

OBITUARY: A. R. ATTIWILL

Andrew Reginald Attiwill, a long standing member of this Association, died at Naracoorte on 12 June 1980, aged 78 years. His grandfather, Andrew Attiwill, came to the town in the 1860's as Manager of Fidler & Webb's store and became a leader in town developments. Attiwill Street is named after him. The son of an accountant, "Reg" followed the same form of occupation after being educated at the local primary and secondary schools.

He started work at Mehaffey and Son's store and later became assistant to the district clerk Archie Humphrie. His next line of employment was with the motor car business of May & Mehaffey, before joining the South East Land & Mercantile Co., being manager at the time of his retirement in 1963. For some years afterwards he kept the books for various businesses in the town and devoted more time to his ornithology.

It is uncertain when he took up ornithology but he was approaching middle age when it became a serious interest in his life. With his younger friends the late Jack Hood and Allan Ey, it became his main interest.

His diary discloses that he met Hughie Collins of Edenhope, Victoria, on 16 October 1942 and while that fine field worker remained alive they spent much time together. Reg always maintained that the help he received from Collins was of great benefit to him.

Our first meeting was over 25 years ago and I must say that he was a great companion in the bush. When I stayed nights with him, we had many enjoyable discussions. I remember when I first "turned up" the Weebill while with him at Bakers Range, his immediate reaction was: "I must tell Jack Hood". This unselfish attitude and friendly disposition was a marked characteristic of his outlook.

His main area of operation was Bool Lagoon and the bush areas of the Naracoorte district. He always lamented the loss of scrub when land clearing continued to reduce "good spots" during the post-war years. Towards the end of his career Reg became interested in photography and assembled a fine series of slides. Most of his ornithology was concentrated in the South-East of the State where he became an authority. He several times visited Allan Ey who had moved to North Queensland and on one return trip traversed Central Australia.

He was a frequent contributor of short notes to this Journal. His paper "Birds Breeding in the Naracoorte District 1941-1971" in Volume 26 was a major work.

In his younger days, he played football, becoming secretary of the local club and also treasurer of the Naracoorte Angling Club.

He remained a bachelor and is survived by a sister Mrs Dorothy Magee and a niece Mrs Joy Cross, both of Melbourne.

G. B. RAGLESS