



JAMES DRUMMOND
1784-1864
BOTANIST



NEWSLETTER

TOODYAY

naturalist

club

1972

EDITORIAL

Our Club's success has encouraged this attempt at the publication of our own Newsletter. It is hoped to produce an issue every three months tabbring to members club news, items of interest from other conservation organizations, lists of books on natural history and brief topical articles on wildlife. In this first issue it is proposed to give an outline of our Club's history.

History Efforts by Mr Wally Chitty to interest local residents in a naturalist club was followed by a meeting at "Woodendale" of four interested people - Mrs Hazel Hastie, Mr Alby North, Miss Dawn Atwell and Mrs Ray Paynter. The 'Toodyay Naturalist Club' was formed and has over the past four years gone from strength to strength. A firm foundation was set by our first club secretary Mrs Hazel Hastie, a foundation upon which our present secretary Mr Jim Masters has built a solid nature conservation organization. Our only president Mr Alby North has ably lead the club and welcomed to our meetings some of W.A. 's leading naturalists.

Dr Davies of the C.S.I.R.O. was the guest speaker at our first meeting, and it was his fascinating and interesting talk on the magpie goose that sealed the success of our club. Other guest speakers, Mr H. Shugg(Fauna Dept), Dr W.Ride (W.A. Museum), Mr Peter McMillan, Dr T. Riggert (Waterfowl Research), Mrs de la Hunty, Mrs E.Ericson, Mr Robinson, Professor A.Main(W.A. University), and Mr F. North all helped to stimulate and increase the interest of the public in the club and it might well be said that it has been their help which has been the main stay in our success.

Achievements

Achievements over the past four years have included a nature display at the Toodyay Show, a film evening at the Toodyay Town Hall featuring Vincent Serventy's "Walkabout" film. This enabled us to donate forty dollars for nature books to the Toodyay Junior High School. Support also was given towards the establishment of the Avon Valley Army Training Area as a National Park. The support and sympathy of the local shire has been paramount to the preservation of road verges and nature areas within the district. A healthy relationship exists between the shire and the club, and a joint effort by the two is the commencement of a memorial to James Drummond, the State's first resident botanist who lived in the Toodyay district.

A small reserve for the preservation of *Dryandra proteoides*, a rare native shrub found only near Toodyay and Brookton, has been established. Also a roadside reserve to protect the showy *Dryandra nobilis* has been created and, last but by no means least is the strength and the friendships that have grown, and the pleasure that follows from the sharing of mutual interests.

Toodyay Nature Diary *Dryandra nobilis* is a mass of flowers. Apparently the dry seasons have not affected this magnificent plant.

White fronted chats have been found nesting in grass by the roadside. Barely 6 inches from the ground these tiny black and white birds chose a precarious nesting place because stock moves freely along the road. However, the story had a happy ending as the young safely flew from the nest.

Club Chatter

Mr Wally Chitty and family have been laid low with the flu. Small son Peter spent a short time in hospital. Members hope all are well again.

Mr Jim Masters and daughter Pam with Mr & Mrs L. Milhinch are off to a R.A.O.U. camp at Shark Bay at the end of August.

Miss Dawn Atwell and Mrs Ray Paynter have returned from a three day motor trip visiting some fossil beds and an Aboriginal ochre mine.

Kokerbin Rock Picnic A club outing to the rock is planned for this spring.

Kokerbin Rock, a prominent granite outcrop approximately 20 miles east of Quairading, was first mentioned by Lefroy 'as one of the most remarkable and interesting rocks I have ever seen' holds interest for camera enthusiasts, picnickers and rock climbers. Kokerbin (meaning High and Lofty place) offers excellent views of the surrounding country side. Among the attractions are caves and interesting rock formations created through the action of wind and water. Apart from geological features the rock is the home of rock wallabys.

Details will be issued to all car drivers. Everyone is welcome to come along. Final details re date etc will be published later.

Membership Club membership is important and your support is sought. We have film evenings, guest speakers, bush outings and a friendly atmosphere.

Membership is vital and it encourages the members who are lucky enough to have free time to work on club activities. We have too, to pay for the hall, kitchen facilities and the light a each and everyone's support is important.

Annual subs.	Single	\$1
	Family	\$1.50

.....

P.S.

Any nature articles, letters, sketches or nature diaries of club interest would help our editor to make a success of the Newsletter. Please forward them to R. Paynter, 'Timbarah', Clackline. Phone 242232.

Toodyay Naturalist Club
meets at 8 pm on the 3rd Saturday in
the month at the Anglican Hall Toodyay.

