

Nena Brice

Outdoors activities champion

“Camps are a good way to get to know other members.”

Camping and outdoor activities are in the blood of Nena Brice. The former girl guide and retail pharmacist had the right organisational background and outdoor skills to take over the camp organiser role when Leslie Feather retired. “After some years of camping with Leslie she looked at me one day and said ‘you’ll make a good organiser.’ Who could say no?”

Nena stepped into the job of camp organiser in 1996 and continued through to 2002. For this role she was able to draw on 20 years experience in organising guide camps. “My job was to contact land owners or rangers for possible campsites. I also had to find camp leaders and organise activities. Camps are a good way to get to know other members and to encourage new ones to join the club.”

Nena has also given tremendous service to the club as a volunteer in the BOCA shop since 1988, bringing with her considerable skills as a successful retail pharmacist. When she first began at the shop Nena remembers there was only one paid staff member. “Volunteers played a very important role.”

It was in the early 1940s when Nena’s interest in birdwatching was sparked by her godmother, Mollie Hoffmeyer. Nena names Joan and Gavin Dorr as the ones who most influenced her birding life.

Her first club outing was to Aireys Inlet in 1984. “Joan and Gavin suggested we spend the weekend nearby camping. That event was organised by Leonie Robbins, and the most impressive bird was the one we didn’t see - the Rufous Bristlebird!”

Nena rates her first Spotted Pardolote as her most impressive sighting and the Southern Yellow Robin as her favourite - the one species which was always around the house she had at East Warburton.

Written by Trevor Robbins from answers to questionnaire 25 May 2004.