

MINUTES FOR MARCH MONTHLY MEETING26/03/86.

Present - 24

ApologiesOpening - President Jean welcomed all present.Minutes - Moved by Esme Lacey and seconded by Tom Archer that the minutes as published in the March Newsletter be taken as read. Carried.

Correspondence - Inward - Renewal Account from the Australian Post, re Post Office Box; Letter from the Australian Post re proposed increase of Registration for Bulk Posting of Magazine as of Aug. 1986 to \$40.00 and minimum lodgement charge of \$15.00; Newsletters from - University of Q'ld "Down Under"; National Parks Association; Richmond Valley Nats Club; Darling Downs Naturalist; Chinchilla Field Naturalist. Gov't in Focus Vol 3 No.2. Outward - 4QS re Outing and Meeting Notices. Moved by Don Lightfoot and seconded by Robin McCosker that the Inward Correspondence be received and the Outward endorsed. Carried.

Financial Report

Balance as at 26.2.86

\$242.69 Cr.

<u>Receipts</u>	Subs	6.00	
	Bring & Buy	1.70	
	Room Rent Collect.	5.00	
	Refund on Paper	3.60	
			<u>16.30</u>
			258.99

<u>Expenditures</u>	Room Rent	6.00
	Mag. Postage	13.00
	Mag. Duplication	7.00
	Paper	164.85
	Fed. Tax Dec. Jan.	
	Feb.	<u>.80</u>

191.65

Balance as at 26.3.86

\$ 67.34 Cr.

Moved by Treasurer Joan and seconded by Frank Wilkinson that the financial Report be received and the following accounts passed for payment: Q.C.W.A. Room Rent \$6; Mag. Dup. \$7.; Mag. Postage \$13.; Post Box \$23.; Newman School Cover Photocopying \$11.10. Carried.

Outing Report - Robin McCosker reported on the outing on Sunday, March 23rd to South Bald Rock. It was a very good outing with a roll up of 52 including children. Eleven 4 Wheel Drive vehicles took those who attended to the area. They went up South Bald Rock and down the other side. 38 of the party went through the gorge and caves. All who attended thanked Rob very much for an interesting and enjoyable outing.

Next Outing - this was to be a Campout to Mt. Barney, but it was moved by Frank Wilkinson and seconded by Robin McCosker that the Campout to Mt. Barney be changed to May instead of April. Carried.

Note - I've been in touch with Laurie Shelley of Girraween National Park and he and Bill Goebels will be leading the outing on April 20th in Girraween National Park. We are to meet at the Head Quarters at Girraween at 9 a.m. and are to carry lunch etc. on the outing.

Next Meeting - Our Guest Speaker on Wednesday April 23rd will be Brett Porter, now stationed at Warwick. His topic will be "National Park Management and Rural Conservation."

Minutes continued:-

2.

General Business - Whether to have the monthly magazine stencilled or photocopied was discussed. It was decided that special pages with photographs or drawings would be photocopied and the rest stencilled.

Re bulk postage and registration charges as against ordinary postage to be checked into.

Our Magazine Editor, Millie Marsden, asked for articles for publishing in the magazine.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 8.31 p.m.

After meeting program - Ailsa and Frank Wilkinson took us via slides on a very enjoyable trip to England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

Many thanks Ailsa and Frank for sharing this with us.

Dorothy Archer,  
Hon. Secretary.

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### MEMORIES

Though all too brief our holidays,  
When humdrum life resumes once more,  
They leave us hosts of memories  
To treasure in our private store. (Thanks again Ailsa & Frank.)

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### BIRD ACTIVITY AROUND TOM & DOT ARCHER'S HOUSE

I had quite a surprise about 6 a.m. on a morning a few weeks ago to see something new in a Kurrajong tree just outside our dining room window. I called Tom to come and see it and he recognised it as a Frogmouth (Tawny). It is still near the house but has chosen a quieter spot to sleep during the day. This tree was the one used by the Kookaburras when they come to be fed their meat on the Patio rail. They zoom down from the very branch to get the meat as I put it out. Also the Wattle Birds, Magpies and Kurrawongs use it for a 'waiting their turn' spot for the honey and bread trays and nectar bottle. The poor Frogmouth mustn't have got much sleep that day I'm sure. Next morning it was seen in another tree further away - and slept quite undisturbed.

I was very pleased this past week to see our Bower Bird friends have returned and are feeding off the trays and drinking and bathing in the water containers. A flock of Blue Mountain Parrots have also joined our other parrots and pigeons eating the seeds I put out on the rocks but they also come to the trays for dessert.

A Koel was seen sitting on the Patio rail near the feed tray and Tom and I are wondering if it is the one the Wattle Birds hatched out last year and wore themselves out trying to rear. They used to bring it to this tray and feed it bread and honey and also some of the nectar from the bottle. The Wattle birds didn't encourage it to stay spending quite some time chasing it away.

We are very fortunate to be able to enjoy so many different birds at such close quarters -- being born in a city in Canada I really appreciate this.



Bruce Gibson, a student of the Newman Special School, at work on the collating of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Magazine.

#### REPORT ON MARCH OUTING TO SOUTH BALD ROCK MARCH 1986.

The spell of fine weather and the chance to drive to a spot normally only accessible on foot, must have been the attractions for this outing as a mammoth fifty-two persons turned up, including one visitor from London England. Unfortunately Bill Goebel was busy firefighting and could not attend the outing, though ironically the fire was quite close to South Bald Rock.

At the Racecourse Creek turnoff, those people in cars transferred to the eleven trucks, utes and 4 WD vehicles for the remainder of the trip. My thanks to all those who provided room for passengers, especially Rob and Jean Harslett, for their "padded truck. Upon reaching the base of South Bald Rock, with parking bays at a premium, we had our mandatory cuppa before setting off up the relatively steep face, to the top. The view included Bald Rock, Middle and West Bald Rocks, Mt. McKenzie (near Tenterfield) Mt. Norman, and the Pyramids, though the gusty easterly wind and the bush fire smoke were causing quite a haze, which partly obscured the familiar peaks of Girraween. The easterly wind was also bringing rain skuds our way as we continued over the top of the plateau between the main peaks to view, with awe, the massive rock foundations.

We stopped for lunch at the start of the chasm which hides a labyrinth of caves, formed by the collapse of rock over the top of the chasm. The decision was made after lunch to return through the caves, and we set off through the lush tangled growth which included large fern trees. At this time our party was somewhat

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split up, with some members still at the cars, some who had climbed to the top but had returned to the cars for lunch, some who had lunched with the main party but preferred to return over the top rather than underneath and finally a couple who went on through the caves ahead of the main group. To add to the confusion, a group of High School students from Toowoomba arrived on the scene as well.

Our journey through the caves proved to be quite an adventure, which, I am sure, some of our members will long remember, with the damp dark underground caverns below and the grandeur of the vertical rock walls above. Some two hours after entering the chasm, the party of 38 in all sizes, shapes and ages emerged into the warm sunlight at the other end. We returned to our cars at about 3.30pm to meet up with the rest of the party, had another cuppa and reluctantly head for home.

I would like to thank the members who helped guide us on this outing, and also the Girraween National Park Ranger, for allowing us access to the South Bald Rock Road.

Rob McCosker

Leader.

Dore McCosker, pictured at leftenjoying herself in Goomburra State Forest, provided this article. "A creeper in full bloom beside the road leading to the lookout at Goomburra and also along the creek was a Clematis, apparently *C. glycinoides*. I was surprised to find it so late in the summer. However, according to Keith Williams there seem to be two species of *C. glycinoides* - one in the rainforest and one in open forest. With such a difference in flowering times this would seem to be so.

Some information on the plant came from Cribb's "Wild Food in Australia". The common name often applied is "headache vine", because when the leaves are thoroughly crushed in the hand they release a pungent scent which if vigorously sniffed, produces an unexpected burning sensation in the nasal passages, causing the patient to forget the headache as he wonders if the top of his head has blown off."

Dore also reports that the fern seen in the gullies at South Bald Rock is *Gleichenia rupestris*.  
Many Thanks Dore.





For a little light releif, Ailsa Wilkinson has provided this snippet. Waltzing Matilda. Since it hit Britian in the early years of World War 11, no Australian song has been such a favourite there as Waltzing Matilda. Likely it was the derring-do air about it which appealed to the Britons in those dark days, coupled with the thought that it was one of the main marching pieces of the Aussies.

Popular as the tune is with them over there, they must have been more or less puzzled by its strange words. The English Women's Weekly once gave this explanation to an inquiring reader: "A swagman is the Australian term for a commercial traveller, a billy is a tin can for boiling water in, a jumbuck is a stockwhip used for rounding up sheep or cattle. A squatter is a man on a vacant piece of land".

To her regret (and ours), the editor stated that she was unable to explain the other words of the song.

#### CAMPING - OR GETTING AWAY FROM IT ALL ( LACEY & MARSDEN STYLE).

Over the Easter break we decided to go camping fairly locally, to avoid using the main roads. Our venue was the Rickard property at Undercliffe. Invitations were issued to friends and relation to visit if they felt the inclination. The result was that thirty-two people visited the camp over the three days.

There were quite a few birds who distinctly hated our presence in their neck of the wood. A large covey of wood ducks looked on the creek as their property and were often circling over as if to say "When are you going to clear out and leave us to our own devices". A group of ibis had a special dead tree where they came to preen and (when we were not in evidence) to roost. They looked down on us with distain. The birdlife was quite good, we saw many varities of the parrot family and quite a few water birds and honeyeaters, as the eucalyptus were in bloom.

A highlight of the weekend was having a long chat with Mr. and Mrs. Rickard, such a wealth of local knowledge and interesting facts about the locally and flora and fauna.

Another item of interest was that over the weekend we had each morning, quite heavy shows until almost midday, while those camping at Rivertree only had mist. It was such a lovely place to camp that we are going back again very soon, and we hope that we will not have the wet weather then. I know Dick would have been pleased to get even more rain and we hope that the dry weather will soon be a thing of the past in the whole of the district.

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REMEMBER. Next outing will be to Girraween. Meet at Park Headquarters at 9am with a packed lunch. Leader will be Laurie Shelley and Bill Goebels.

Next meeting Brett Porter will speak on "National Park Management and Rural Conservation".

May outing will be the camp-out to Mt. Barney.

For a little while later, Alvin Wilkerson has provided this snippet:  
 "Waiting for the... Since it hit Britain in the early years of World  
 War II, no American song has been such a favorite there as  
 "Waiting for the... It was the turning of the tide about it which  
 appeared to the British in those dark days, coupled with the thought  
 that it was one of the main marching pieces of the Allies.  
 Popular as the tune is with them over there, they must have been  
 more or less puzzled by its strange words. The English women's weekly  
 once gave this explanation to an inquiring reader: "A swagman is the  
 Australian term for a commercial traveller, a dilly is a tin can for  
 boiling water in, a jabber is a staccato used for rattling up sheep  
 or cattle. A swagman is a man on a second piece of land."  
 To her request (and ours), the editor stated that she was unable  
 to explain the other words of the song.

CALLING - OR CHITTING AWAY THOU! IT ALL (LARRY-MANHART STYLING).  
 Over the Easter break we decided to go camping fairly locally,  
 to avoid using the main roads. Our venue was the Hickory property at  
 Underhill. Invitations were passed to friends and relatives to visit  
 at they left the location. The result was that thirty-two people  
 visited the camp over the three days.  
 There were quite a few birds who distinctly hated our presence  
 in their neck of the woods. A large covey of wood ducks looked on the  
 creek of their property and were often circling over as if to say  
 "When are you going to clear out and leave us to our own devices."  
 A group of birds had a special dead tree where they came to preen and  
 (when we were not in evidence) to roost. They looked down on us with  
 disdain. The birdlife was quite good, we saw many varieties of the  
 ground family and quite a few water birds and honeycreepers, as the  
 songbirds were in bloom.  
 A highlight of the weekend was having a long chat with Mr. and  
 Mrs. Richard, such a wealth of local knowledge and interesting facts  
 about the locality and flora and fauna.  
 Another item of interest was that over the weekend we had each-  
 morning, quite heavy showers until almost midday, while these evening  
 at five o'clock only had what. It was such a lovely place to camp that  
 we are going back again very soon, and we hope that we will not have  
 the wet weather then. I know that would have been pleased to get even  
 more rain and we hope that the dry weather will soon be a thing of  
 the past in the whole of the district.

Next meeting: Next meeting will be to Girraween. Meet at Lark Headwaters  
 at 10 am with a packed lunch. Leader will be Marie Shelly and Bill  
 Gossale.  
 Next meeting: Next meeting will be at "National Park"  
 Management and Natural Conservation.

Next outing will be the camp-out to Mt. Ramsey.