



NEWS-SHEET No. 95

NOVEMBER 1983

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

toowoomba bird club

Postal Address

P.O. Box 67, DARLING HEIGHTS. Q. 4350

Club Officers

President:

Marilyn Jacobs.
21 Sylvan Court, T'mba. 4350
Ph: 35 85 94

Secretary/Treasurer:

Ann Shore.
"Shorelands", Withcott,
M.S. 224, T'mba. 4352
Ph: 30 3207

Records Officer:

Michael Atzeni.
2 Memory St, T'mba. 4350
Ph: 35 9433

Editor:

Lesley Beaton.
15 Dunmore St, T'mba. 4350
Ph: 32 6262

Annual Subscription

Ordinary/Family membership \$8.00
Student membership \$4.00

Activities

Field Outing and Monthly Meeting - 4th Sunday of each
month - usually leave from Pigott's Car Park at 7.30 am.

Camping trips, film and slide evenings.

News-sheet

Published monthly, before the outing. Articles have a dead-
line of the last day of the month and should be mailed to
the editor.

EDITORIAL

A big thank you to all those members and their guests who made our A.G.M. so successful. Personally it was a delight to have you all as guests and I hope you enjoyed the evening as much as I did. It was a little crowded but I believe that helped to break the ice so much more quickly.

As usual, Ray's slides were the highlight of the evening with a great deal of audience participation in the comparing of the birds of South Africa and Australia. Thank you very much Ray, your contribution to the evening was truly appreciated.

It is good news that Peggie Beaton is recovering well after a recent operation and we hope to see her and Roy on our outing to Ravensbourne.

Our November outing is the last one for the year and it will be at Ravensbourne. At this time of the year the rainforest is always a welcome place to do some birdwatching. Please try and make this outing as successful as the last couple of club functions.

An end of year break-up has been arranged for Tuesday, 13th December. It will be an evening of films, so keep this date clear. We will be raffling a splendid photographic print, executed and donated by Ray Viljoen. A perfect Christmas present. Guests of members will be more than welcome.

Lastly, our annual Bird Count was well patronised and all of our study area was covered, thanks to a greater interest than normal. Michael wishes to thank all those that participated. At the time of going to press all the results were not collected so that further information about the count will have to wait for a later issue.

Lesley Beaton, Editor

--ooOoo--

BIRDING HOLIDAY DOWN SOUTH - CONT'D FROM LAST ISSUE

Phillip Is. and Wilson's Promontory

Thanks to Kevin's local knowledge, we watched our own penguin parade away from the tourist site while on Phillip Island. We saw the Fur Seals and Dominion Gulls on Seal Rocks.

One of the most scenic stopovers was Wilson's Promontory. En route, near Sandy Point, Cape Barren Geese were added while on the Prom we added Common Wombat and Hog Deer to our mammal list. Birds of interest were:

Southern Emu-wren	Beautiful Firetail
Olive Whistler	Forest Raven
Crescent Honeyeater	Blue Petrel (dead)

One of the highlights at the Prom are the Crimson Rosellas at Tidal River. On producing a packet of seed you are literally invaded by them. Clambering over you and so intent at eating the seeds enables you to pick them up.

The Deniliquin Area

Our next and last major stop for new species was at Deniliquin (N.S.W.). At the Gulpa Siding we had magnificent views of Superb Parrots and taped them just for the record. We also checked a Spotless Crake site but held doubts on seeing them since heavy rains had covered the mudbanks. Nevertheless the crakes responded immediately to a tape of their call, yet it took several hours for all of us to see one as

BIRDING HOLIDAY DOWN SOUTH CONT'D

they darted through the reeds and no more than two of us saw it at any one time.

A Pacific Baza (Crested Hawk) was seen 8km north of Gilgandra which is well and truly out of range for this raptor.

A total list of 262 species for the trip was a good effort but this would have been much lower and without many good species were it not for Kevin. We are very grateful to him.

Michael Atzeni, Pat McConnell

--oeOoo--

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please note that unless any objections are received by the Secretary, these minutes will be taken as read and will not be re-read at the 1984 Annual General Meeting.

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at 15 Dunmore St, Toowoomba on Tuesday 18th October, 1983.

7.40 pm. The President, Marilyn Jacobs, opened the meeting and greeted the assembled members.

1. Apologies for absence: From Ron Colpus, Roy & Peggie Beaton, Joyce Bartenstein, Dean Collins, Mike & Elizabeth Russell, Joe Deuble, Bert & Margo Pottinger.
2. Minutes of the last A.G.M.: These were taken as read and approved in the absence of any objections.
3. Business Arising:
 - a) The Club now has its own mail box.
 - b) The change in the Club's logo had been made followed by a new format for page 1 of the monthly news-sheet.
 - c) The proposal for a waterbird habitat in East Creek would not now be the No. 1 project for the Bicentennial unfortunately - however there was some small hope that it might still be included as a lesser project in spite of the adverse report from the Council's Parks & Gardens' Mr Shaw.
4. Correspondence:
 - a) A letter on the Bicentennial Project sent by the President on behalf of the Club.
 - b) A letter had been received by Ron Hopkinson from the Water Resources Commission replying to his earlier one objecting to the possible draining of Lake Clarendon for farm purposes. We and other bodies objected and the application has been refused.
 - c) Letter to secretary drawing members attention to Canoe Safaris on the Balonne River.
 - d) Helpful letter from Bird Observers Club giving hints on the running of a Beginners' Outing.
 - e) Cooby Dam. The President read a letter from the Club to appeal for Council permission to continue birdwatching there. Council is not prepared to allow irregular use of the dam by individuals or groups as this might pollute the dam. The President will not accept this and will challenge it. The meeting was in agreement.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CONT'D

5. Officers' Reports: a) Marilyn Jacobs read out her President's Report:

"1983 has been an interesting and varied year for the Toowoomba Bird Club. Four activities stand out in my mind as highlights: 1) the annual bird count held last October where 22 members recorded 144 species, the highest total since the count began in 1977, 2) continued participation of members in sending monthly checklists in so a record of each month's sightings can be compiled and printed by the Record's Officer, 3) participation in the Hobby-'n-Craft show held at the showgrounds in February, where 15 club members helped man our stall, and 4) the beginner bird outing last month which attracted 26 participants. Because of the tremendous success of this activity, I would like to see it become an annual event. It might help us build up our rather low attendance at monthly outings which has been averaging only around 10 people.

Besides visiting our good birding spots of Redwood Park, Hood's Lagoon and Flagstone Creek, members have had the opportunity to participate in two weekend campouts this past year - one to the Bunyas with the Q.O.S. in January, and the other to Girraween in April. It was unfortunate that a scheduled film evening had to be cancelled due to a strike at the National Library in Canberra, but we thank Len Harvey for showing us some of his marvellous bird slides in March and Ray Viljoen for presenting a program of slides at tonight's A.G.M., following his excellent presentation at last year's Annual General Meeting.

As you have no doubt noticed, both the club logo and the format of the news-sheet's page one have changed during the year. We hope you like the "new look". The club list of Toowoomba birds now stands at 238 - an increase of six new birds since the last A.G.M.

Many thanks to all members who have supported the proposed water-bird habitat with letters to the Chronicle and City Council, even though the project was not selected as the major bicen venture. Also, special thanks to Lesley for her superb efforts above and beyond the call of duty with respect to the publishing of the news-sheet each month. What an excellent job she does! Most members have no idea of the work that goes into this production. Michael has done another marvellous job as Record's Officer, and we all envy him as he travels the country in search of more new birds to tick off! Also, thanks to Ann who, as usual, has ably handled both the job of Secretary and Treasurer."

b) Treasurer's Report: Read by Ann Shore as follows:-

"Firstly, may I thank my fellow officers for again putting up with my very inexpert handling of the Club's financial affairs and for the support they have given me during the year both as Treasurer and Secretary. Figures for 1982-83 do not make very comfortable reading as they leave us with a very small bank balance: \$38.57 in all, according to my calculations. As this is approximately half of what we had in the bank at the last A.G.M., when I asked you to review subscription rates, this point is again to the fore and I would ask you to consider it later in the meeting. Perhaps in the meantime members could think of any other fund-raising methods which might be more acceptable or profitable.

This poor balance was occurred in spite of the kindness of a few people in helping to hand-deliver more of our newsletters and by the Executive's efforts to keep expenses down and can be

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CONT'D

attributed solely to increased charges for almost everything we use or buy."

(The annual audit had not been completed by the time of the meeting. When this is available it will be published in the news-sheet.)

c) Record's Officers Report: Read by Michael Atzeni:-

"Since taking on the position of Record's Officer in October 1980 I have seen our list of species for the area steadily grow to 238 species. In the past three years, 27 species have been added including six since the last A.G.M. These were: Black-tailed Native-hen, Marsh Sandpiper, Freckled Duck, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo and Apostlebird.

This total of 238 species is, roughly, one third of the species regularly found in Australia. As members of the Toowoomba Bird Club we can feel proud of this high figure. Our area is lacking in habitat diversity, especially rainforest and wetlands. If we had these habitats our list would easily pass 250 species.

I and other members derive great satisfaction out of finding new species for our area. Currently, I have reliable local reports of at least another twenty species which have yet to be seen by two or more members together before they can be added to our checklist.

It's a good feeling to be able to show both beginners and knowledgeable birders new species. Fortunately, I have been in a position to do so, especially with new members such as Don Gaydon who is in my car at a moment's notice. If other members are interested in some guidance they are more than welcome to call on me. I'm sure Lesley, Marilyn and other members are also willing to help where possible.

For anyone interested in chasing up unusual or rare species, the Club is willing to add them to the grapevine if you pass on your phone number and address. I have good sources in Brisbane at present.

With respect to this year's Annual Species Count I am pleased members have accepted the change and I have confidence in its longterm value as it will pinpoint the presence/absence of a species far more accurately.

I wish to thank those members who send in their monthly checklists, an invaluable practice, which I urge others to adopt. I wish you good birding in the coming year. Thanks also to Ann, Marilyn and Lesley for their advice and help during the year."

d) Editor's Report: Lesley Beaton gave her report as follows:-

"I have had great pleasure in editing the news-sheet this year. I emphasize editing as it is the contributors who make the news-sheet. There have been 20 members who have contributed 43 articles and reports in the twelve issues since the last A.G.M. A sincere thanks to those people, where would the news-sheet be without you?

Thanks, also, to Marilyn for continuing the index this year. I find it of great value in my job.

I have had no adverse comments about the new front page and I must say it makes my work just that bit more uncomplicated. Editing is time-consuming and every little bit helps.

Lastly, thanks to Marilyn, Ann and Michael with whom I've had many enjoyable evenings during the year."

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CONT'D

6. Election of Officers: Marilyn Jacobs requested Ron Hopkinson to take the Chair for this part of the meeting. Agreed.

a) President: Marilyn Jacobs proposed by Sandy Pottinger. No other nominations received so she was duly elected.

b) Secretary/Treasurer: Ann Shore proposed by Marilyn Jacobs. No other nominations so elected unopposed.

c) Records Officer/Librarian: Michael Atzeni proposed by Lesley Beaton. No other nominations so duly elected.

d) Editor: Lesley Beaton proposed by Ray Viljoen. Lesley was persuaded to carry on doing an excellent job as no other nominations had been received.

7. General Business:

a) The President had discovered that no information on the Club was yet appearing in the Toowoomba Visitors' Guide to the city. This would be rectified.

b) Marilyn Jacobs reported on the participation of herself and three other club members in the Q.O.S. bird count on 9th October.

c) Membership application forms had now been printed.

d) Ron Hopkinson read from the copy of a report he had received of Mr Shaw of the Council's Parks & Gardens Dept. It concerned a survey Mr Shaw had carried out for the Council on the suitability of setting up a waterbird habitat in East Creek swamp. He listed many objections; pollution, mosquito-breeding, dogs, cats, rats, etc.

Members were amazed and the President said that the report be dealt with by the Executive line by line.

Mention was made of the Club's letter to the Field Naturalist Club enquiring why the Bird Club's support had not been sought to add weight to the submission by the Field Nats & Greenwatch for a waterbird habitat in East Creek as a Bicentennial project. The President of the Field Nats, Ray Viljoen, apologized that no reply to this had yet been received by the Bird Club. He explained that they had been invited to make their submission by the Council.

e) Fundraising: Discussion followed the Treasurer's earlier appeal - Ray Viljoen very kindly offered a bird photograph as a raffle. A wonderful idea. He was sincerely thanked by Marilyn Jacobs. Members discussed possibilities of holding more raffles as an alternative to raising subscription rates. All in favour.

f) Ron Hopkinson read a letter received from Monash University on a national rainforest study to be carried out on birds, flora and fauna.

8. Arrangements for 8th Annual Bird Count: Michael Atzeni was invited by the President to explain the proposed changes. In the past the count had not been carried out sufficiently scientifically to be a useful record. It should be the big event of the year for the whole Club to get involved in so he had proposed that it be changed to a Bird Species Count. The two ten-minute blocks, constituting the Club's study area, should each be sub-divided into four. Information obtained could be continuing and he could also use earlier information and results would be more beneficial in the long term. Members were in favour of the change.

8 sub-divisions: 1,2,3 & 4 up range.
5,6,7 & 8 down range.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CONT'D

The following arrangements were made, although they were not final and could be open to change.

- Sub-division 1. Jane & Jim Corbin, Gloria Glass.
- Sub-division 2. Mike & Elizabeth Russell, Mrs Bartlett.
- Sub-division 3. Graham Corbin, Don Gaydon, Dean Collins, Ron Colpus.
- Sub-division 4. Marilyn Jacobs, Lesley Beaton, Sandy Pottinger.
- Sub-division 5. Ann Shore, John Shore, Angela Kilmartin, Craig Shore.
- Sub-division 6. Ron Hopkinson, Will Cormack.
- Sub-division 7. Pat McConnell, Terry Reis, Brian Foulis, Michael Atzeni.
- Sub-division 8. Michael Atzeni, Don Gaydon.

9.00 pm. There being no further business the President closed the meeting with thanks to everyone present. Special thanks were given to Lesley and John Ball for holding the meeting at their home. Members re-grouped themselves for a slide show and talk given by Ray Viljoen entitled "Differences and Comparisons between South African and Australian Birds". After which all adjourned for refreshments to close an enjoyable and informative evening.

Ann Shore, Secretary

---oo0oo---

MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES

- Jabiru. 9.10.83. Bryant's Lagoon, Tenthill. LB, MJ, SP.
- Freckled Duck. 9.10.83. Hood's Lagoon. LB, MJ, SP.
- Blue-winged Shoveller. 9.10.83. Bryant's Lagoon, Tenthill. LB, MJ, SP.
- Cotton Pygmy-goose. 9.10.83. Coles Rd Swamp, off Esk/Gatton Rd, LB, MJ, SP.
- Musk Lorikeet (4). 25.10.83. "Brandywine", Sylvan Court, T'mba. MJ, SP.
- Western Whistler. 22.7.83. Lincoln Nat. Park. (S.A.) MA, BF, PM, TR
- Rufous-crowned Emu-wren. 26.7.83. Hattah. MA, BF, PM, TR.
- Thick-billed Grasswren. 21 & 23.7.83. Whyalla/Ironbar Rd. MA, BF, PM, TR.
- Striated Grasswren. 27.7.83. Hattah. MA, BF, TR, PM.
- Rufous Bristlebird. 29.7.83. Point Addis (Vic) MA, BF, PM, TR.
- Rufous Treecreeper. 20.7.83. Lake Gilles (S.A.) MA, BF, PM, TR.
- Beautiful Firetail. 4.8.83. Tidal River, Wilson's Promontory. MA, BF, PM, TR.

MA: Michael Atzeni, LB: Lesley Beaton, BF: Brian Foulis, MJ: Marilyn Jacobs, PM: Pat McConnell, SP: Sandy Pottinger, TR: Terry Reis. (Apologies to Brian, Pat and Terry who got left out of the key last month.)

---oo0oo---

FIELD DAY FOR NOVEMBER

Date: Sunday, 27th November 1983. Place: Ravensbourne Nat. Park

Assembly Point: Pigott's Car Park.

Time: 7.15 am. for departure at 7.30 am. sharp.

Ravensbourne is always a pleasant outing. It gives us a chance to see the rainforest birds such as Catbirds, Wonga and Topknot Pigeons, Noisy Pittas and the seldom seen Black-breasted Button-quail. Invite your friends and have an enjoyable day. Please bring a packed lunch and spend a bit of time chatting to other members.

--oo0oo--

FILM EVENING/BREAK UP

Date: Tuesday, 13th December 1983. Place: Toowoomba Education Centre, Baker Street

Time: 7.15 pm. for 7.30 pm. start

Unfortunately, at the time of going to press the actual films to be shown are not known. It is hoped that they will be the ones we missed out on earlier in the year. That is - 3 films featuring seabirds, with one magnificent film on the Christmas Islands in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Visitors welcome.

Members, please bring along a small plate.

Anybody who wishes transport for either of the above activities, please phone Ann on 30 3207.

--oo0oo--

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members. They all turned up for the A.G.M. and we hope you'll be able to make it to our outing and film evening.

Janet Berners. c/- "Narrawa", Euston Rd, T'mba. 30 1349.

Will Cormack. 21 Arthur St, T'mba.

Gloria Glass. 6 Patterson st, T'mba. 38 2404.

Angela Kilmartin. 40 Mabel St, T'mba.

Craig Shore. "Shor-a-lee", Withcott M.S. 224, T'mba. 4352.

--oo0oo--

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

These and many past copies are available to members for loan. They make very interesting reading. Please get in touch with Michael if you are interested.

The Bird Observer. October 1983. (Newsletter of the Bird Observers' Club)

The Darling Downs Naturalist. November 1983. (Newsletter of the Toowoomba Field Naturalist Club)

The Sunbird. June 1983. (Journal of the Queensland Ornithological Society)

Urimbirra. October 1983. (Newsletter of the Chinchilla Field Naturalists' Club)