

Robert Archer was a fine type of a very fine family who were the pioneers on the country that is now Rockhampton, but was then virgin forest and formed at the time part of New South Wales. Although of a retiring nature, long residence in the district—Gracemere had been his home for nearly fifty years—and a reputation for unvarying uprightness had drawn him into many local affairs. He was Chairman for very many years of the Rockhampton Harbour Board, and President of the Rockhampton Agricultural Society almost continuously since 1894, Chairman of the Local Board of Directors of the Mount Morgan Gold-mining Co., as also of the Rockhampton Branch of the Graziers' Association. He was, too, Patron of that active body, the Central Queensland Bird Protection Association.

His kindness of heart and consideration for others made him a wide circle of friends, by whom his loss will be greatly felt. It is pleasing to know, however, that Mr. Archer leaves behind those who will also carry on the family tradition at Gracemere.

MR. F. S. SHENSTONE.

Many members of the R.A.O.U. regretted to learn of the death of Mr. Fred. Salkeld Shenstone, of Sydney, which occurred on May 15. Although not a member of the Union, Mr. Shenstone, in his capacity of secretary of the publishing firm of Angus and Robertson, came into close contact with many members and with some aspects of the Union's work; and his death at the age of 51 was a distinct loss to ornithology.

MR. CLAUDE KINANE.

Many nature-lovers will regret the death of Mr. Claude Kinane, whose fine work in nature-photography attracted much attention years ago. As one of a party of young nature-students, who called themselves "The Woodlanders," and spent the week-ends in a hut at Olinda (Victoria) named after Thoreau's "Walden," Claude Kinane got some bird-pictures which have never since been equalled in Australia. He was the first to get pictures of the newly-hatched Cuckoo throwing its fellow-nestlings—some Blue Wrens—out of the nest, and no one has since succeeded in getting Cuckoo pictures at the same interesting stage. One might watch for a lifetime and then never have the luck to get that subject at the vital moment.

Notes and Comments.

Any member desirous of bringing forward important business for consideration at the next Annual General Meeting should note that notices of such business must be forwarded to the Honorary General Secretary not later than August 1.

Members are reminded that nominations for Council must be in the hands of the Honorary General Secretary not later than September 19. All nominations should be accompanied by the consent in writing of the candidates proposed.

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The Annual Meeting of the Central Queensland Native Birds Protection Association (Rockhampton) was held on January 27, when a very healthy record of the year's work was presented. It was shown that new sanctuaries had been established, more honorary rangers appointed, and assistance given towards establishing similar associations in other centres. In touching on the question of Emus and prickly pear, the Committee's report suggested that the birds had been condemned on somewhat flimsy evidence, and expressed willingness to co-operate with the R.A.O.U. in securing a reprieve for these noble birds pending investigation into their food by men who understand the economic status of birds. The following officers were elected: Patron, Mr. R. G. McDowall; President, Mr. A. Boldeman; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. C. M. Rogers, J. Larcombe, J. Stapleton, A. R. Kirby, R. C. Boland, H. W. Withers, C. Barnard, D. McLaughlin, junr.; Committee, Messrs. G. Boldeman, G. Baxter, F. Brimacombe, C. Stone, J. Byril, J. Richter, H. F. Lamberton, C. Stimms, T. Gorle; Chairman of Committee, Mr. F. Lamberton; Auditor, Mr. F. Brimacombe; Honorary Secretary, Mr. P. V. Maloney.

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Mr. H. Wolstenholme, R.A.O.U., of Sydney, is to be congratulated on having been made an Honorary Member of the London Natural History Society. This Society dates from 1858.

Council Meetings, R.A.O.U.

At a meeting on April 13, 1927, the Council expressed gratification at the response to its requests for reports from certain members as to the decrease in numbers of native birds. Several interesting letters have been received, and are being filed for use when questions of close seasons *et cetera* are under discussion. The Council will welcome reports from members suitably situated regarding the illegal destruction of native fauna or of the necessity for close seasons for certain species.

Consequent on a complaint from the Union that Penguins were being used on the Victorian coast as bait for crayfish,