



URIMBIRRA

Monthly newsletter

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Urimbirra is an Aboriginal word meaning 'to take care of' or 'to preserve'.

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NEXT DEADLINE FOR URIMBIRRA CONTRIBUTIONS: TUESDAY 3 APRIL 2018

-----NOTE EARLIER DEADLINE-----

Emailed contributions should be sent as attachments in JPEG and/or Word, please, not PDF or other format.

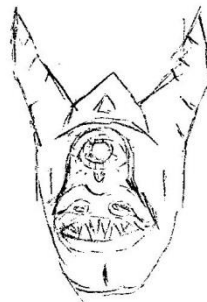
EMAIL for Urimbirra material. Send to Frank Truscott - mongrove@bigpond.com
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IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE INFORMATION ABOUT THE 2018 AUSTRALIAN NATURALISTS' NETWORK GET-TOGETHER IN VICTORIA, PLEASE CONTACT KATH TRUSCOTT ON 4668 9054 OR mongrove@bigpond.com.

MEMBER OF THE
AUSTRALIAN
NATURALISTS'
NETWORK



Our web site: <http://www.chinchillanaturalists.com.au>



Come on the Jandowae outing and see this.

OUTING TO "OLD MAN LAGOON" 17TH FEBRUARY 2018

By Frank Truscott



Due to the stifling heat our small group met at "Old Man Lagoon" at the late hour of 4 p.m. It was actually quite pleasant in the shade of the trees with the occasional "sea breeze" off the lagoon.

We let the birds do the work and watched them as they appeared. The highlights were: two species of Spoonbill, the Royal and the Yellow-billed (LEFT- Leigh Plant's photo), and three species of Fairy-wren, the Superb, Red-backed and Variegated. We basically sat, watched and talked until the light began to fade and the mosquitoes woke up. The water level in the lagoon was quite low but, since the

rain, is now at about half or a little better.

BIRD LIST FOR OLD MAN LAGOON

Compiled by Beryl Rennick

Superb Fairy-wren
Variegated Fairy-wren
Red-backed Fairy Wren
Royal Spoonbill
Yellow-billed Spoonbill

Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike
Red-rumped Parrot
Sacred Kingfisher
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Little Corella

Galah
Pale-headed Rosella
Willy Wagtail
Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Magpie

PALAEONTOLOGY SESSION AT ROTARY MEETING – 13TH FEBRUARY 2018

By Frank Truscott

The club was invited to attend a Rotary meeting in Chinchilla. The special guests at the meeting were Dr. Andrew Rozefelds of Queensland Museum, Dr. Gilbert Price of The University of Queensland and Julien Louys of Griffith University. Dr. Gilbert Price participated in several digs at the Chinchilla Rifle Range where Cec and Doris Wilkinson worked for several decades. The guests were organised by Rotarian Lloyd Beasley who has a collection of fossils from the Chinchilla area. The main messages from the speakers were:

- Fossils can provide clues about the climate at that time,
- Many fossils have modern descendants which are quite similar to them in various ways while others have been described and named but cannot be placed in a Genus or even a Family because there is nothing in the modern world that looks like them, and
- Citizen scientists (amateur scientists) such as Cec and Doris Wilkinson and Ian Sobbe (a Darling Downs farmer) can still play a significant role. By collecting fossils in a systematic manner and then making them available to institutions such as museums and universities, gaps in the sequences of plant and animal fossils can be filled and the reasons how and why they have evolved that way can be proposed. Understanding how and why life changed in certain ways can warn us to potential threats in the future.

It was pointed out that the Megafauna animal fossils found around Chinchilla are from the relatively recent Pliocene Epoch which extends from 6.5 to 2 million years before the present, but the fossil plants that Andrew Rozefelds was talking about (found from the Chinchilla to the Taroom areas) were from the much older Jurassic Period (of "Jurassic Park" age) which began 206 million years ago and ended with the Cretaceous Period 144 million years ago. We have a very rich flora and fauna fossil area which would benefit from careful investigation by more people like Ian Sobbe and Cec and Doris Wilkinson.

DOWN MEMORY LANE – FEBRUARY 1983

By Frank Truscott

The March meeting was held on the 18th. A guest for the evening was ornithologist Roy Wheeler who was passing through the area.

(I did a Google search and found this: Wilson Roy Wheeler (1905-1988) was an Australian postman and professional ornithologist. He was an active bird bander and was convener of the Altona Survey Group, later part of the Victorian Ornithological Research Group. In 1965 he was awarded the Australian Natural History Medallion. He was a member of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union (RAOU), President 1964-1965, and made a Fellow of the RAOU in 1971. He was also very active in the Bird Observers Club (BOCA), serving as President (1951-1954), Honorary Secretary (1954-1971) and Honorary Treasurer (1963-1971). In 2005 he was commemorated, on the occasion of BOCA's centenary, by the creation of a new award, the W. Roy Wheeler Medallion for Excellence in Field Ornithology.) We were very fortunate in those days to have contact with such illustrious people.

Speaker for the evening was Cec Cameron whose subject was his recent trip to Kenya. A \$50 donation was passed for the Bird Observers' Club to help with the recent bushfires in Victoria.

The March outing was held on the 19th at "Bellevue". I presume that the outing was held on the day after the meeting because Roy Wheeler was present. It was very dry with the only green feed in melon holes. As you would imagine birds were the main fare for the day although they found and tentatively identified a Trapdoor Spider *Arbanitis gracilis* (now *Misgolas gracilis*). Later that evening they heard a Barn Owl (amongst others). We were only recently discussing the apparent disappearance of Barn Owls in the last decade or two.

Following dinner they went frogging in the "Big Swamp" and they also collected several more spiders. Well done!

Some CFNC members also participated in the regular Easter campout of the Queensland Ornithological Society, held that year at the Kerr's property "Kia-Ora", Kogan.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

Date: 16th February 2018
Venue: CWA Rooms Chinchilla
Time: 7.45pm
Present: R. Smith, W. Smith, L. Plant, B. Rennick, H. Rennick, D. Kanowski, F. Truscott, K. Truscott, P. Fawcett, J.Latham
Apologies: T. Plant, F. Reynolds, J & M Mason

President Kath Truscott welcomed attendees to the meeting.

Minutes

L. Plant read the minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting. F. Truscott moved and P. Fawcett seconded that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as a true and correct record.....Carried

Correspondence

Inward:

- Office of Fair Trading –Annual Return of Association 2018

Outwards:

- Office of Fair Trading – Annual Return of Association 2017

L. Plant moved that the inward correspondence be accepted and the outward endorsed. Seconded by W. Smith.....Carried

Treasurer's Report

K. Truscott presented the annual Treasurer's report in Heather Mason's absence.

J. Latham moved the Treasurer's report be adopted. Seconded by F. Truscott Carried

President's Report

K. Truscott presented the President's report for 2017. K. Truscott moved her report for adoption. Seconded by B. Rennick.....Carried

Election of Officers

President

K. Truscott nominated by B. Rennick. Seconded by J. Latham Accepted.....Elected

Vice President

D. Kanowski nominated by J. Latham. Seconded by W. Smith Accepted.....Elected

Secretary

L. Plant was nominated by F. Truscott. Seconded by J. Latham Accepted.....Elected

Treasurer

H. Mason nominated by R. Smith. Seconded by P. Fawcett Accepted.....Elected

Publication Officer

F. Truscott nominated by W. Smith. Seconded by H. Rennick Accepted... ..Elected

Urimbirra Distribution

H & B Rennick nominated by F. Truscott. Seconded by D. Kanowski Accepted.....Elected

Ordinary Committee Members

H. Rennick nominated by F. Truscott. Seconded by J. Latham AcceptedElected

B. Rennick nominated by W. Smith. Seconded by P. Fawcett Accepted.....Elected

J. Mason nominated by H. Rennick. Seconded by D. Kanowski Accepted.....Elected

One position vacant

K. Truscott declared Ordinary Members elected.

Supper Hosts

J. Mason nominated by L. Latham. Seconded by P. Fawcett Accepted..... Elected

General Business

H. Rennick moved that the membership fees remain at Family \$25 and Single Person \$20.

Seconded by W. Smith.....Carried

F. Truscott moved that Tony Minnis be appointed as auditor. Seconded by D. Kanowski.....Carried

Meeting Closed 8:19pm

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING – FEBRUARY 2018

Date: 16th September 2018

Time: 8:20 pm

Venue: CWA Rooms, Chinchilla

Present: F & K Truscott, L Plant, H & B Rennick, P. Fawcett, R&W Smith, D. Kanowski, J. Latham

Apologies: F. Reynolds, J & H Mason, T. Plant

MINUTES:

K. Truscott read the minutes of the previous meeting. B. Rennick moved that the minutes of the meeting be accepted as a true and correct record. Seconded by J. Latham.....Carried

BUSINESS ARISING:

- The World Science Fair is once again being held on the weekend of the 10th March in Chinchilla.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Inwards

- Membership – K & L Braithwaite
- ANN Network 2018 Get together
- Newsletters x2
- Westpac Bank Statement

Outward

- Nil

L. Plant moved that the inward correspondence be accepted. Seconded by D .Kanowski.....Carried

General Business:

- The Chinchilla CWA has been successful in gaining a grant to paint the interior of the CWA building. The club will need to remove the library cupboard to allow painters access to the room. Frank Truscott will remove the projector and screen until the area is painted.
- The January outing to the Bunya Mountains was a successful and enjoyable few days. The club members who attended were joined by members of the Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club and Bunya Mountains Natural History Club. They were fortunate to have access to Cedarvale (slab hut museum), go on several walks and enjoy a BBQ together on the Saturday night with 21 attendees.
- On Tuesday 14th February the Chinchilla Rotary Club invited members to attend their meeting. Three palaeontologists spoke about the local flora and fauna fossils giving details on various mega fauna and ancient flora encouraging citizen scientists to participate and assist in future research. Five members of the club attended. H. Rennick moved that a letter of thanks be sent to the Rotary Club for their invitation. Seconded by F. Truscott.....Carried
- B. Rennick presented information from Lapunyah Art Gallery about the '50 Shades....' Art competition and exhibition.(Exhibition 24 September to 24 October 2018)
- D. Kanowski gave detail about the club outing planned for 24th and 25th March at Jandowae and Cooranga North and Ironpot areas.

Meeting Closed: 9:10 pm

2018 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This time last year we were deep in the planning of our 50th birthday celebrations. What a wonderful event it turned out to be, with past and present members from all over south-east Queensland turning up to help us celebrate. Looking around at the smiling faces of so many people I had shared my life with and my love of nature, it made me realise just how important this club has been to not only me, but all of us. Such strong bonds have been developed over years and decades, how fortunate we have been.

We have also had the pleasure of sharing our knowledge of this area with other clubs throughout the year. A large contingent from the Toowoomba FNC stayed here for several days in June last year. It was a wonderful adventure for them and full marks must go to Frank for his planning and execution of the outings each day. Many friendships have been made and we were very pleased to see members at our annual Bunya Mt stay in January. Bunya Mts NHC members once again joined with us for this outing too and the BBQ on the final evening saw 21 people from three different clubs enjoying themselves on the verandah of Kookaburra Cottage.

We were very fortunate to have some fantastic outings further afield last year. An enjoyable cold camp at Litani was hosted by Julie Latham and provided us with the opportunity to investigate Yuleba Forest again. Then in October a small contingent enjoyed the hospitality of Mike Hines on the beautiful North Stradbroke Island. Having only ever been there as a child or teacher, it was fantastic to experience so much of the flora and fauna on (and swimming around) the island.

As has been the norm of late, attendance at meetings has been fairly poor but we manage to get a fairly good roll up to most outings. Many of us are busy doing our own trips around the country and overseas, thus reducing the number of members available to meet on a monthly basis. A special thanks to the members who loyally put up their hands for positions on the Management committee and put in the time to keep the club rolling along. All your efforts are very much appreciated.

Book sales continue to keep **our** books looking OK. Frank works hard at getting Urimbirra published each month and keeping the website current.

Thanks as always to those members both here and away who continue to organise outings, slideshows for meetings and write-ups for Urimbirra.

DISCLAIMER

Urimbirra is the journal of the Chinchilla Field Naturalists Club Inc. The authors of the material used in it seek to maintain the highest standards of accuracy, but if inaccuracies occur, every endeavour will be made to correct them in future editions. With the exception of official club notices, all other material in Urimbirra represents the views, opinions and records of contributing members. Such material is edited as little as possible in an effort to encourage members to contribute. The onus is placed on members to voluntarily edit and cross-check their own material, thereby easing the burden on the Publication Officer.

CLUB NOTICES

2018 PROGRAM

March 16 Management Meeting 6:00pm and General Meeting (2016 ANN photos) 7:30pm – CWA Hall.

March 24/25 Jandowae outing. Leader: Denver Kanowski - ph. 0408 884 532 (after dark).

To Jandowae and Petroglyphs:

- Meet at Visitor Information Centre, Chinchilla at 8 a.m. or Jandowae's Athlone Cottage at 9 a.m.
- After smoko we will check out the Jandowae water treatment plant site – hopefully a good birdo spot.
- Then to Jeremy and Rebecca Brown's property "Coondambo" to look at petroglyphs of unknown origin in sandstone and a tree planting/ revegetation project from 1999/2000 including Spotted Gum, White Gum and Grey Box. Hopefully ex-members Lennie and Jocelyn Martin will be able to join us for some local knowledge.
- Later Glen Humphrys will take us to the Jarail Creek State School site and then to a box canyon on "Fern Tree Gully". After that, we will move to Denver's uncle's property "Woomera" near Ironpot Hall for those who wish to camp for the night. A toilet is provided but there is no shower.
- Bring meat and a salad for a BBQ at "Woomera" on Saturday night.
- Bring a UHF radio if you have one.
- Glen Humphreys has asked that everyone clean their vehicles of mud and dirt to prevent weed spread. Pay particular attention to floor mats and wheel arches.

April 20 General Meeting – Masons' 2018 NZ photos – 7:30pm at the CWA Hall

April 21 Outing via local roads to the Chinchilla Weir for a BBQ tea. Leaders: John & Heather Mason

May 18 Management Meeting 6 pm at Rennicks' home.

May General Meeting TBA

No May outing due to Chinchilla Show

August Wattle outing to Goranba Lane with Len Hubbard. Date to be announced.

