

MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALISTS
HELD IN THE QCWA ROOMS ON APRIL 22nd 1987.

Present 19

Apologies 2

OPENING. President Jean Harslett opened the meeting and welcomed all present and in particular Cathy Milton from Canberra and John Walter and Doug Rigden.

MINUTES . It was moved by Robin McCosker and seconded by Joan Stevenson That the minutes be accepted as read in the news letter and confirmed. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE. Inward received from 1. Apple and Grape Harvest Festival Com. 2. Mrs J. A. Herbert of Darling Downs Institute Press promoting Neil McGilligan's book "Bush Walking in the Toowoomba Region". 3. Western Australian Tourism Com. re brochures on "The Birdwatchers Guide to Wetsern Australia". Journals and Newsletters from 1. National Parks Assn of Qld. 2. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club 3. Qld Naturalists Club 4. Richmond Valley Naturalists Club 6. Chinchilla Naturalists Club. Outward. 4QS re meeting and Outing notices for April. Moved by Tom Archer and seconded by Ray Marsden that the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed. Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT Statement ending 22/4/1987

Balance as at 25/3/87		\$ 190.78 Cr.
Receipts		
Subscriptions	\$10.00	
Room Rent	8.00	
Bring and Buy	1.50	
		<u>19.50</u>
		210.28
Expenditure		
Room Rent	\$ 6.00	
Magazine Duplication	6.00	
Magazine Postage	17.00	
Post Office Box Rental	23.00	
		<u>52.00</u>
Balance as at 22/4/1987		158.28 Cr

Moved by Treasurer Joan Stevenson and seconded by Diana Holley that the financial statement be received and the following accounts be passed for payment. Room Rent \$6.00, Magazine Duplication \$6.00, Magazine Postage \$15.00. Carried.

PRE OUTING REPORT Tom Archer, leader of the outing on Sunday April 26 to Hutchins Hill- It will be fairly long and rough, lunch is to be eaten at the top of the hill so will have to be carried as well as drinks. It is planned to leave Weeroona Park at 10.30am with two stops along the way.

NEXT OUTING

Changed from Basket Swamp outing to Nundubbermere Falls.
Leader Jean Harslett.

NEXT MEETING.

Roy Werner will be the guest speaker on May 28 and will be talking on the Gulf Country.

GENERAL BUSINESS. National Parks Assn., are having a camp-out at the Nundubbermere Falls Water Reserve over the long weekend May 2-4.

John Walter spoke on the book "Bushwalker in the Toowoomba Region" - he has gone on the walks mentioned in the book and thinks it is a very good reference book for all bushwalkers.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm and guest speaker Ray Marsden took us on a trip to Nine Mile Bore at Eulo and the Yowah Opal Field.

A vote of thanks was carried by acclamation.

Dorothy Archer.

Hon. Secretary.

"Bushwalks in the Toowoomba Region" written by Neil McKilligan.

Our Club received a copy of this book from the Darling Downs Institute Press with some order forms so that members can order a copy of it for themselves.

It is a well presented book with notes on natural history of walks in the area of Cunningham's Gap to the Bunya Mountains, and also has maps for most of the walks. Our Club has already been on some of the walks in past years and found them interesting and enjoyable. Some are more strenuous than others and that is another guide given in this book, with the time it should take to complete the walks.

Anyone wanting a copy of the book can contact me on 811754 and I'll be glad to give them an order form.

***** Dot Archer. Hon Sec.

OUTING REPORT

by Leader Tom Archer

On our last outing held on April 26th, we set out from Weeroona Park to climb Hutchin's Hill on Kris Carnell's property. This hill is clearly visible to the east from Severnlea and Glen Aplin and is the only one with bare patches of rock on a steep western slope.

First we stopped at the quarry beside the new crossing over Whisky Gully, this site is of interest because here it is possible to see the way in which granite erodes and leaves behind boulders and balancing rocks. It is often thought that our jumbled rocks and boulders have been caused by some violent volcanic disturbance in the past, but, in fact, it is just the reverse - they have been left behind by millions of years of quiet but unremitting erosion. As the granite is cooled it cracked more or less both horizontally and vertically into blocks, granite rock is initially formed at considerable depth

Outing Report(continued)

where it cools slowly and does not become exposed until the rock above it has been washed away. In the deeper parts of the quarry the cracks are difficult to see(don't confuse them with the cracks caused by blasting). Further up the walls there is discolouration of the rocks on either side of these cracks caused by water seeping down. Further up the rock has started to decompose where the water has penetrated more readily - the felspar and mica have started to dissolve and to be leached out, leaving behind the quartz grains as sand. Further up again the edges of the blocks are becoming more rounded and soil has formed between and under them.

From the quarry we travelled on to Kris Carnell's property where we had a cup of tea to give us strength for the climb and, under Kris' leadership, we set out.

Most of the walk was through typical bush, fortunately much of the brush had been burnt out by a fire about a year ago, otherwise it would have been real "bush-bashing".

We sat down for dinner in a very pleasant and sheltered spot at the top of the highest bare patch of rock, overlooking the broad expanse of the Severn Valley. Unfortunately conditions were rather dry but there were some patches of green and patches of trees in yellow autumn leaves and others of brown where the leaves had fallen off. There was also the sparkle of the sun on numerous farm dams.

After dinner we climbed to the highest part of the mountain from where there was a good view to the south and to the mountains along the border. Growing on the higher parts, among the piled up rocks, are some fine mountain figs and in the gullies some handsome Casuarinas (bush oaks).

It was interesting to note but, unfortunate to see, how the cobblers pegs and stinking rogers have spread out inot the bush. This year the rain fell at the right time to suit the growth of these weeds and so they were able to compete.

Many thanks to Kris for leading us on this expedition.

NEXT OUTING on May 24th under the leadership of Jean Harslett will be to Nundubbermere Falls. Cars to meet at Weeroona Park to leave at 9am for Nundubbermere.

NEXT MEETING The Guest Speaker will be Roy Werner who will talk on the Gulf Country. The meeting will be held in the QCWA Rooms Victoria Street, begining at 8pm.
