

HFNC Excursion to Bryant's Swamp on 24 June 1961

Lionel Elmore

Twelve members and visitors attended this excursion. Enquiries made in the district were confirmed by Mr Morris, Fisheries and wildlife Officer, and it was agreed that Bryant's Swamp [now officially known as Bryan Swamp] was erroneously shown on the new map (F.C) as Mahoney's Swamp.

Mr Morris was able to give members a picture of the drainage system of the two swamps, and conducted members to the outlet of Bryant's Swamp.

Here members saw:

- Some ancient Red Gums – one was measured at approximately 27 ft 9 in in circumference. A number of natural grafts were noted on these trees.
- Some button-like objects found on the dry bed of the outlet – these were described as similar to those found in the stomach of Redfin Perch. These were later identified as stomach stones, calcium deposits that form on the outer stomach wall of crustaceans, Yabbies, etc., which creatures are consumed by waterbirds. Hence the deposits of these stones near the water's edge.
- A number of spoonbills were observed in the swamp but ibis, plentiful in February, were absent.



A natural graft in a River Red Gum



River Red Gums near the ibis rookery

Three Brolga feeding in the paddocks about a mile from the swamp, intent on their feeding, appeared unworried by the presence of club members.

It was noted that the pines, perhaps 20 years old, that had been attacked by Wingless Grasshoppers during the summer, had not recovered; some had died. Native trees appeared unaffected.

[Editor's note – Lionel's photos have been added to his notes of this excursion]