

THE MINUTES OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB MEETING HELD AT  
THE Q.C.W.A. ROOMS ON WEDNESDAY 24th OCTOBER, 1984 at 8pm.

Present 21 ..... Apologies 10

The President welcomed all to the meeting with special welcome to John Walter from the Toowoomba Field Naturalist Club.

MINUTES - That the minutes be taken as read was moved by L.Thompson / P.Langdon. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

INWARD was received from

1. D.Halloran - Subscription
2. 7 Press statements - Dept. Nat Parks & Wildlife
3. Govt. in Focus - Budget 1984
4. Qld. Nats News - No 141 Oct/Nov
5. Darling Downs Naturalist - No 365 Oct
6. N.P.A. -Oct. Vol 54 No 7

OUTWARD was sent to -

1. 4QS re meeting/outing

That the inward be received and the outward endorsed was moved and carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OCTOBER 24th 1984

Credit Balance September, 1984

144.40

Receipts

Sep. 26	Subs.	84.00	
Sep. 26	Bring & Buy	6.00	
Sep. 26	Room Rent Collection	9.19	99.19
			243.59

Payments

Sep. 26	Room Rent	6.00	
	Sept. Mag. Duplication	7.00	
	Sept. Mag. Postage	11.00	
	Mag. Covers	44.50	
Oct.	Fed. Tax	.20	68.70
Oct. 24, 1984	Credit Balance		\$174.89

MOTION D.Archer moved that this report be received and the following accounts be passed for payment - Room Rent \$6, Oct. Mag. Dup.\$7, Oct. Mag. Postage \$11. Sec. R.Lacey. Carried

OUTING REPORT

For the 'Year of the Family', the Club organized a day at Mountain Park to which about 50 attended including the Endeavour Chalet residents. Venue was Rosenthal Creek area which held many interesting points of history and vegetation. Thanks were received from the Endeavour house parents for the lunch provided by the Club members.

NEXT OUTING

This will be held at Kyoomba and near Colin and Janet Hocking's home. Cars will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.30 am on Sunday, 25th November.

NEXT MEETING

Errol Walker will speak on his recent visit to New Zealand.

MINUTES CONT.SPECIMENS

Floral specimens - Phlebalium ambiens and Westringia amabilis from Brian McDonagh.

Jewel beetles from Tom Dunn.

BUSINESS

The librarian asked for any outstanding magazines to be returned. The Club decided not to enter the Floral Carpet competition being organized by the Endeavour Foundation on Nov. 16/17. There being no further business, the meeting closed.

Programmes were supplied by - Peter Langdon who spoke on and showed slides of his visit to West Australia and - Joan Horslett who showed 'Ground Orchids growing on the Granite Belt'. Both these presentations were well received. Thanks Peter and Joan.

Joan Stevenson (Hon. Sec.).

REPORT ON THE OCTOBER OUTING - "MOUNTAIN PARK" - LED BY

JOHN O'DONNELL

There was a good roll up for this outing, our contribution to Year of the Family. Several Endeavour youngsters (others were house bound with illness) together with their house parents, plus the Marsdens, Hockings and Dunn families plus Dore McCosker's mother were all welcome additions to our 'hard core' members. The party drove to the Eastern side of "Mountain Park" - lambing ewes were all about, closely watched by soaring eagles.

We then drove along a ridge, through an old cultivation paddock. Lucerne, clover, rye and fescue were all sown here 15 years ago - now the area has reverted to native grasses. Young Acacias and Eucalypts are starting to recolonise. We looked briefly at an area fenced off from domestic stock about 6 years ago. Some vegetational changes have occurred here, but introduced broomsedge and fescue are growing well too. (There is a large swamp here, probably a result of the clearing of the slopes above.) In the next small paddock there were very few young trees, as a result of the higher stocking rate.

Morning tea was enjoyed near Rosenthal Creek. Members were hosting the Endeavour people for the day, and provided the cats. My dogs were told there was no dinner for them that night, so they made the most of the situation! The horses also enjoyed plenty of attention. Tom Dunn caught 2 crayfish (*Chirax destructor*) - one 'in berry' (carrying roe under the abdomen) and a water dragon.

The area has many signs of early habitation; slabs of rock, posts, strange plants, cleared areas and drainage lines. Wandering down the creek, we came to an old coach crossing, a huge natural granite slab. Drains radiating out in the area mark the old coach roads - as the soil washed away where the hooves trampled, a new track would be selected. Channel billed cuckoos, not long down from the North, were easily seen and heard. In the next paddock, rung out almost bare early this century, we saw significant numbers of young trees recolonising. A large wool lined nest was observed - 'possum?

OUTING REPORT - "MOUNTAIN PARK". CONT.

Back at the cars we gathered for lunch - an excellent repast - enjoyed by all. The dogs also agreed it was a red letter day. Many families had to return home following lunch while the walkers prepared for their journey. Crossing the creek was the first hazard, and while helping others, Jean's camera lens cap fell in and disappeared. Our quick acting tame engineer Tom A. commenced constructing a dam wall higher up, of logs, turf, gravel and rocks to stop the flow so the lower pools could more easily be dredged for the cap. Alas, the flow was too strong, and Tom was in the 'doghouse' to boot! Further along we passed a lovely weeping ribbon gum and started to climb a south facing slope. An invisible white browed scrub wren hissed at us from a native grape bush. Near a monster like balancing rock we paused. This slope was covered with short green grass and many trees. The opposite slope - more favoured by stock, was almost open and mainly tall stemmy spear grass. I attempted to tickle a bearded dragon to sleep, while admiring its scale patterns. An example of M.P. style ringbarking was walked through - thinned so that trees are about 20 m apart, and trees which are straight being left for possible timber production.

Later and higher we were able to look North with binoculars and see the roofs of Warwick, 30 km away, with three cloud like ridges behind - land to the east of Allora. Further on we gazed at a Moreton Bay Fig - consensus was that it was easily 200 years old and about 5 feet across at the base of its many trunks. Sheltering here also was a primitive fern - just drooping stems adorned with yellowish knobs.

Returning to the creek we inspected the remains of a sheep fold - a cleared area on a knob and a couple of posts - probably going back to "Maryland" days pre 1870. Two acres near the cars were reputed to have grown wheat. Jean explained that the earliest settlers tried this idea, having the grain ground at a nearby town and returned as flour for their home consumption. A fig, a mulberry, a boysenberry clump and several yucca type plants still survive on the old home sites.

Afternoon tea with fire and billy conjured up by Ray, completed the outing.

John O'Donnell.

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NATS. CHRISTMAS PARTY.

DATE: Sunday, 9th December.

Venue - "Mountain View" Amiens.

Time - late afternoon, probably 5 pm. President Jean has kindly offered to host the party this year. Final details are not to hand as Jean is travelling with daughter Susan, out from Europe for a short time.

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VALE Mrs. Gemmell, late of "Mountain View", Amiens.

Nana passed away in Stanthorpe, late October.

I know members join with me in extending  
sympathy to Joan Harslett and her family.

Editor.

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NEXT OUTING - "Kyoomba", east of Stanthorpe. Leader is Colin Hockings.

This promises to be a pleasant easy walk on a track with  
birdlife, creek, waterfall and orchids. Lunch will be in  
the home grounds of "Pinaster".

Meet at Weeroona Park at 9.30am Sunday, 25th November.

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Tea drinkers BEWARE! - Joan Stevenson reports a story she heard from  
a Western youth. She asks, What Western tree  
is a health hazard if a twig is used to stir  
the brew? A leaf falling into the tea cup has  
the same effect.

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Postscript - In a few weeks time your Editors will travel to an Ashram  
in the heart of India where they will be for the Christmas festival.

Much love and trust will be required by us throughout our journey but  
our Master - Sai Baba - is a great help here.

There have been many major v minor Avatars (God in Human Form) over  
the centuries eg. Rama, Krishna and Jesus. Sai Baba is a major Avatar,  
living near Bangalore. In a World conditioned by science and material-  
ism, he helps us to see what we should have known - that Divinity is  
within each person. He will live (until 2021), solely to help people  
realise the purpose of life. Not until we love ourselves and others,  
can there be love for Nature.

Ed.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ALL

AND EVERY GOOD WISH

FOR THE NEW YEAR