

Honorary Life Membership of the Toodyay Naturalists' Club Nomination

Greg Warburton

I wish to nominate Greg for Honorary Life Membership of the Toodyay Naturalists' Club.

Greg first attended the Club in 1999 when meetings were held in the former kindergarten premises in Hamersley Street.

His lifelong interest in natural history began when, as a young lad, he was a member of the younger set of the West Australian Naturalists' Club. I won't ask him how long ago that was!

As an adventurous young man he travelled, alone, around Africa and at some stage he was involved with Australian outback natural history safaris using camels. I believe he first met Vicki at Uluru. The camel found in Australia was not the only species he travelled with as he, together with Vicki, crossed the Mongolian Gobi Desert on the Bactrian Camel. He has also used both the camel and a team of donkeys to trek in the northern areas of this state. Old man camel, Worri, lives in retired comfort on the Toodyay property!

Greg has a great interest in the historical aspect of natural history and has given a number of Club presentations encompassing that facet.

February 2013 – 'Feral Focus - Part 1 – The Camel' – Emphasis was placed on the incredible contribution gained by early explorers in the vast arid areas of Western Australia with the use of camel transport.

September 2013 – 'Battlefields and Florabunda' – In 1830 amateur botanist, Georgiana Malloy (1806-1844) moved to Augusta in our remote south west as a young married English lady; her love of wildflowers was a salve for the loneliness and sadness she experienced.

August 2014 – 'Feral Focus - Part 2 – The Donkey' – A slightly different angle was approached on the invaluable donkey contribution to exploration. Greg emphasised that from humble religious beginnings the donkey has been used as a valuable little beast of burden. Both he and Vicki have travelled from Kununurra to Hall's Creek with a team.

March 2015 – 'Buckland to Bungalbin' – A trek, towing a strange-looking home-made cart, was made from Buckland, Shire of Northam, to Bungalbin (Helena Aurora Range), Shire of Yilgarn, passing through the Great Western Woodlands. It was destined to bring attention to a much wider community of the threat of mining this beautiful banded-ironstone area but also to give historical significance to the original 1861 trail.

March 2016 – 'Nose Lines and Leg Irons' – This presentation gave a history of early explorers in Western Australia and their connections with Toodyay. It featured the modes of transport used especially that of the camel.

Greg's contribution to natural history, in all forms, does not stay only with the Nat's Club. He has been a fore-runner in the fight against litter, involved in revegetation of de-graded areas both within and outside the shire boundaries, working to have walk trails within the Shire for an appreciation of nature and is a member of allied groups of natural history interest.

With the above overview I would like to nominate, and move a motion, to have Greg Warburton named as 2018 Honorary Life Member of the Toodyay Naturalists' Club.

Desraé Clarke, 12 June 2018