

Present 19.....  
Meeting opened 8:30pm.  
The President welcomed all present.  
The President announced that the Association had moved to Mrs. L. Thompson and seconded by Mrs. L. Thompson. Carried.  
Minutes of the general meeting held Wednesday 26 September to be read as read. Carried.  
Secretary to be elected. Carried.

Confirmation of the minutes.  
The minutes were read and confirmed.  
The motion that the Executive take all necessary action to save trees along the road in the by-pass.  
Contacted Councilor Mrs. L. Thompson and other members were concerned about the possibility of more trees being cleared from the road approach to the town and asked her to write how the Council was involved, and if possible to have retaining indigenous trees at least until the road was widened.  
Councilor Dorothy Halliday was most co-operative and she had conferences with both the White Council and the Red Council. It appears that the road section involved in the Southern approach to the town from the by-pass.

The Rotary Club are involved in planting an avenue of trees along this section as a civic anniversary project. They have been granted permission by the Main Roads Department and already there have been some clearing up of the area and removal of some trees.  
Mr. Ted Elphinstone is strongly in favour of preserving the remaining sound trees and it appears this is the general policy of the Rotary Club members. The problem seems to be that the Project Organiser would like everything cleared away so that there would be a completely new start for the tree planting project.  
However, since the general policy of Rotary seems to be to retain some trees, it is likely this will be sorted out within the Rotary Club without direct or formal intervention on our part.

Correspondence - Letter from National Parks Society today and explanation for the situation. The National Park management, and advising that our suggestions about tree planting areas and camping areas have been noted and that our suggestions relating to the situation in the Southern area were especially welcome.  
Letter from Mary's. Please accept our invitation to be our guest speaker for November Meeting.  
Invitation to attend "Arden" Pioneer Party at Rotherfield 13th Oct. 1972.  
Letter from Warwick and District National Trust Committee re registration.



MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OCTOBER 24th. 1979.

Present 19..... Apologies 6.

Meeting opened 8.20pm.

The President welcomed all present.

Apologies. Entered in the Attendance Book. Moved by Mrs.J. Stevenson and seconded by Mrs.L.Thompson that the apologies be accepted. Carried.

Minutes. Minutes of the general meeting held Wednesday, 26th September to be taken as read, Moved by Mrs.J. Harslett and seconded by Mr.M.Davies that they be confirmed.... Carried.

Business arising from the minutes.

re motion that the Executive take all necessary action to save trees along the road in the By-pass area.

Contacted Councillor Mrs.Dorothy Halloran and advised her that Nats. members were concerned at the possibility of more trees being cleared from the southern approach to the town, and asked her to enquire how the Council was involved, and if possible to leave remaining indigenous trees at least until any newly planted trees became well established. Councillor Dorothy Halloran was most co-operative and she had conferences with both, the Shire Engineer Mr.Reilly and Mr.Ted Fitzgerald. It appears that the road section involved is the Southern approach to the town from the by-pass.

The Rotary Club are involved in planting an avenue of trees along this section as a club anniversary project. They have been granted permission by the Main Roads Department and already there has been some cleaning up of the area and removal of some unsound trees.

Mr.Ted Fitzgerald is strongly in favour of preserving remaining sound trees and it appears this is the general policy of Rotary Club members. The problem seems to be that the Project Organizer would like everything cleared away, so that there would be a completely new start for the tree planting project.

However, since the general policy of Rotary seems to be to retain some trees, it is likely this will be sorted out within the Rotary Club without direct or formal intervention on our part

Correspondence. Inward. 1. Letter from National Parks acknowledging our submission for Girraween/Sundown National Park management, and advising that our suggestions about tracks, picnic areas and camping areas have been noted and that our suggestions relating to fishing in the Sundown area were especially welcome.  
2. Letter from Mervyn Fletcher accepting our invitation to be Guest Speaker for November Meeting.  
3. Invitation to attend "Arakoon" Pioneer Fete at Tenterfield 13th. Oct. 1979.  
4. Letter from Warwick and District National Fitness Committee, re registration.



Correspondence Cont.

In ward. 5. Newsletters from, The Conservation & Bush Res 've Ass  
The Chinchilla Field Nats, National Parks Assoc. of Q.  
Habitat Magazine and Press Statements from Minister of  
National Parks and Recreation.

✓ Outward. 1. To Mr. Fletcher inviting him to be guest speaker for  
November.

2. To radio 4QS advertising Oct meeting and outing.  
Moved Mr. D. Pfrunder and seconded Mr. T. Archer that the  
inward correspondence be received and the outward ado-  
-pted.... Carried.

Treasurers Report. Balance Sept 26th 1979 \$113.05; Income for month  
\$53.00; Total \$166.05; Expenditure \$11.61; Balance Oct  
\$154.44.

Accounts passed for payment Oct rent C.W.A. \$5.00  
Magazine Printing \$12.00; Postage \$6.25.

Moved Mrs. D. Archer and seconded Mr. R. Mc. Cosker that  
the treasurers report be adopted and accounts passed  
for payment..... Carried.

OUTINGS REPORT: -Half-day outing for Wildflowers, Oct. 14th 1979.

Mr. Brian Mc. Donagh reported 21 joined in this outing. The  
walk up Doctor's Creek was through very dry country, at ~~X~~  
this time, but there were still sufficient wild flowers sur-  
-viving the drought for the outing to be successful.

OCTOBER MONTHLY OUTING: -Held 21:10:1979. Visit to the River-

-tree district, leader Mr. Lyle Thompson and Mr. Ray Morris  
About twenty-six members and friends attended this outing  
Great variety of wildlife was encountered, and it was cert-  
-ainly a wonderful area for birds. The route up to Mt River-  
-tree followed up Razor Back Creek; the last one and a half  
miles being made in 4wd vehicles. Panoramic views from the  
top of Mt. Rivertree and a rewarding walk back to the vehicl-  
-es, through areas of rain forest, were enjoyed.

NEXT OUTING. Sunday Nov 25th. 1979.

LOCATION: - Eight mile creek, Donnybrook Range.

LEADER: - Cec Curr

Suggest depart Weeroona Park at 8.30 am and or meet at Mc. Men-  
-iman's at Ballandean to transfer to 4WD vehicles. May still be  
advisable to bring own drinking water.

NEXT MEETING: -WEDNESDAY 28th Nov. 1979 C.W.A. Rooms 8 pm.

GUEST SPEAKER: - Mr. Mervyn Fletcher

SUBJECT: -An illustrated lecture on 'Local Bird Life and its  
Enviroment.

GENERAL BUSINESS: - CHINCHILLA NATS CAMP OUT.

Mrs. Jean Harslett advised that the Chinchilla Field Nats.  
Club would be having a 'campout' at "Mountain View" Amiens on  
27th-28th October and invited the Stanthorpe Nats to join  
in . Main outing to Boonoo Boonoo area on the Sunday (28th.)

Excess Magazines and Outstanding Subs.

Discussion on excess of magazines being printed and the  
question of subscriptions still outstanding from a number of  
members. A reminder to be made to outstanding members to make  
payment, now, if they want to receive their copies of the Magaz-

(Cont Page 6.)

-in.

THE RIVERTREE OUTING arranged by Mr. Lyle Thompson

A very happy and interesting day was spent in a sector of the Rivertree District, probably very little known to most members, in the ranges to the south-east of the area usually visited.

Thanks to Lyle and Rene Thompson, Ray Morris and David McAllister, all of whom gave generously of their time and local knowledge, plus a 4 wheel-drive vehicle, to make it a splendid day. The weather was perfect after extremely welcome rain, scrub trees and trails were washed deliciously clean and the leeches (except for one or two) had not had time to realise there was temporary respite from the drought conditions.

We drove to Rivertree then south across the Boonoo Boonoo River to 'Peters Hut' where a morning -tea break was called. During this halt nests of a Magpie, White-throated Warbler & a Blue Wren were discovered. The Warblers made their presence known by the wonderfully rich and pleasant song of a descending cadence, in such a rich full-throated call from such a small bird and its clear yellow colouring was also enjoyed. Their beautifully designed nest of warm brown coloured stringy bark, cob webs and feathers, with its side entrance and protective hood, had many binoculars turned on it.

May then found a Blue Wren's nest, cunningly built to fool any stray fox or feral cat, in some roughly coiled wire. It was placed right in the centre of some roughly rolled "K" wire, no view obscured, but from every angle a difficult entry for an intruder.

Everyone had been enjoying the Bee-eaters or Rainbow birds along the flats, migrants who leave Australia for the Winter. These brightly hued birds show predominantly gold as they turn and show underparts, and a lovely iridescent bright blue, as they display their upper side in performing aerial acrobatics in the search and capture of flying insects. The two spine feathers in the tail present a question as to their function, and one might also ask why do some birds dress-up in such gay colours. Bees are a popular diet and it has been recorded that they sometimes "maim" dragon flies in the wing and store them "alive" as fresh store in their nesting burrow which is made in deep sand.

We then proceeded to one of the highest spots in the area changing to 4 wheel-drive vehicles for the latter part. We followed up the valley of the Razorback Creek, along the old timber road. (Incidentally this was also partly the route followed on the ride along the historic horse ride mail run, which our leader for the day participated as one of the riders) After passing through some very fine scrub and open forest we finally reached the survey "beacon" and a wonderful panorama of the fully sweep. Recent rain cleared the air, giving the clearest view possible and all the familiar points were noted plus probably parts of Lamington in the faintest distance.

Three goannas, a black snake, an echidna, many wallaroos, a few Whiptail Wallabies, an eastern grey kangaroo and a great many birds were seen.

Members descended from the mountain top via various tracks or part way or all the way by vehicle, according to taste.



KANGAROOS.....WALLAROOS.....and WALLABIES.

On the Rivertree outing one pair of the Eastern Grey Kangaroo was seen, and when the male stood to his full height, he earned every inch of his name "giganticus". Then for all his bulk he moved off with such grace and rhythm of movement, which always surprises and pleases one, and which few big animals can equal. (Perhaps only the giraffe!). Then with effortless elegance he took the fence in his disappearing bounds.

By far the most prevalent marsupial of the day was the large dark Wallaroo (*O. robustus*). It has a very heavy build especially the shoulders and limbs, and combined with its rather shaggy coat it is easily distinguished from any other kind in Australia. They are usually in groups of 2, 3 or 4. They adapt very well to rocky slopes, are difficult to see until they move, and can go for a considerable time without water. They allay temporary thirst, like rabbits, by chewing the green sap wood and bark of saplings and trees.

They always seem to carry themselves with a habitual stoop. Maybe that is why I heard so often 'There is another 'old' fellow', (he well could be quite insulted at being called an 'old fellow' if in his prime, or was it a term of endearment?)

We saw a large number of groups of them and some were really deep grey to charcoal grey in colour, others very much lighter, with a slight buff shade. One big and very old chap could have passed as an albino form. However, it did not have the other characteristics of an albino, so we can only assume he was very old and grey, and gained the dignity of being white headed.

The Wallabies we saw were very lovely, The Southern Whip Tail or Pretty Face Wallaby and if those names were not enough to endear them to you its more formal name also gives emphasis (*W. elegans*). The common names refer to their exceptionally long and slender tail, and the lovely dark and light markings along its slender head. They are pleasingly inquisitive, from the Nats point of view, but easy game for shooters, indeed the shooter will get several without moving his position, and before they move for sparse cover in open upland country. They love the sunny side of the ridges.

One of the most beautiful of our marsupials, it was the first to find its way alive to London and the London Zoo way back in 1829. Because of its lovely fur it also paid the penalty of use of its fur, for miniature koalas and other navesties to delight the tourist, and anger the naturalist.

Jean Harslett.

NOTES ON RIVERTREE FROM FLYING FOXES AND DRIFTING SANDS by  
FRANCIS RATCLIFFE.

(Francis Ratcliffe did an extensive survey for the C.S.I.R.O. on flying foxes from 1929-1930. and these notes are of his visit to Rivertree.

"At this time (1929-30) Rivertree timber getters were confining their attention to the Hoop-pine, the best of Queensland's very few softwoods, now dwindling at a very rapid rate. (Indeed one of the best of the world softwood) Most of the Hoop Pine left standing by 1930, survives because it grows in out-



RIVERTREE Cont.

of the way pockets and hillsides so rough and steep that the hauling of the logs is too expensive and risky for a commercial undertaking. The pine scrubs above Rivertree owed their survival to the extremely difficult countryside in which they dwelt.

The timber area had been up for sale for many years, several prospective buyers had inspected it. When the sale figure for the stands fell to almost a nominal level, two brothers, named Diamond, farmers and with no previous experience in timber, decided the gamble was worth the risk. In partnership with a one time bullock driver named Madden, they set up a little sawmill in the valley, by the banks of the upper Clarence, and built a road from the flat, seven miles away to the "heights, first" clinging closely to the valley of Razorback Creek.

It may interest members and recall memories to others if I include the names Ratcliffe met with. (A whole chapter is devoted to Rivertree, thus only snippets can be used)

"Ratcliffe said, 'I met at the mill Frank Diamond, Dan McLean and the boy Tom down from 'up top' where the pine was being felled; Jack Diamond and Jim Cameron loading the lorry with sawn timber; McCleary and Lyle who ran the 'Canadian' bench, where the logs were flitched ready for small saws; Pat McLean and 'Painey' worked the first bench and finally Percy Croft the engineer, and recognized clown of the outfit. It was a picturesque mill, long low roofed, wall-less, overhung by 4 or 5 big 'Apple' gum trees providing deep shade, and stacks of golden sawn pine dried in the sun. A mile or so out we met bullockies Wilson, 'Paddy' Perry and 'Stumpy' Styles. Then on up to the top the short way by Jack's Creek, and met Frank Diamond"

MINUTES Cont:-

Motion:-Moved Mrs. J. Stevenson and seconded Mrs J. Hockings that letters of thanks be sent to Mr. Ray Morris and Mr. David McAllister, for their help and for providing vehicles (4WD) for the October outing.... Carried.

FAREWELL TO MRS. AILEEN MCALLISTER.

The President in farewelling Mrs. Aileen McAllister, who will be leaving our area for Brisbane, thanked her for her help to the club, particularly with the newsletter and her valued support for the club over a long period of years. The meeting closed and was followed by Mr. Brian McDonagh's programme in which he led an interesting and stimulating discussion with members on issues of conservation.

NATS OUTING NOTES 25.11.:1979 by CEC CURR.

I have done the preouting for the Nats Field Day to the 8 Mile, Donnybrook areas. Although it was overcast with light rain my party & I had a very interesting & enjoyable day.

What I have lined up for you should appeal to those with a sense of adventure as it will be hard and something different. We had the added bonus as both waterfalls had water over them normally they are dry, and a large esky of mushrooms. I can't promise all this, but hopefully the water may still be running.

Leave Weeroona Park at 8.30 in your car, proceed to Ballandean Station boundary grid (2½ miles) Outside grid but at grid turn left, follow dirt road to the assembly area (3½ miles) at the mail boxes for "Leran" & "Fairbanks" where I will be waiting for you. Follow the same directions if coming from other directions. There you will leave your cars and proceed by 4WD through

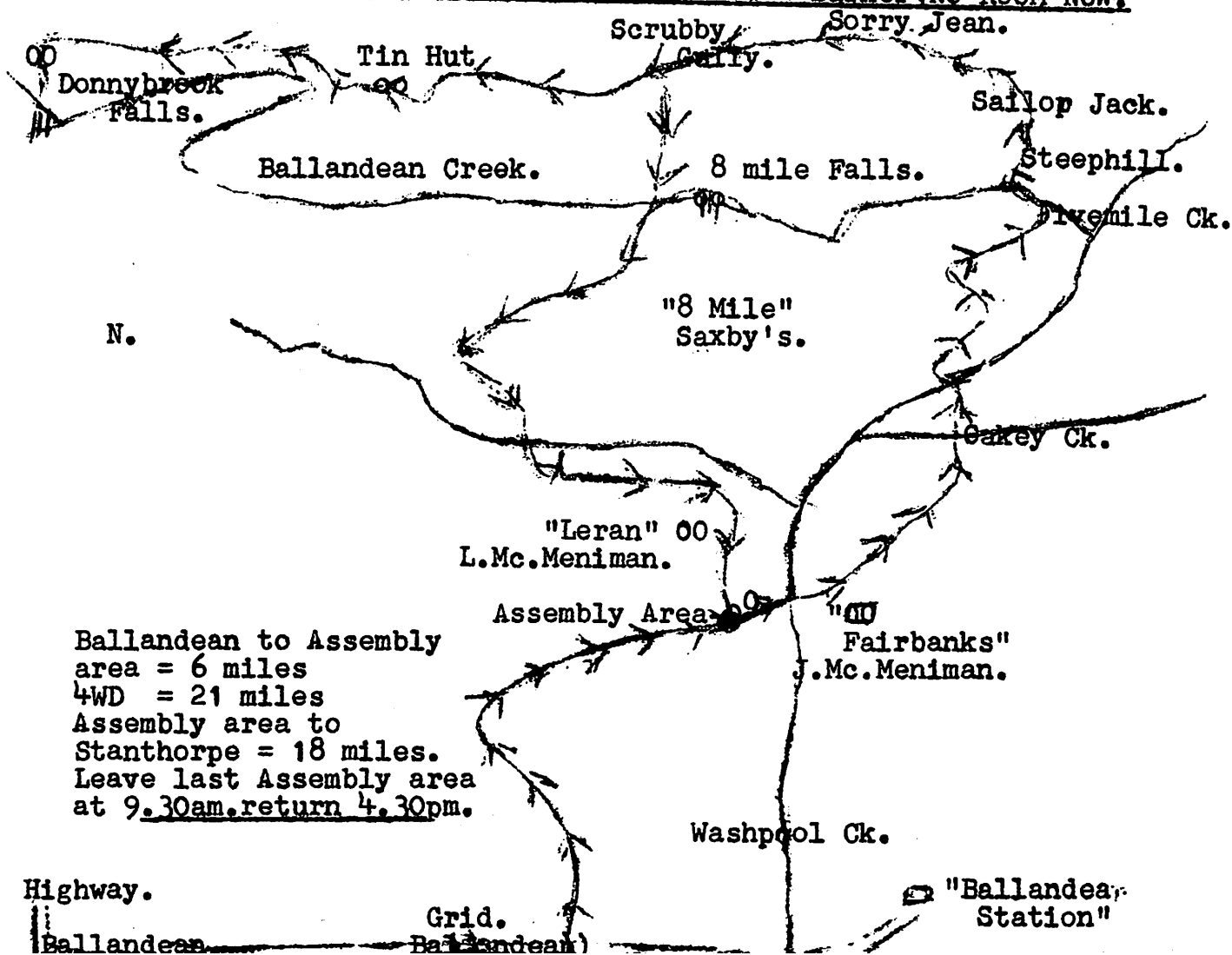


Cec's Notes Cont.

"Fairbanks, 8 mile to scrubby gully tin hut where we will have an early luneh & then proceed on foot to the Donnybrook Falls 3km return. The walk to the falls and back will take approx. 3 hours of heavy going, but I'm sure for those who can make it well worth the effort. For those who wish to stop at the hut a relaxing few hours can be spent browsing about the creek area. After a cup of tea we will start our return journey, stopping at Ballandean Creek crossing, where an enjoyable hour can be spent at 8 mile waterfall. We then return through "Leran" to your cars, about 4.30pm.

I want to leave the assembly area in the 4Wd's at 9.30am. SHARP, you will not be able to proceed further in your own car if you arrive late. I would suggest you bring drinking water, rations for morning afternoon tea & lunch, stout walking gear hats and of couse a raincoat, on our walk to Donnybrook Falls, or elsewhere, please dont leave the party, if you must break off tell your leader, so he will know where you are at all times. The responsibility of organizing a search party, if you should get lost, is something I would not look forward to. If fog or cloud should close in it would be easy to become disorientated. Prepare to enjoy yourselves, see you Sunday..... Cec.

NEXT MONTH ARTICLES by B.McDONAGH and Bill Barker, NO ROOM NOW.



Ballandean to Assembly  
area = 6 miles  
4WD = 21 miles  
Assembly area to  
Stanthorpe = 18 miles.  
Leave last Assembly area  
at 9.30am. return 4.30pm.

Geoff's Notes Cont.  
 "Fairbanks, 8 miles to assembly fully tin hut where we will have an early lunch & then proceed on foot to the Bonnybrook Falls. Return. The walk to the falls and back will take approx. 3 hours of heavy going, but I'm sure for those who can make it well worth the effort. For those who wish to stop at the tin hut, after a light lunch, about 11.30 am, start on return journey, stopping at Ballandean Creek crossing, where an enjoyable hour can be spent at 8 mile waterfall. We then return through the forest to your cars, about 4.30 pm."

I want to leave the assembly area in the PM at 2.30 am. SHARP, you will not be able to proceed further in your own car. If you arrive late, I would suggest you bring drinking water. Rations for morning afternoon tea & lunch, start walking, you have and of course a raincoat on our walk to Bonnybrook Falls, or elsewhere, please don't leave the party, if you must break off, tell your leader, so he will know where you are at all times. The responsibility of organizing a search party, if you should get lost, is something I would not look forward to. It is a cloud should close in it would be easy to become disorientated. Prepare to enjoy yourselves, see you Sunday..... Geo.  
 NEXT MONTH ARTICLES by B. McDONALD and Bill Barker, MC ROOM NOW.

