

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

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NEWS-SHEET No. 59- NOVEMBER 1980.

The Annual General Meeting and Bird Census made October a rather busy month. Both events were strongly supported by Club members and it is to be hoped that such support continues throughout the coming year of the Toowoomba Bird Club.

A couple of decisions relating to monthly Field Days were made at the A.G.M. which are to become effective as of this month. They are that Field Days:

- (i) will be held only in the months January to November inclusive. (December day will be discontinued owing to poor attendance in the past).
- (ii) will be held on the fourth Sunday of the month.
- (iii) will commence from Pigott's car park, leaving at 7.30am sharp. (This change has been made because some of the regular attendants feel that some of the best birding of the day has been lost by the previous late start of 8.30am.)

Owing to bad weather, the Annual Bird Census was postponed for one week, being carried out on Sunday November 2nd.

The idea has been suggested by some members that in future the Census be carried out on two consecutive mornings. This would result in all sectors being covered in the early hours of the day when birds are out and about. Also, the count would then be less tiring for those involved.

Originally, birds on the Club checklist were confirmed sightings made within a 10 kilometre radius of the Margaret St. Post Office. At that time some confirmed sightings were made outside that area but which would now fall within the area currently monitored by the Club. In the editorial of News-sheet No.44 (August 1979) the idea was mooted that these birds might validly be added to our list. It has now been decided by the Executive to add any such birds to the Club checklist. So if you notice any seemingly unaccounted for "New Birds", this is where they came from. Details of the sightings will be advised next month.

Editorial c/td.

An eleven week series identifying bird calls is currently being run on Radio station 4QS. It is on at a little after 7.15am week days and will have been running for about three weeks when you receive this News-sheet.

The long awaited "A Field Guide to the Birds of Australia" is now appearing. Graham Pizzev is the author with illustrations by Roy Doyle and the publisher is Collins. This is a one volume work and first reports praise it highly. Recommended retail price is \$25.00 so now is the time to drop a few hints when the talk at home gets around to Christmas presents.

John Gregor  
Editor.

NEW TOOWOOMBA BIRD.

212. White's Thrush. (*Zoothera dauma*). 2/11/80. Redwood Park.  
Rod Hobson. Ron Hopkinson. Michael Atzeni. Shane Brady. Andrew Tan.  
One individual of this species "frozen" on a log on the creek bank.  
Bronze brown upperparts, scalloping effect on the underparts. Flew low and quietly into the creekside foliage.

HERON ISLAND BIRD WEEK-DECEMBER 7-14th. 1980.

For the fourth year in a row, Heron Island will be the venue for a Bird Week. Having attended the first Bird School in 1977 (Refer News-sheet No. 26 Feb. 1978), I can assure any participants of a worthwhile experience should you be able to afford the \$433.00 seven day lodge accommodation package which includes the Brisbane plane fare to Gladstone and helicopter transfer to Heron Island. A further \$55.00 fee is for field trips to Lady Musgrave and Fairfax Islands and to Masthead Island where one can easily see Brown Gannets, Crested, lesser Crested, Black-naped, Roseate and Bridled Terns, many nesting. The week's program is divided into lectures, discussions, projects and field excursions and is open to anyone from beginner to experienced bird watcher. The lecturers at this year's school are Peter Slater, bird photographer, artist and author of our two field guides; Steve Parish, photographer for the Qld. National Parks and Wildlife Service; Peter Ogilvie, Qld. N.P.W.S. Officer and Dr. Mike Cullen, professor of zoology at Monash University. Contact the Qld. Government Tourist Bureau or myself for further information. If you are interested in sea birds, this week is a must for you!

Marilyn Jacobs.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. 1980.

The meeting was formally opened by the President at 8pm. on Saturday October 18th at 2 Loch St. Toowoomba.

Those present were:

Ron Hopkinson- President. John Gregor-Editor/Records Officer,  
Ann Shore- Secretary/Treasurer.  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Corbin, Graham Corbin, Shirley Gregor, Michael Atzeni,  
Shane Brady, Ron Colpus, Ken James, Mike Russell, Marilyn Jacobs,  
Sandy Pottinger, Mr. & Mrs. Lachlan Macdonald.

Apologies were received from:

Margaret and Brough Warren, Susan Mann, Ron Wilson, Andrew Tan,  
Dave Dowling, Neil McKilligan, Vera Simon and John Shore.

1. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting.

These were read by the Secretary. Mike Russell moved, John Gregor seconded, that they be adopted. Carried unanimously.

2. President's Report.

The President gave his report as follows:

"This is the traditional time of year when we "take stock", as it were, and decide if we have had a successful year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT c/td.

"Successful", for a club such as ours could be difficult to define. Do we count heads and compare membership numbers with years? Do we add up the number of new birds added to our Club checklist? Do we count the number of Field Days or business meetings or social activities? Or is our success (or otherwise) judged on the abstract of the personal enjoyment that membership of the club has brought to each individual member?

As to member numbers, my list currently contains 37 names, or more accurately 37 addresses. At some of these addresses more than one person is considered a club member. This fact, therefore, gives us an actual membership of 50+. An exact number cannot be given as one address includes a school nature group.

During the past year we have added ten new names to our mailing list. We have lost several names, either through failure to renew subscription or removal to distant areas. On balance our total numbers are about even with last year. Obviously, a unit such as ours, by its nature, is not going to continue adding new names year after year so we might count a "no loss" as success.

Our checklist stands at 211 species, six of which were added during the year under review. Again this is a figure which will lessen as time goes on. Bearing in mind that we have almost a third of the Australian total listed, we are unlikely to record large annual increases to our checklist total. So our record here could be reckoned successful.

Field Days cum business meetings were conducted every month. In line with previous practice it was endeavoured to have half of them within the boundaries of the study area. Attendance overall has been poor.

If an average participation figure could be struck for the year my impression is that it would run at about six or eight. In a club with a membership in excess of fifty this low figure well fits the word "poor". Of course, no count is actually made of turn out so this is only my personal impression. Perhaps here we have not been so successful.

The answer to the question of enjoyment of club membership lies with you, the individual members. Was it worth the six dollars?

The main unifying feature we share is our News-sheet. To the 14 out of town members this is their only contact. Although we had changes in office bearers early in the year we were fortunate to obtain the services, as Editor/Records Officer, of John Gregor. John has well maintained the standard of the sheet.

Through John we have established a contact with the Toowoomba Ranger of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, which is most valuable. John also endeavoured to have a study of game birds undertaken by the club, which could have been extremely useful. It is very unfortunate that poor response led to its cancellation. For his support and effort during the year I offer my personal and official club "Thank You".

My thanks also go to our keen and efficient Secretary-Treasurer, Ann Shore. Ann took office at last year's annual meeting and since then has handled the two roles most commendably. Making her home at Withcott available for Executive meetings and providing numerous cups of coffee are just two of the much appreciated extras she has contributed over and above what the office calls for. Thank you, Ann.

As always and in common with kindred small organisations, the problem of finances has been a major one. Our greatest cost, of course, is production of the News-sheet. As will be seen in the Treasurer's Report printing costs eat up most of our limited budget. The aim is generally to produce a six page sheet. This size allows space for longer articles or a good assortment of smaller ones plus the constant features of bird notes, Field Day reports etc. To enlarge this sheet content would make production costs prohibitively high and also severely strain the always

PRESIDENT'S REPORT c/td.

meagre supply of contributions.

Certainly, though, our real success for the year has been maintaining this most valuable and enjoyable medium. To all who contributed in any way I express my sincere thanks.

For the future, bear in mind that we may not greatly enlarge the numbers of birds or members on our lists. This suggests an effort at consolidation. If we can improve what we offer to members then perhaps we can strengthen and retain those we have. As for the people who do not have birding as a hobby I feel sorrow. We all know what they are missing.

I think we might look more closely at the monthly Field Day in an effort to make any changes that may be seen to be necessary. In this way we might offer more birding enjoyment to more members. I venture to suggest that a small group might see more birds but on one Sunday a month we ought to get together for the common enjoyment of meeting other birders. After all, the great value of club membership to a birder is the gaining of a "perspective", by rubbing shoulders with like minded people. Club membership can help you avoid some of the errors which can occur if you always observe alone.

If we can offer this then we can truly judge ourselves successful." He then moved that it be adopted. Seconded by Ann shore, it was carried unanimously.

3. Editor's Report.

John Gregor gave his report as follows:

First I have to announce that although I have served as editor for less than twelve months, I cannot accept nomination for the forthcoming year. This is because I will be leaving Toowoomba in the new year.

I would like to thank those people who contributed articles to the News-sheet throughout the year. However, I must also point out that there were very few people who did so. I feel that this is unfortunate because without full involvement from Club members, the News-sheet may not truly reflect the aims and interests of the Club. If each member were to contribute only one article per year, it would be sufficient to produce a full News-sheet each month.

I am pleased to note that local members have continued to be involved in keeping checklists for the preparation of the R.A.O.U. Atlas of Australian Birds. This is a worthwhile activity and hopefully, members will continue it until completion.

I am sorry to have to say that no one has made use of the club library since I took over as editor. The material received by the club is both interesting and informative and I feel that members are doing themselves a disservice by not availing themselves of it.

Finally I would like to say that I have enjoyed serving on the Club Executive with Ann and Ron and hope that my successor finds it just as enjoyable and informative."

The Editor then moved that the report be adopted. Seconded by Mike Russell, it was carried unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report.

Ann Shore then gave her report as follows:

I have to report that although our current balance might look reasonably healthy-\$95.94 against \$90.63 for last year-there are a number of factors to be taken into account and that this sum has to cover any printing or other charges to be incurred between now and the receipt of subscriptions for 1981.

Treasurer's Report c/td

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At the last A.G.M. we increased the membership subscription to \$6.00 per year (\$3.00 for students), but heavy inroads have been made into any extra monies thus gained by an increase in printing charges for our news-sheet etc. and in postal rates. Also there has been a slight drop in membership numbers. We have investigated all possible ways of saving money, to which end our President has very kindly taken on the extra burden of typing the news-sheet himself for the past several months, thus enabling us to dispense with the cost of a typist and as many news-sheets as is possible are delivered by hand. It should be pointed out, though, that about half our members live out of town. In order to continue using the printing facilities at the Toowoomba Education Centre it became necessary to join for a fee of \$10.00 and to date we have not found a more suitable or cheaper means of printing.

As a club we have been able to obtain and supply a number of members with copies of the Readers Digest Book of Australian Birds at very reasonable prices and at no cost to ourselves, but I regret that this is no longer so, as the cheaper price now only applies to orders of 20 or more copies.

To conclude, this report may seem nothing but a chapter of apologies but I hope members will understand that we are doing our best to keep up the high standard of the Club while still living within our means."

The Treasurer then moved for the adoption of this report. This was seconded by Ron Colpus and it was carried unanimously.

5. Business Arising.

None.

6. Election of Officers.

The President vacated the chair which was taken temporarily by Mike Russell who called for nominations. These were as follows:

<u>a. Office.</u>	<u>Nominee.</u>	<u>Nominator.</u>	<u>Secunder.</u>
President.	Ron Hopkinson.	AnnShore.	Marilyn Jacobs.

This nomination was accepted by Ron Hopkinson with the proviso that some one else undertake the typing of the News-sheet. An offer was made by Ron Colpus and this was gratefully accepted. The President was then declared re-elected and re-took the chair.

<u>b. Office.</u>	<u>Nominee.</u>	<u>Nominator.</u>	<u>Secunder.</u>
Secretary/Treasurer.	Ann Shore.	Marilyn Jacobs.	Jim Corbin.

There being no other nominations, Ann Shore was declared re-elected.

c. Editor/Records Officer.

No nomination was received for this joint position. John Gregor announced that he would be leaving Toowoomba at the end of the year and so would not be available to stand but he kindly agreed to continue as Editor to the end of the year. Mike Russel proposed Michael Atzeni as Records Officer, seconded by Shane Brady and he was duly elected.

7. General Business.

a. Delivery of News-sheets.

Several members offered help with hand delivery in their areas. This was noted and accepted.

b. Field Days.

Marilyn Jacobs asked if they could be held on fixed days, ie. the 3rd or 4th Sunday of the month. After some discussion it was agreed to try this, with the exceptions of certain occasions, such as Easter.

A proposal was made by John Gregor to choose the 4th Sunday, seconded by Ron Colpus. This was amended to omit the December Field Day and then was carried unanimously.

The President asked if anyone had special ideas for Field Days, such as venues or the quest for a particular bird. Jim Corbin condemned

GENERAL BUSINESS c/td.

the Club for starting Field Days too late and pointed out that many more birds may be seen between dawn and 7am. than from then on for the rest of the day. Agreed. Marilyn Jacobs told of Q.O.S. expeditions leaving at 6am.

Ron Hopkinson suggested that those present at a Field Day should decide where the next one should be held. He proposed an 8am start from Pigott's car park. Members thought this too late and finally agreed that they meet at 7.15am to depart at 7.30am sharp. This is to be tried for the next Field Day, 23rd November and that this cover the Heifer Creek area.

Regarding the R.A.O.U. Atlas scheme, at the request of Sue Elmes, the Club might be organising a camp-out in the Acland area, possibly near Cooyar.

Marilyn Jacobs suggested Girraween National Park as a suitable Field Day or camp, site. She understood that Powerful Owls might be found there. Regarding the index of News-sheets which she was undertaking, this task was still not finished as she was collating extra information.

c. Michael Atzeni asked if there was a specific list of birds that had been identified in Redwood Park. The President would check.

d. John Gregor raised the subject of increasing membership subscription rates. The Treasurer hoped that they could remain as they were for another year. It was agreed to review the situation in six months time.

There being no further business the President then closed the meeting at 10pm. and it was followed by a light buffet supper.

DETAILS OF TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB ACCOUNTS FROM OCTOBER 1979 TO OCT.1980.  
(Part of the Treasurer's Report. Omitted from the main report of the A.G.M. and presented here, for reasons of space ).

	<u>Debits.</u>	<u>Credits.</u>
Balance in account as at 13.10.79		\$90.63
Subs. received. 33 @ \$6.00		\$198.00
4 @ \$3.00		\$12.00
Bank Interest		\$6.18
Readers Digest Books. 9@ \$22.69		\$204.21
 <u>Expenditure.</u>		
Printing	\$99.40.	
Postage	\$52.20	
Readers Digest Books. 9 @ \$22.69.	\$204.21	
Miscellaneous.	\$59.27	
Balance as at 13.10.80	\$95.94	
	\$511.02	\$511.02

MEMBER'S BIRD NOTES.

Maned Duck. 24.9.80. Taylor St. Withcott. AHS.  
White-headed Pigeon. 12.9.80. Rangeview. JEC.  
Emerald Dove. 17.9.80. JEC.  
Common Koel. 25.9.80. "Shorelands", Withcott. AHS.  
Sacred Kingfisher. 30.9.80. "Shorelands", Withcott. JAS.  
White-winged Chough. (10). 3.10.80. Highfields Road. JD.  
JEC: Jim Corbin. JD: Joe Deuble. AHS: Ann Shore. JAS: John Shore.

FIELD DAY FOR NOVEMBER.

Date: Sunday, November 23rd, 1980. Place: Heifer Creek.  
Assembly Point: Pigott's Car Park.  
Time: 7.15am for departure at 7.30am SHARP.