



# **Tamborine Mountain Natural History Association Inc**

[www.naturalhistory.org.au](http://www.naturalhistory.org.au)

PO Box 116  
North Tamborine  
Qld, 4272

NEWSLETTER No. 174

October/November 2009

## ***Meetings***

All Meetings at the Tamborine Mt Historical Society, Wongawallen Rd, Eagle Heights

**New members are always welcome**

### **November General Meeting**

Friday 20 November at new time of 4.00 – Keith McCosh of Scenic Rim Regional Council will talk about various Council projects and initiatives, particularly the recovery plan for the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly.

### **September General Meeting Report Journey to Tibet, The Forbidden Kingdom**

Nadia presented the story and photographs of her father and his friend's journey to and in Tibet during 1934/35. They had many exciting adventures and experiences and their box brownie camera captured about seventy images, including the journey through western China, their medal award ceremony in Tachienlu, the construction of their boat, the paddle through the rapids of the Yangtse River and the people and scenery of Tibet – a world rarely photographed and now vanished.

### **Bird Group Meetings**

Wednesday 11 November at 7.30pm

### **Bird Walks**

November 21/11/09 Lake Maroon Saturday 15 August Coombabah Conservation Park

### **Bushwalkers Meeting**

Tuesday 17 November at 7.30pm

### **Bush Walks**

Saturday 14th November: Toolona Creek Circuit - Green Mountains (O'Reilly's).

Saturday 28 th November Lyrebird Lookout Circuit - Green Mountains (O'Reilly's)

## **BIRD GROUP ACTIVITIES**

### **Bird Walk Report**

#### **15 August - Coombabah Wetlands**

The bird walk in August was to Coombabah Wetlands on the Gold Coast, this is a great area to bird with many different habitats from open eucalypt forest to Melaleuca swamps and boardwalks, which take you through the mangrove area to a bird hide on Coombabah Lake.

With spring just around the corner many of the male birds are colouring up and are spectacular to see, like the Scarlet Honeyeater and Red-backed Fairy-wrens.

A total of 42 bird species were seen as well as Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Swamp Wallaby and three koalas.

Leaving Coombabah wetlands we headed to Upper Coomera to have lunch on the banks of the Coomera River. It was good to see the resident Brahminy Kites bringing fish back to their nest and a White-bellied Sea Eagle soaring overhead.

After lunch we could hear Bee-eaters calling so we made our way to an area called the gravel pits where a total of 33 bird species were seen. A great day out.

#### **Future Bird Walks**

Pat, Julie, Marg and I have put a rough plan together for the walks in 2009. They are not set in concrete and if there is a favourite birding place you would like to visit in 2009 please let us know. We are also thinking of trialing a Saturday afternoon walk starting at 2.30pm rather than a full day.

#### **Proposed walks for 2009**

November 21/11/09 Lake Maroon

December 8/12/09 Christmas Party Tuesday in lieu of meeting

**Bird Walks:** Third Saturday in Month - Meet 7.00am at the V.I.C. Please bring morning tea and lunch.

**Bird Group Meetings:** Please note change Second Wednesday in Month, 7.30PM. (Feb to Nov-2009)

**Bird Group Contacts:** Pat Stockwell 5545 0737, Julie Lake 5545 4606, Jeff Eller 5545 0995

## **BUSHWALKERS ACTIVITIES**

**Bushwalkers – Contact Denise Merrin** 5545-4288, [dme74873@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dme74873@bigpond.net.au)

**Bush Walks** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sat of Month. A list of the requirements to be carried by all walkers is available at the Visitor Information Centre. If you do not have this list, please obtain one.

All ideas will be considered and we need your input, so come along to one of our meetings or our walks, with your ideas and suggestions for walks

#### **Bushwalkers Note.**

Please contact walk leaders by Friday night before the walk to advise of your intention to attend.

## **Bush Walk Reports**

### **8 August - Laheys Tabletop – Leaders Peter Foster & Sara Henwood**

Tamborine Mountain Bushwalkers were delighted to be given permission to visit Laheys Tabletop, an exposed promontory high above the Illingbah Valley, which supports a small Homestead and Cattle yards.

Thirteen walkers set off in beautiful weather across the paddocks and followed a farm track down to the edge of the National Park, where we came to the Park signs and even an old bench seat. Many years ago this was planned to be a major access point into Lamington NP, but was finally abandoned through a lack of funds.

We set off on a southerly bearing into the forest and generally kept to the ridge top, with a sharp drop off to our left. After a short while we arrived at, what is known as, Wangerriburra Lookout, a small rocky knoll, which precedes a small drop down into a saddle. From there we continued on until we finally reached the old graded track system, complete with an array of interesting, old wooden signposts.

We chose to have our morning tea here and enjoy the ambience of a place, which once must have seen many bushwalkers.

The group then proceeded to follow the track, which eventually would lead to East Canungra Creek. However the track was in a bad state with several small landslides, which made progress slow, so we returned to the previous track junction and decided to explore down the hillside towards Gwoongoorool Pool. We followed this for an hour before taking our lunch stop. After lunch we retraced our steps to the junction and enjoyed a relaxed walk back to Laheys Tabletop.

A week later 3 members returned and followed the track towards Fountain Falls and succeeded in getting to Noowongbill Lookout. The track down to East Canungra Creek looked very overgrown, but we will return at some time in the future to explore it further.

### **22 August - Araucaria Lookout – Leader Max Reindl**

Having to cope with 13 walkers, it took some time to sort out who would be ferried by whom. (Julie was meeting us there. To Binna Burra! A green light as we arrived at the Goat Track was most welcome. On arrival at Binna Burra Graham & Helen found some friends. We found Julie and there was joy all round. Eventually however some serious walking commenced. Morning tea was at Joalah Lookout, where I spotted a Blue Tongue Lizard and Peter noticed a snake nearby, but neither of them showed much interest in us. Orchid Bower we had to enjoy without any orchids and in stages only some of us enjoyed the view. Similarly at Araucaria we barely found places for all of us to sit; at least the orchids were in profusion. We had just finished eating when another group turned up; so we vacated. On the way home a smaller group overtook us, only to take possession of the Joalah bench, so we moved on. At the 19km bench again we found another group occupying the facility. Eventually returning to Binna Burra we got rewarded with a milkshake, coffee and muffins. I.E. in spite of the crowded conditions a good time was had by all - - - I hope.

## **Future Bush Walks**

Saturday 14th November: Toolona Creek Circuit - Green Mountains (O'Reilly's).  
Leader John 55450065 - Medium /17 km/7 hrs  
Vic 7.30 am - Canungra 8 am Petrol \$15

Saturday 28 th November Lyrebird Lookout Circuit - Green Mountains (O'Reilly's)  
Leader Steve 55451073 -Medium /12 km/4.5 hrs.  
Vic 7.30 am - Canungra 8 am Petrol \$15

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December Caves Circuit and Bellbird Lookout - Binna Burra  
Leader Max 55451658 - Easy to Medium 8 to 10 km  
Vic 7.30 am - off mountain walkers at trail head. Petrol \$12

**Next Meeting** - Tuesday 17th November at The Heritage Centre - 7.30 pm

Christmas Party date to be advised. But it will be mid week, sometime after the 12 th December and down at the Knoll National Park picnic ground. It will be a BYO - BBQ and walk.

**Bushwalkers' Meetings:** Third Tuesday in Month, at 7.30PM. (Mar, May, Jul, Sep & Nov-2009)

**Any enquiries –** Phone Denise (Bush Walkers Co-Ordinator) 5545-4288

### **GENERAL ACTIVITIES**

**Please note that subscriptions for 2009/2010 are now due (\$15 per single and \$20 per family)**

Please read the attached letter about premises for TMNHA, you can either email me with your reply or for written replies post to our PO box or drop into our letterbox at the VIC. Your input is both welcome and necessary for planning the future of TMNHA.

A QPW volunteer accreditation course will be held on Saturday 14 November at Binna Burra, 9.30 to 2.00, morning tea and lunch provided. Another QPW volunteer accreditation day is planned for O'Reilly's in late November or early December. Prospective volunteers or current volunteers wanting a refresher are welcome to attend (it is not necessary for current volunteers to attend to maintain their registration). TMNHA volunteers led a walk in Joalah NP with QPW earlier this year and we would like to continue and expand this activity. If you are interested in becoming a QPW volunteer or attending an accreditation course please email Nadia as RSVPs for the course are required.

WPSQ (Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld) has established a Scenic Rim branch, for further information contact Ronda Green at [platypuscorner@bigpond.com](mailto:platypuscorner@bigpond.com).

Hendra virus has attracted sensationalised reporting which has vilified flying foxes as the culprits and led to calls for culls and disturbance of bat colonies. So far no mechanism has been shown to transfer the virus directly from bats to horses. It would be expected that Hendra virus would commonly occur in horses kept in paddocks containing trees utilised by bats, however Hendra virus most commonly occurs in horses kept in yards and fed supplementary food. Clearly there is more fieldwork to do to establish whether cats, rats and mice could be a vector for this disease. Ironically a group performing this research has recently had its government funding cut.

### **Association Contacts**

TMNHA President – Nadia O'Carroll, 5545-3551, [nadia@interphase.net.au](mailto:nadia@interphase.net.au)

Bushwalkers – Denise Merrin 5545-4288, [dme74873@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dme74873@bigpond.net.au)

Birdwatchers – Jeff & Marg Eller 5545-0995, [margjeffeller@yahoo.com.au](mailto:margjeffeller@yahoo.com.au)

Website – Gail Patricia Molson, [molsongp@ozemail.com.au](mailto:molsongp@ozemail.com.au)

Membership Coordinator – Paul Lyons, 5545-2596

**NEXT NEWSLETTER** Please **email contributions to Nadia at** [nadia@interphase.net.au](mailto:nadia@interphase.net.au) **by 30 November**