated Michael Atzeni, seconded Pat Cleary |

All the above nominations from the floor were carried unopposed.

9. General Business:

a. Annual Subscriptions: The Treasurer initiated some discussion following her proposal to raise subscriptions to \$20. Michael Hirst proposed that a \$5 donation be put into a separate fund for a book which the club hoped to publish in the future. Finally, Gloria moved that subs be increased to \$20 for families and for students to remain the same at \$10. Seconded Pat McConnell. All in favour. Carried.

b. Theatre Night: The Secretary reminded members that tickets for this fund-raising occasion would be available very shortly. "Arsenic and Old Lace", 01 December at the Repertory Theatre in Margaret St opposite Queen's Park. Tickets \$10 including refreshments in the interval. Ring Ann Shore. PH. 303 207.

c. Time of Meeting: Some members agreed with Michael Hirst that 7:00 pm was too early to start the AGM. It was therefore agreed to revert to a 7:30 pm start.

10. Close of Meeting: The President closed the meeting at 8:00 pm when members adjourned for 5 minutes while the necessary slide and overhead projectors were set up for the guest speaker.

The President introduced Greg Czechura, a Senior Museum Technician at the Queensland Museum with qualifications in education and biology. He explained that Greg was both Queensland Area Coordinator and a council member of the Australasian Raptor Association.

Greg is studying the distribution and status of the Red Goshawk, Australia's rarest bird of prey, in southern Queensland. He gave a most interesting talk supported by slides and overheads on this species with particular emphasis to descriptive features of both young and adult birds and also in comparison to other raptors with which they can be readily confused. He also spoke in detail on their breeding, distribution, habits and discussed factors contributing to their decline. Intensive studies are presently being carried out on the whereabouts and habits of this elusive raptor about which there is still much to be learnt.

At the conclusion of Greg's address, President Michael moved a vote of thanks and invited members and guests to join him in a social get-together and light refreshments.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1995

In this, the 20th year of the club, the ongoing drought has contributed to another rather uneventful year birdwise with the Executive's hardest decisions often being where to have the next outing. Nonetheless, the club's ongoing aim to encourage bird observation in the Toowoomba area was suitably fulfilled. In addition to hosting two outings each month, the club set up displays at the Toowoomba Library (Bird Week), the Warwick Library, TREC and World Environment Day.

Major issues arising were Redwood Park and the ongoing saga of the associated Management Plan for the Escarpment Parks. Our primary concern has always been that the needs of four key species recorded there, viz, Black-breasted Button-Quail, Powerful Owl, Masked Owl and Sooty Owl, be adequately assessed before further burning, clearing of Lantana and Privet and felling dead trees along tracks occurs. It was apparent that recommendations from the Club had been ignored with clearing continuing particularly in the Ferny Tree Gully area where the Powerful Owls are often seen and believed to breed. This prompted funding applications to the Department of Environment and Heritage and the National Landcare Program, under the Save the Bush Management Plan. We had hoped to employ consultant ecologist, Glen Holmes, to locate the nesting sites of the owls (Powerful, Sooty and Masked) with a view to developing a management plan to complement the woodland restoration efforts in parts of Redwood. Regrettably, both applications were unsuccessful and it appears that funds for this type of research are difficult to secure.

We contributed to two publications arranged by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries, one on the Toowoomba Waterbird Habitat and the other on Redwood Park.

Our annual fund-raising theatre night was well attended. Nevertheless, with our Public Liability Insurance up to \$217 (an increase of \$100) and increased printing costs, the Club has had to really tighten the belt and some subscriptions to other groups have not been renewed as a result.

Highlights in another drought-ridden year were the Letter-winged Kite rescued near Gatton and rehabilitated by new member, Stephen Harper, the discovery of Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters nesting at Highfields Falls and the publication of Black-breasted Button-Quail observations in the Sunbird by Pat McConnell and Rod Hobson. The Letter-winged Kite and Yellow-tufted Honeyeater records were unfortunately outside our survey area. Both species have still not been officially recorded within the survey area.

Unfortunately, in this 20th year we are still to record a new species for the area. It would be fitting to find one, so keep those eyes peeled. The latest move to increase the coverage area while still maintaining our core survey area has had 2 responses to date but I'm sure we can do better than that. We ran two outings a month during the year but lack of leaders has necessitated we revert back to one per month from now on.

Thanks to all those who helped with displays, led outings, or contributed records and articles. Special thanks to Ken and Ann for their thankless tasks as Editor and Secretary; to Sharyn Frederiks, Pat McConnell, and Gloria Glass for acting in the Secretary, Records Officer, and Treasurer positions respectively during the course of the year; and to Nicci Thompson for her long, dedicated service on the Executive before her recent resignation. Finally, thanks to my Executive for your continued support and I look forward to the coming year.

Michael Atzeni

Toowoomba Bird Observers Inc

**Statement of Receipts and Expenditure
Year ended 31 August 1995**

RECEIPTS	1995	1994	EXPENDITURE	1995	1994
Bank Interest	12.43	13.29	Auditor	95.00	90.00
Birdbag	0.00	5.00	Bank Charges	7.50	17.50
Calendar Sales	150.00	222.00	Calendars		115.00
Donations	40.00	25.00	Consumer Affairs	19.50	19.00
Subscriptions	876.00	878.50	Hall Hire	10.00	10.00
Theatre Night	145.34	169.85	Insurance	217.00	114.50
			Petty Cash	43.35	94.70
			Postage & Box	400.00	371.55
			Printing	220.94	254.25
			Repairs	45.10	
			Subscriptions	<u>62.00</u>	<u>80.00</u>
				\$1120.39	\$1166.50
			Operating Surplus	<u>103.38</u>	<u>147.14</u>
				<u>\$1223.77</u>	<u>\$1313.64</u>

Bank Balance	31.8.1994	\$519.62
Operating Surplus	1994-95	<u>103.38</u>
Bank Balance	31.8.1995	<u>\$623.00</u>

*** COMING EVENTS ***

November Outing

Location: Stradbroke Is./ Moreton Bay Wader
Outing
Date: 25/26 November
Leader: Don Gaydon 07 822 1684

Info: Brush up on your wader and seabird identification because it's that time again! This outing is always well worth the effort. If you can't make it to beautiful Straddy on the Saturday then, at the very least, enjoy a leisurely Sunday stroll along the Moreton Bay foreshores seeking out waders and seabirds. Perhaps you'll tick that elusive Asian Dowitcher on your life list. A couple were recently seen at Manly.

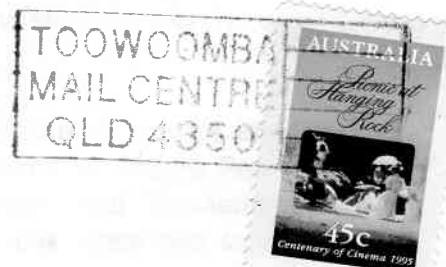
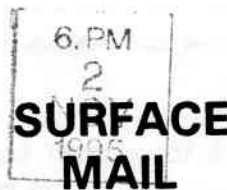
Don needs to establish a departure time and then book the barge to Stradbroke for the 25th so it is essential that you notify him by 17 November if you intend going over. For those wishing to do the wader watch on Sunday around the Bay, meet on Lytton Road opposite the sewage treatment plant at 8.15 am. Allow 2 hours travel time from Toowoomba and let Don know in advance. BYO everything.

December Outing

Location: Redwood Park
Date: 17 December
Leader: Michael Atzeni
Time: 7:00 am

Info: Meet at the bottom entrance on the Warrego Highway. This is essentially a Christmas Stroll. BYO food and champers (and presents for the leader!).

If undeliverable return to
Toowoomba Bird Observers Inc
PO Box 67
DARLING HEIGHTS Q 4350



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17 George St
HELIDON Q 4344
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