

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALISTS  
HELD IN THE QCWA ROOMS VICTORIA STREET on WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26, 1987.

Present 21

Apologies 7

OPENING.

President Ray opened the meeting welcoming all present with a special "welcome home" to Rob and Jean Harslett and to newcomers Kris and Margaret Carnell, Richard Kussnow and guest speaker Rolly Hill.

MINUTES

Moved by Esme Lacey and seconded by Brian McDonagh that the minutes of the July meeting be taken as read in the August Newsletter and confirmed. Carried

CORRESPONDENCE.

Inward received from 1. Rob and Jean Harslett 2. Newman Special School 3. Information Australia Group 4. Letter of thanks from Judy and David Pfrunder 5. Thanks from May Prentice 6. Newsletters and journals from Toowoomba Bush Walkers, Qld Nats, Darling Downs Nats, Richmond River Nats, Chinchilla Field Nats. Outward sent to 1. Joan Ferris - auditor 2. Mick Aspinall thanks for July outing 3 Radio 4QS re outing and meeting. Moved by Bob Lacey and seconded by Diana Holley that the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed. Carried.

TREASURER'S  
REPORT

Moved by Joan Stevenson that her report showing a credit balance of \$154.16 be received and the following accounts be passed for payment Room Rent \$6.00, Magazine Duplication \$6.00, Magazine postage \$15.75, Magazine Covers \$8.00, Newman School for photocopying \$7.90. Motion seconded by Tom Archer. Carried.

OUTING REPORT

Report given by leader Ray Marsden, 46 people attended including the Leahys. Nine 4WD vehicles took those present across some steep rough country - deer and kangaroos were seen by those in the leading vehicles. Lunch was eaten before climbing Mt. Jibbenbar from where good views of the surrounding areas were obtained, Sundown Valley, Bald Rock, Ballandean and Bald Rock and the Passchendaele TV tower. Wild flowers were quite spectacular. Rain started to fall so the trip down the hill was quite damp. Ray thanked those who brought 4WD vehicles and asked the secretary to write a letter of thanks to the Leahy family for their help in making the outing possible.

PRE OUTING  
REPORT

Ray spoke on the special  $\frac{1}{2}$  day outing to Blue Mountain for August 30 as a wild flower special. Cars will leave Weeroona Park at 1.30pm and will be left at Trevor Franklin's property then Blue Mountain will

PRE-OUTINGPRE - OUTING  
FOR  
SEPTEMBER

climbed in a circular fashion.

The pre-outing to Inglewood for September 20th was discussed. Tom Archer will be the leader and a suggestion that a bus may be hired was discussed. This will be decided on the outing on August 30th. We will be visiting two wild flower areas, one near the Greenup school, lunch at Coolmunda Dam and an inspection of Dr. Col Owens native flora plantation after lunch. Rating difficulty would be  $\frac{1}{2}$  on a scale to 10.

INVITATION.

The Chinchilla Nats. Club are camping in the area and have invited our members to join them on an excursion on Saturday September 25 to Aiken's property at 9am. Lunch to be carried.

SPECIMENS

Brian McDonagh brought a sample of aluminium barbed wire, which would last forever at the coast but would be useless in case of bushfire.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Chinchilla Nats. are to be invited to the next meeting on September 23rd and members are asked to please bring a plate for supper. Millie Mardsen requested all reports and minutes be in early for the September newsletter as she will be away when it is due to go to press. Mt. Tully school are planning a native walk and would like any of the members of the club to help identify plants in the school area. Tom Archer will help by explaining how to propagate plants. Meeting closed at 8.40.

AFTER MEETING  
SPEAKER

Brian McDonagh introduced the guest speaker for the evening Mr. Rolly Hill, who took us on a trip to Antarctica. This was enjoyed by all present and Bob Lacey prepared a vote of thanks which was read by Esme Lacey. The vote of thanks was carried by acclamation.

Dot. Archer.

Hon. Sec.

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OUTING REPORT

by Ray Marsden

The outing to Mt. Jibbenbar on August 23rd proved to be an interesting day for a number of reasons. Jibbenbar is about 25 miles SW of Stanthorpe, consisting of Ruby Creek granite jutting up from the surrounding traprock countryside. The area was well known during the prickly pear plague as a state government arsenic mine was situated near the base. The mountain is 3200 feet above sea level, being somewhat higher than Stanthorpe.

After gathering at Weeroona Park the group set out for Springdale with a scheduled stop at Bendee woolshed to see if the red flowering ironbarks were in bloom. A halt of ten minutes enabled the members

OUTING REPORT

To see some magnificent specimens of these trees blooming well, Euc. sideroxylon has flowers from cream varying to pale pink and through to quite a red toning. The pink to red is known as Euc. sideroxylon (Var. rosea). Thanks Jean!! The common name is Mugga.

Access to Mt. Jibbenbar was gained from the far extremity of the Leahy property and the members are grateful to the Leahy family - Elizabeth, Gordon and Richard, for leading the party and supplying two 4WD vehicles.

At Springdale the usual cuppa was had before piling into nine 4WD vehicles to drive, in convoy, to Gordon's back paddock. The trek led over Oaky Creek and through some very steep traprock country. Those in the front vehicles saw several groups of deer and many fine specimens of well fed kangaroos. Gordon told us that he had tried farming deer but found that it was not viable. The deer don't take kindly to being enclosed in small paddocks though they would probably do well in large paddocks - as the fences have to be 6' high or more, it is very costly to enclose large areas. Deer are browsers rather than grass eaters and so require good fodder.

The top paddock had been cleared and pasture improved with rye grass and clover, and the country had eased back into granite. After lunch in the corner of the paddock (some members adding the lush clover to their sandwiches) Gordon undid the fence to allow the group of 46 to pass through into the Sundown National Park. New members, Anne and Hewan Gibson, joined the group for the outing, the Gibsons live at Hunters Hill. We immediately began to climb the hill adjacent to Mt. Jibbenbar.

The whole area was alive with wildflowers many Acacias including *cultriformis* (Bendee Wattle) and *verniciifolia* were most spectacular. I have never seen such wonderful *Olearia* - starflower *Olearia microphylla* was in great quantities and lovely large specimens while the blue daisy *Olearia ramosissima* was also quite showy. Wattles were blooming everywhere and the delight of the day were the masses of *Zieria*. Three distinct types were blooming *compacta*, *cytisoides* and *fraseri*? (this was hairy whitish underleaf). The *daphne* *Eriostemon* usually known as *myoporoides* but has recently been given a subspecies name of "*conduplicatus*" to make it more distinct from others and grows only on the Granite Belt was also blooming. It would appear that feral goats like this plant as most showed signs of damage. Many other varieties of flowers were seen and more than one proved hard to identify, these will be referred to higher authorities.

The climb to the top of the mountain was quite steep and the undergrowth was thick, however everyone managed to make the ascent. The weather was closing in and it was a race to the top to catch the view before rain obscured it. The views were quite superb, many distant landmarks being pointed out including Pyramids in Girraween, Bald Rock and South Bald Rock and a very different view of Red Rock Gorge. The rugged beauty of the national parks was appreciated by all present. A carefully constructed trig point with a placed rock wall had been partially destroyed over the years. All too soon the rain came in and the party descended quickly to the cars, rebuilt the fence and headed for Springdale. By this time the sun had come out again and members stood around (drying out) and shared information on the area and gleaned much knowledge from the Leahy family and Lyle Thompson whose parents had owned the adjoining property in

MT. JIBBENBAR OUTING

years gone by. The old 12 wire fence again drew a lot of interest.

Each outing is different and we always seem to glean some history, geographical and natural information from each one. Grateful thanks were extended to the Leahy family for their participation and for allowing us to visit their property and also for the use of vehicles.

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OUTING REPORT TO BLUE MOUNTAIN

by leader Tom Archer.

August 30th dawned damp and dismal and so we had another "Will we, won't we" situation. Most decided they would not go on the outing thinking that it would be too wet underfoot and, with the light rain, no views would be obtainable.

About ten hardy souls eventually decided it was a goer and set off to Applethorpe.

This was to have been a special wildflower outing and it was planned to circle the hill while on the ascent. It was very wet and unfortunately the walk around the base of the mountain was abandoned. Many flowers were seen and the trigger plant, wattles and white baronio caused a lot of interest as did the leafless orchid.

A trig station at the summit and a 360 degree view from the top made it quite interesting inspite of the mist and threatening rain. a particularly good view of Applethorpe and Stanthorpe was seen and all considered it well worth while.

Our thanks to Trevoe Franklin for allowing access to his land and for leading the small but interested group.

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SEPTEMBER OUTING.

The next outing of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalists will be to the Inglewood area on Sunday September 20. Cars will gather at Weeroona park and 9am and leave for Inglewood to see more wildflowers. First stop will be on a property near the Greenup School, lunch will be at Coolmunda Dam. In the afternoon a native flora plantation on the property of Dr. Col Owens will be inspected. Tom Archer will lead this outing. Those wishing to join the party other than at Weeroona Park, please ring Tom on 811754.

OUTING WITH CHINCHILLA NATS.

Aiken's Dalmoak property on September 25 at 9am Lunch to be carried.

NEXT MEETING.

The meeting will be held in the QCWA rooms in Victoria Street at 8pm on September 23rd when Rob McCosker will present a program on "Scenes of the Granite Belt". Chinchilla Nats. have been invited to join us for this night, please bring a plate for supper.

The Marsdens wish you happy times and will be thinking of you on the outings and meetings.