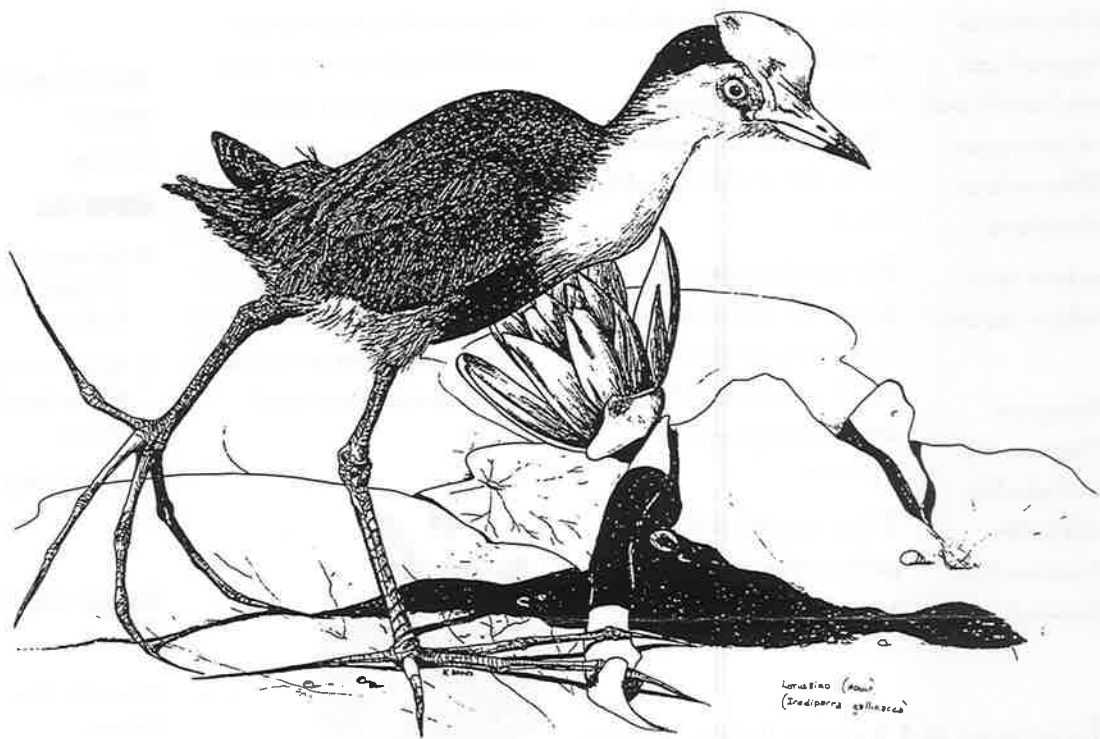


Society For Growing Australian Plants

Wildlife & Native Plants

Study Group Newsletter Number 25.



Summer 1998/1999.

ISSN 10387897



Wildlife & Native Plants Study Group newsletter

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Summer 1998 - 1999 edition of the Wildlife & Native Plants Study Group newsletter.

It is hoped that the information that is being produced for you is of some benefit and answers some of your questions about wildlife and our unique Australian plants.

Several articles have been written specifically on certain species.

Activities are being conducted during Summer with the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service in the Grafton District, covering National

Parks, Reserves and other areas of the Clarence Valley area. Detailed information can be obtained on times, dates, costs and places from the NPWS Office in Grafton at 49 Victoria Street, 2460 or telephone: 02 66 403 910 during office hours.

Interested members and guests can also contact Kathleen Davies at 3871 Casino Road, Lawrence, NSW, 2460 or telephone: 02 66 477 143.

These activities will include guided walks and talks amongst habitats including

wetlands, waterbird rookeries, coastal heath and sand dune country, Flying Fox colonies and other areas. Participants will gain a close appreciation of wildlife and the native vegetation of our special places.

As our newsletter is still a growing concern, there is always room for additions. So, if you have any interesting articles you would like to include or questions you would like answered, please send them in!

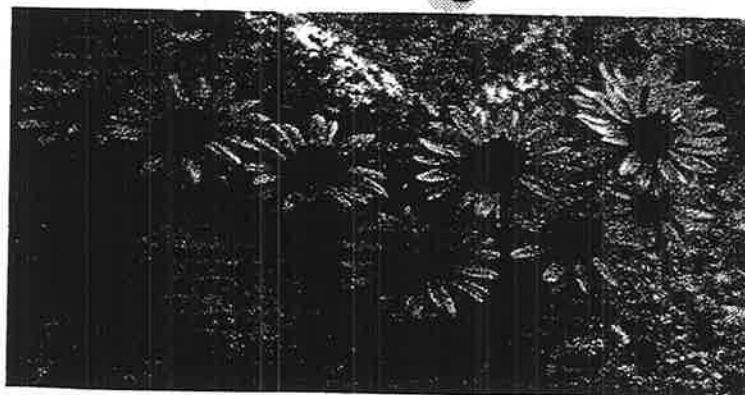
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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Kathleen Davies.

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Society For Growing Australian Plants.

Volume 2.

Summer 1998 - 1999.

Special points of interest:

☺ Frogs

☺ National Parks and Wildlife Discovery Activities

☺ Wildlife and Native Plants Study Group Activities

☺ Good Books!

Inside this issue:

Frogs for the Future

National Parks & Wildlife Discovery

Wildlife & Native Plants Study Group

Good Books & reference material



Wildlife & Native Plants Study Group Newsletter

NSW National Parks
& Wildlife Service
Discovery Activities.



Discovery
National Parks
Walks Talks and Tours

Society For Growing Australian Plants.

Issue 25

Summer 1998/1999.

Discovery activities are conducted throughout NSW by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, with valuable financial support provided by the Foundation for National Parks (a not-for-profit organisation).

These activities aim to provide participants with an insight into, and an awareness and appreciation of our natural and cultural resources. Guided walks and talks, audio-visual nights, bus and boat tours, school and community visits, field days and shopping centre displays are just some of the activities provided by fully-trained Discovery Rangers.

The various National Parks throughout the state have their own brand of activities, and for the Grafton District in which I work, there is a whole range of exciting and interesting places to visit and sights to see, from the mountains to the sea, and everything in between.

Holiday activity brochures and information are usually available at the start of each school holiday period.

Participating in these activities is a great way to learn about the flora, fauna and landscape features of your local parks and reserves, as well as the cultural and historical aspects. Many different habitats are traversed during the walks and tours, and visitors are able to view, at close range, the variety of wildlife that depend on our natural landforms and vegetation cover for their survival. Bird watchers, plant enthusiasts and interested locals and holiday makers are personally guided through areas such as coastal heath and sand dunes, littoral rainforest remnants, sandstone escarpments, beaches and headlands, river and estuary environments, swamps, wetlands, billabongs, dry sclerophyll forests. These same people leave these activities with a sense of heightened awareness for the environment.

Activities such as these are available throughout the year upon request and dependant on group numbers at a reasonable cost (activities run on a cost recovery basis where possible). Themes and venues can be arranged by the group organiser or by a Discovery Ranger from the district you may wish to visit.

Your local National Parks and Wildlife Service office in NSW will be able to provide you with additional information.

Grafton District, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, PO Box 360, Grafton, 49 Victoria Street, Grafton. NSW. 2460. Ph: 02 66 403 910.



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FROGS FOR THE FUTURE

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After recent heavy rains, and an increase in temperature, in the north of NSW, frogs have become more prominent and noticeable of late. Not only with their raucous calls, but also visibly as well.

There have been a lot of reports about frogs disappearing at a very fast rate. This may be true in many areas. But on our property on the far north coast of NSW, the onset of warmer temperatures and rain seems to encourage a wide variety of frog species to compete with each other for female attention and gain the best spot on the windows for catching insects attracted by interior lights from the house.

Attracting frogs to your garden is relatively simple. Create a swamp! Well, create a small pond or two.

Providing moist, shady sections with mosses, ferns and dense shrubs for shelter, creates complete habitats for frogs.

As you are probably aware, frogs don't drink. Instead they absorb moisture through their skin and regulate their body's salt content through this process as well.

Frogs help control a wide variety of insect pests which may over-run your garden at certain times of the year.

Planting native waterlilies will enhance the pond and provide shelter for the frogs.

Water is essential for frogs of all species to breed in. They need to have access to it in order to lay their frothy masses of eggs which hatch into tadpoles. These tadpoles need to be able to swim in the water until they have developed into mature frogs.

Your efforts at creating a small home for frogs will go along way in helping to preserve their species in your area.

There are several good books which detail which frogs are found where throughout Australia. Regular 'frog-watching' will help you identify which species live near you and give you an insight into their behaviour.



January 1999

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1

2

3

4

Yamba Shopping
 Centre display &
 information stand
 9am to 4pm

5

World Heritage listed
 Iluka Nature Reserve
 guided walk & talk
 10.30am to 1pm

6

Pippi Beach headland
 walk
 8am to ~~9am~~
9.30am.

7

Woody Head camp-
 ground audio-visual
 evening
 8pm to 9pm

8

Woody Head rock platform
 walk
 8am to 9.30am
 Blue Dolphin Resort audio-
 visuals 8pm to 9pm

9

10

11

Blue, Green pools &
 Spooky Valley bush-
 walk, Angourie
 9am to 10.30am

12

Shark Bay Bitou Day
 Weed identification &
 hands-on
 10am to 12noon

13

Lawrence waterbird rookery
 & wetlands 8.30am to 9.30am
 Minnie Water hall
 audio-visual evening
 8pm to 9pm

14

Saltwater Tag-a-long
 spotlight tour 8pm to
 9.30pm

15

Bunyip Swamp wet-
 land walk, Trenayr
 9am to 10am

16

17

18

Aboriginal sites tour.
 Bus from Ferry Park
 9am to 12noon return

19

Blue Dolphin Resort
 audio-visual evening
 8pm to 9pm

20

21

Mara Creek coastal
 walk through heath,
 swamp & dunes
 8.30am to 12.30 return

22

23

Illaroo damper, billy
 tea & spotlight tour
 7.30pm to 9pm

24

25

26

Australia Day Susan Island
 tours. Every hour from
 9.30am, last boat for Island at
 2.30pm.
 1 hour tours

27

28

29

30

31

**Society For Growing
 Australian Plants.**

*Wildlife & Native Plants Study
 Group Calendar of events*

NSW NPWS Discovery
 and Study Group activities
 for Summer 1999.

Guided walks, talks and
 presentations.

Kathleen Davies.
 PH: 02 86 477 143



Respected
artist for over
twenty years.



Paintings, Murals & Illustrations

- * Specialising in wildlife
- * Natural and culturally inspired landscapes
- * Oils, pencil & ink, watercolours and acrylics
- * Portfolio available for viewing
- * Wall murals & feature walls also produced

Call Kate or Brian on: (02) 66 477 143.

GOOD BOOKS

For the identification of wildlife & learning something about their relationships with native plants.

'*Know Your Own Backyard*' by Frank Hadden. Published by Simon & Schuster, Australia 1993. A helpful book on identifying plants & animals in your garden & bushland environments. Small enough to fit into a backpack when you go out on field excursions.

'*A Field Guide to Insects in Australia*' by Paul Zborowski & Ross Storey. Published by Reed Books 1995.

Another good size for use in the field. Identifies a large selection of insects.

DID YOU KNOW?

By simply painting a replica design of a plant or flower you can attract insects, birds and some small mammals to your garden. Butterflies and other wildlife species are attracted by colour and form as well as by scent, and will often mistake your wall designs for the real thing! The 'artificial' plants will also make your living space more attractive and bring you closer to the real world of native plants

If space is a problem, you can place small native specimens in tubs or pots around a courtyard for example. This will send out the aroma of oils and perfumes from the plants which attract wildlife species that enjoy those particular plants.

PACKIN' IT TRAVEL

Mini-bus available for charter & specialty environmental tours. Full commentary, air conditioning & comfortable seating.

Based in North Coast NSW

PH: (02) 66 477 316

for Bookings & inquiries

'*Attack of the Killer Weeds*' published by Coastcare, Department of Land & Water Conservation. Available at Department of Land & Water Conservation offices. Small but detailed booklet is a handy guide to weeds with full colour photographs & written information.

'*Wild Food in Australia*' by AB & JW Cribb, published by William Collins Publishers PTY LTD, Sydney. Good for field work, describes edible plants & wildlife.