

MINUTES OF MAY MONTHLY MEETING - May 28, 1986 in C.W.A. Rooms

Present - 18

Apologies - 4

Ray Marsden, in the absence of President Jean, took the chair and welcomed all present.

Minutes - moved by Esme Lacey and seconded by Robin McCosker that the minutes be taken as read in the May Newsletter. Carried.

Correspondence - Inward - Newsletters received from - Chinchilla Field Naturalists Club; Richmond Valley Naturalist Club; The Darling Downs Naturalist
Letter and order form from Yowie Films
Govt In Focus
Letter from Santor Macklin re "World Heritage Properties Conservation Act"
Letter of thanks from Millie Marsden.

Outward - To Bill Goebels and Laurie Shelley thanking them for leading the April 20th outing.

Brett Porter - re speaking at our June Meeting.

4QS re Campout and Meeting Notices

Q'ld Recreation Council giving Club activities for June, July & August.
Acct. \$7.55 from Lees.

Moved by Ailsa Wilkinson and seconded by Errol Walker that the Inward Correspondence be received and the outward endorsed. Carried.

<u>Treasurer's Report</u> -	Balance as at	23.4.86	\$113.39
<u>Receipts</u>	Bring & Buy	3.40	
	Room Rent Collection	6.60	10.00
			<u>123.39</u>
<u>Expenditures</u>	Room Rent	6.00	
	Mag. Duplication	7.00	
	Mag. Postage	13.00	
	Mag. Photocopy	4.87	30.87
			<u>Cr. \$ 92.52</u>

Moved by Joan Stevenson, seconded by Colin Hockings that the report be received and the following accounts passed for payment

June Rent 6.00, Mag. Dup. 7.00, Mag. Postage 13.00
Mag. Registration \$36.00 Lees 7.55

CARRIED.

OUTING REPORT - Robin McCosker spoke on the Campout May 23rd, 24th, 25th to Mt. Barney. There was a good roll up of 25.
15 ventured up the Mountain and 9 made it to the top.
The weather was good and the views on the way up and from the top were spectacular.

NEXT OUTING - June 22nd outing will be to Pretty Gully. Frank Wilkinson will be the leader. See newsletter for all particulars.

Next Meeting - Guest Speaker at the June 28th meeting will be Brett Porter - Ranger now stationed at Warwick and his topic will be "National Park Management and Rural Conservation."

Specimens - Ailsa Wilkinson spoke on a Seed Pod fround along the creek at Mt. Barney. Dore McCosker also spoke on several flora seen at the Camp Out. See the Newsletter for more details re this.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 8.45p.m.

Ray introduced our Guest Speakers and a very enjoyable time was experienced by all present as they travelled via a beautiful slide program from Adelaide to Darwin with Joan & Errol. In his vote of thanks Robin said how good it was to see again places he and his family had visited. This was carried by Acclamation. Many thanks Errol for wetting our appetite to travel that route ourselves.

Dorothy Archer,
Hon. Secretary.

* * * * *

MT. BARNEY OUTING 24th-25th May, 1986 Leader Rob McCosker

Members arrived at various times on Friday, in some cases because of the terribly inaccurate distance instructions - my apologies. Those who arrived at night had the benefit of a welcome cuppa from the campfire already established, and a cloudless sky with a full moon, to set up camp at Yellowpich.

Next morning, after the arrival of Col Hockings' parents from Brisbane, fifteen brave "adventurers" boarded two vehicles to drive up the track beyond Yellowpinch almost to the start of the walking track. Once this was reached the climb seemed interminally uphill, with frequent stops to catch our breath. As we neared the Saddle between West and East Peaks, frustration increased each time we climbed a steep section - thinking that this was the last - only to be confronted with yet another. We had started walking at about 7.40am and at about 11.30am the party began to seperate, to allow the more energetic the chance to reach the top of East Peak. We managed to become side tracked upon reaching The Saddle and took a short cut directly across Barney Creek to the East Peak. A short distance up from the gully, where we sampled the delicious cool water, we came across a marble alter stone and brass plaque set ina rock by the Brisbane Catholic Bushwalking Club in 1960. Those present at that first service must surely have felt very close to their Creator, in such awesome surroundings.

The spectacular view from the top of Mt. Barney's East Peak was enjoyed by nine of the party, and we were pleased to have such fine weather, although there was considerable haze on the distant ranges. Since we had used in excess of five of the eight hours allowed by the N.P. & W.L.S. for the climb, we ate a hurried lunch and set off downwards, this time following the track to the site of the chalet(hut) which once stood beside Barney Creek in the Saddle. The track then passes through the dense tropical growth of "Rum Jungle"; which provides shelter for overnight campers, before decending the long slope of the East Ridge to the waiting vehicles.

The vegetation along the way varied noticably with the altitude, from low wind buffeted shrubs of leptospermum and mallee gum at the

Mt. Barney outing (continued)

top, to the giant gums of the forests in the foothills, interspersed with patches of sub-tropical rainforest in the gullies containing piccabeen palms and the ferns. Of particular note were the cordylines loaded with sprays of bright red berries and the wild ginger with their edible blue fruit.

Talk around the campfire that night was a little subdued due to the exertion of the day, and all were keen to get to bed early, only to be rudely awakened at 2am by tremendous gusts of wind from the east. Fortunately no damage was done, although one tent was lowered for safety. The day dawned fine and clear again. As there was no interest in another walk that day, we casually packed up and left for home via various routes - in our case via Burnett Creek, White Swamp and the Killarney Falls Road.

It was almost twenty years since I had last climbed Mt. Barney, and in spite of issuing comments like "never again" and "what a way to spend a weekend" I'm sure I'll be back long before another twenty years have passed.

11111111111111111111

Mt. Barney Flora

by

Dore McCosker.

How fortunate we were in choosing May for our Mt. Barney outing! the glowing red clusters of berries on all those Cordylines was a sight to remember. Native ginger (*alpinia coerulea*) carried large heads of blue berries which some of us sampled, chewed to release the slightly acid coating around the very numerous seeds - and spat out.

Where the track wound round the rainforest gully filled with tree ferns and Piccabeen palms, the ground was sprinkled with numerous grape like berries. This made us aware of the *Cissus hypoglauca* (Native Grape) that twined its way to the tree tops.

Here too, were large velvety pods with big seeds much the same size and shape as the Black beans (*Castanospermum*) but these were from another vine, *Millettia megasperma* commonly called Native Wistaria because of the resemblance of the flowers. A lovely white *helichrysum* which appears to grow out of the solid rock belongs only to this area. *Woolisia pungens*, resembling *Eparcris microphylla* in growth, displayed both pink and white flowers. Here and there a *Caladenia* species - white - peeped through the grass as we started up the track.

On reaching the top we saw a patch of Mallee scrub reminiscent of Mt. Norman and on the high East Peak (which I did not reach) there is a *Eriostemen* with a large ovate leaf and a shrub with vivid red berries clustered along the small branches and which, I was assured, was very spectacular.

I almost forgot to mention *TIEGHEMOPANAX sambucifolius* - isn't that a lovely name? Don't ask me to pronounce it though. It is an impressive specimen which grows in Girraween also. *Tieghemopanax*

Mt. Barney Flora (continued)

elegans, when young, is even more so. The common name is Celery Wood because of the smell of the cut bark and crushed leaves. But what's in a name! It now has a new scientific appellation Polyscias.

Over this last weekend the Lacey's, Wilkinsons and Marsdens fulfilled a long standing invitation to visit Ailsa's friend Bess Dwyer at Riley's Hill near Woodburn. On Saturday Bess organised one of her "Walking for Pleasure(adopted by N.S.W. as an occupation for senior adults with the Life. Be in it Programme) activities. More than thirty people were involved in the walk on Saturday morning which was to inspect the "New Endeavour" which is in dry dock at Riley's Hill Awaiting finance for re-restoration. One wonders whether the necessary fianace will be made available to have her sailing again. Notes from an old paper about the first restoration read as follows" The old barquentine, which was built in Denmark 67 years ago was found lying derelict in Blackwattle Bay in Sydney, when she was bought in 1977 by a group of sailing enthusiasts. Restoration to the vessel cost more than \$300,000 but since then, thousands of people, mostly underprivileged children have been able to sail on the "New Endeavour".

Some of the people on the walk were able to give a lot of information about the early days of the docks, Riley's Hill and the role the Richmond River played in commerce and recreation.

One member of the party told of her first climb up Mt. Barney in 1931 when they followed a gorge and had "water all the way" almost to the last peak. There had obviously been a very bad "blow" as there were no trees of any size left standing and the enormous trunks were criss crossed over the gorge, making progress even more difficult.

The afternoon walk was through a patch of scrub saved from the sand mining and now preserved for future generations, in its natural state. The area is a rich semi swamp with melaleuca wetlands to the east. We were delighted with the plants we saw and included trigger plants boronio, hibbertia, banksias, melaleucas and leptospermum and many others. There were a great number of ticks also.

Sunday's walk was of a very different nature and included a long walk along the beach and a visit to Schnapper Rock at Evans Heads. Here we saw all the vegetation very low and wind buffeted though many flowers were seen peeping through the grass. Pimelia was well to the fore.

We found Bess's "Walking for Pleasure" a lot like many of our Nat's Outings (excluding Mt. Barney of course.)

The outing to Preety Gully on June 22nd will be led by Frank Wilkinson and would members please assemble at Weeroona Park at 8.30am. This will enable passengers and cars to be sorted out as it is desirable to take the minimum number of cars on this long drive. The route taken will be via Tenterfield, along the Casino road(about 70k's) to the turn to Pretty Gully on the left. Pretty Gully is 22ks along this road and it is

June Outing(Continued)

proposed that the party will proceed along this road through Tooloom Scrub and meet the Woodenbong-Legume Road. Then home through Amosfield. The round trip is about 250k so it is essential that an early start be made.

Frank Wilkinson will be happy to answer any questions on the outing, his number is 811225.

MEETING FOR JUNE.

The meeting will be held on June 25th in the C.W.A. Rooms and the guest speaker will be Mr. Brett Porter, Ranger now stationed in Warwick. His topic will be "National Park Management and Rural Conservation."

The following poem was written by the late R.W.(Mick) Dwyer and permission to print has been given by Bess Dwyer of Riley's Hill.

HEATHLAND.

Ragged and wild and harsh, but yet
For those who understand,
She dons a raiment gem-beset,
Extends a beckoning hand.

To untaught eyes a prospect drear -
Drabness of brown and grey;
Her friends alone may music hear,
Calling them far away..

Ruby and sapphire of the wrens,
Jewels with life aglow,
The sundew glistens in the fens
With diamonds row on row.

Bladderwort holds its amethysts
Each with a golden boss;
The heath-folk here may keep their trysts
On emerald pile of moss.

Enchanted music, wild and sweet
From many a pulsing throat,
Notes of magic, her friends to greet,
Over the wild lands float.

Hand in hand with dancing spring,
Epacris and golden pea,
Over the ridges gaily swing
On a measure of ecstasy.

HEATHLAND. (continued)

Boronia blushes magenta-rose.

Where the tea-trees stand and dream,
Rice flowers pale wish for tints like these,
In the sun-shafts' filtered gleam.

Rugged and wild is the windswept heath,
But responsive to her call,
Her lovers return for dalliance here,
By her magic held in thrall.

Mr. Dwyer passed away in 1971 but has left a lasting impression on all who were privileged to have known him, with his wonderful appreciation of nature. I hope you have enjoyed this poem and that we will be able to print others from time to time.

(Ed.)

Just a thought

"The man who rests on his laurels is wearing them in the wrong place."