

No. 190

1.

October, 1987

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALISTS
HELD IN THE Q.C.W.A. ROOMS VICTORIA STREET ON September 23, 1987

PRESENT 32

APOLOGIES 13

OPENING

In the absence of President Ray, Vice-President Joan Harslett was in the chair and opened the meeting, welcoming all present in particular members of the Chinchilla Naturalists Club. She also conveyed greetings to the visitors from Ray.

MINUTES

Moved by Tom Archer and seconded by Roy Werner that the minutes of the August meeting be taken as read in the September Newsletter and confirmed. Carried

CORRESPONDENCE

Inward received from 1. Sub from Mr and Mrs. Tom Plant . 2. Newsletters and journals from 1. National Parks Assn. 2. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club. 3. Darling Downs Naturalist 4. Richmond Valley Naturalist. Outward forwarded to 1. 4QS re outing notices and meeting notice. 2. Gordon Leahy thanking him for leading the August outing to Jibbenbar. 3. Mr. Gordon Lindner for allowing us and leading us to the wild flowers on his property on the morning of September 20. 4. Dr. Cal Owens for allowing us to visit his property during the afternoon of September 20 to see his wonderful collection of native plants and shrubs.

Moved by Rob McCosker and seconded by Brian McDonagh that the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed. Carried.

TREASURER'S
REPORT

Treasurer Joan gave her report which showed a credit balance as at August 23 of \$154-16. Total receipts received \$117.60, total expenses \$45.65 leaving a credit balance as at 23.9.87 of \$226.11. Joan moved that the report be received and that the following accounts be passed for payment Room Rent \$6.00, Magazine postage \$15.75, Magazine photocopying \$20.00, Duplication \$6.00 The motion was seconded by Mary Walters. Carried.

OUTING REPORT.

Tom Archer gave the report on the Wild Flower Outing to the Inglewood area. About 30 people Stanthorpe, Texas and Toowoomba made up the group. In the morning the group saw over 30 varieties of flowers growing in an open paddock and in some enclosed areas, which proved very interesting and exciting. After lunch at Coolmunda Dam the party went to Dr. Cal Owens property where they saw an

- OUTING REPORT oasis of native trees and shrubs, planted over the last eight years.
- OUTING REPORT Members were reminded of the outing on September 26th with the Chinchilla Nats. to Aikens property at 9am.
- NEXT OUTING. The outing will be to Basket Swamp on Sunday October 25th with May Prentice as leader. The pre-outing report will be in the October Newsletter.
- GUEST SPEAKER. for the meeting of October 28th will be Jean Harslett with a surprise programme.
- SPECIMENS Chinchilla Naturalists spoke of an orchid they had found. Jean showed a birds nest found on the last outing. Robin and Dore McCosker spoke on a variety of wild flowers they had brought.
- GENERAL BUSINESS Members are asked to keep a lookout and report to Geoff Small of Canberra, if they see a special brush tailed wallaby which hasn't been seen for some time.
- PROGRAMME. Meeting closed at 8.40pm.
Jean introduced the Guest Speaker Robin McCosker, who took us on an interesting trip around the Granite Belt. The programme was greatly appreciated by all present.
- A cup of tea was enjoyed by visitors and members and this completed a very happy evening.

Dot Archer
Hon. Sec.

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How many members have seen the old CWA cabin in Carnavon Gorge? The latest Countrywoman has the history of the CWA Hut(as it is still known) and here are a few of the details.

The cabin was built about 1945 and was officially opened by the then State President Mrs. Sterne of Warwick in 1947. It was available to meembers for £2.10.0 a week, it had six single beds, with mattress, pillow, blanket and bedspread(BYO linen). Travel was by rail to Injune via Roma, a long truck ride of about four hours to the Gorge. Guides, horses and saddles were available locally. The cabin is located close to a narrow gap where Carnavon Creek cuts through Clematis Ridge, which forms the mouth of the Gorge. It is a spectacularly beautiful location with the creek trickling by, the sheer cliffs of the Ridge catching the morning sunlight as a backdrop, and palms, cycads and magnificent tall white spotted gums framing the scene. It was the starting point of all walking tracks to the Gorge and displayed a map of what was known of the gorge. It was the only accommodation available in the early days and many visitors were grateful for its shelter.

(More next month).

CHINCHILLA NATURALIST CLUB VISIT..REPORT BY JEAN HARSLETT.

The Chinchilla Nats. spent a week in our district, recently, and came to our September meeting. They arrived early and outnumbered us by about two to one (owing to school holidays and flu'. It was a wonderful evening for us and we were enjoyed by them. Robin Mc.Cosker put a pictorial programme on the district. Since the Chinchilla Nats. Members had been here for a week they had visited many places during the week and expressed pleasure at renewing their memories and seeing them photographically through local eyes, and in different seasons and moods. Thank you Robin for preparing it. Supper was served and people lingered over it to enjoy mutual interests. Jean welcomed them in the absence of Pres. Ray Marsden and President of Chinchilla Fred Truscott expressed on behalf of his group, appreciation.

During their week here they visited many places in Wirraween Nat. Park, Bald Rock, Boonoo Boonoo Falls, Horan's Gorge, Maryland River and Basket Swamp, (where they found a pretty pink Grevillea) At Eukey they found another patch of a rarer Spider Orchid (*Caladenia reticulata*) and orchid *Chiloglottis trapeziformis* (recorded from Queensland for the first time by the late Mr. Simpson.) They also located another spot for *Glossodia minor*.

Our club was invited to join them on a bird watching day at "Dalmoak" with the Aiken family. Mary Walters (who probably will not ask me for a "mud map" again !) Maurice Passmore and myself represented Stanthorpe with one from Warwick. Nancy gave us a tour of nests in use in the garden, which was quite an exercise in itself. Yellow eared and White-eared honeyeaters, Blue Wrens, Frogmouth, Satin Bower Bird's play, pigeon and many finch homes including Firetails and Redbrowed Finches. Sacred Kingfishers were seen, just returned to summer and nest here. Maurice spoke of a Dollar Bird he had seen here in mid September, a little earlier than usual.

I expect them to arrive on our property, as they have for years on 1st. or 2nd. October., to nest in a hollow near the garden. This year (with no explanation !!) they arrived on the 12th. Oct. to find a case of "first in best dressed". A pair of Crimson Rosellas have taken up residence in "their" hollow and actually only took over tenancy the week before.

NEXT OUTING OCTOBER 25th. BASKET SWAMP. LEADER MRS. MAY PRENTICE.

May Prentice the leader has provided the following notes. She has consulted Mr. Woods the Forest Ranger for the best flower areas and is acting on his suggestions. She has obtained a forestry map of the region and done a pre-outing survey.

It is planned to nominate a fairly early start, but to also add fairly detailed road instructions for those who may have to catch up. It is envisaged that there will be numerous stops to enjoy splendid displays of flowers, many differing from our local species. Thus it should be easy for others to catch up and find the party, if they so wish.

It is a forestry area so NO FIRES or billyboiling, you will see where one has escaped near the picnic area and appreciate the damage.

Lunch will be at a picnic area where there is pleasant grassed areas and a few tables.

OCTOBER OUTING INSTRUCTIONS CONTINUED.

At this area are several interesting and unusual plants including a pink flowered Grevillea..species not known yet,maybe by 25th.Oct. It is all easy walking.However if you wish to explore the Swamp areas,be prepared for wet feet.

We will be visiting a Trig.Point which you can drive close to. A high pinnacle shaped piece of granite can be scaled by way of a very sturdy,but also tall ladder. For those who prefer "terra firma" there is aneasily climber flat area with nice vistas.

After lunch,those wishing to proceed further may like to go on to the area known as "The Desert". Certainly there is a different range of wildflowers to be seen there..(about another 8km. each way.

TIMES. Depart Stanthorpe Park at 9am.

Or meet at Tenterfield Park (with the weather stone) and opposite the turn off for the Mount Lindsay Road at 9.45 am.

DIRECTIONS from there if not with the main party.

Take the Mount Lindsay Road north towards Boonoo Boonoo and Amosfield. There will be bitumen for the first 9km. (Note memorial to airmen who recently lost their lives near Tenterfield, just erected) After the bitumen there will be a further 5km of gravel before you leave the Mount Lindsay Highway, on a turn off to the right which reads: Boonoo Forest...Sandy Hills 21 km. "Dry weather road only". Follow this road for 5km. and at a clearly marked fork in the road marked to the left Lindrook Rd. and to the RIGHT WOOLLOOLNI Rd take the latter RIGHT.

You should have well and trueely caught up with everybody by then, but if not continue straight ahead and when a sign to Basket Swamp is seen on the left (where you will later go for lunch) However FIRST proceed to the right for a short distance and drive up the track signboarded to the right to the Trig. Lookout. It is a roundabout. The turn is 2km up the road, and a 500metre drive in. All roads are fair quality forest tracks and should present no difficulty, if taken slowly.

The October Programme. by Jean Harslett.

Members will be transported to Switzland and some of its mountain scenery. A couple of quotes to fill the page and I think will find a chord in fellow nature lovers :

...."the mountains speak in wholly different accents to those who have paid in the service of toil for the right to be there."

..... and I sit alone with the Peaks towering beyond, we never grow tired of each other, the mountains and I "

Finally this quote does not apply to our members....."One of the misfortunes of advancing age is that you get out of touch with the sunrise". However Nats keep in touch with the sunsets and much else which is beautiful and inspiring.

J.H.

Our outing of the Club for September 20th was to the area around Coolmunda Dam which lies about 5 miles to the east of Inglewood. The first stop was at the property of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lindner who both take a great interest in the local wildflowers. There seems to be a belt of country very suited to wildflowers just south of the dam. We drove several miles through their property to a paddock which is particularly rich in wild flowers. Part of the paddock had at one time been cleared and part left in its original state. The wildflowers here, mostly shrubs have taken over the cleared area and were growing in profusion. I counted nearly 30 species which were in flower at that time - others had finished flowering or had yet to flower. There were also five major varieties of wattle. Unfortunately these were past full bloom but must have been a wonderful sight several weeks earlier.

Laurie Jefferies from Texas, previously from Stanthorpe, had joined us for the day. He was particularly interested in a rare gum tree which grows beside Tobacco Rd. in this area. The tree, *Eucalyptus virens*, has only just been named and described and its distinctive characteristics noted. It is an ironbark but differs from other ironbarks in that it has green shiny leaves. It is a relative of *Eucalyptus panda* which also grows in that area and is also somewhat rare. *E. virens* has only been recorded here; a few trees at Tara and a small patch northwest of Injune. In the Coolmunda area all the trees but one (which is on the roadside) are on adjacent private property and the owner was probably unaware that it was a rare species. In that district there is also a third iron bark which is rare but as yet has not been named.

From here we travelled further down Tobacco Road (which is followed leads to the cemetery at Inglewood) to the turnoff to Coolmunda Dam. Here we had a picnic lunch at one of the parks below the dam. Irrigation and Water Supply keep these parks in excellent condition and they are always green and kept mown, with shady trees -- a very pleasant spot on a hot day.

After a late lunch we moved on to the property of Dr. & Mrs. Col Owen situated on the north side of the dam. Here Col Owen has planted over an area of approx. 15 acres 5,800 native trees and shrubs of over 300 different species. Most of the trees he has raised himself. He prefers to plant out from 3" pots seedlings which are 9 - 12" 's high and after planting he leaves a hollow around the plant which will hold a gallon or two of water. Thus, if it gets dry he can give them a few waterings to get established. The whole area can be irrigated from the dam.

Some of the trees planted 8 - 9 years ago and particularly those on broad mounds have grown extremely well and are 30 - 40 ft. high. Col has found that in that location (some of the soil is sandy and some quite clayey) Western White Gum (*E. argopholia*), Red Gum (*E. coolmudulensis*) and spotted Gum (*E. maculata*) have done very well. The locally growing boxes and iron barks also do well particularly the pink or white flowering ironbark (*E. sidenoxylon*). For quick growing shade and shelter belts resistant to drought and frost the local Casuarinas or oaks do very well. There is Pine Oak (*C. Cunninghamiana*) for dryer sites and River Oaks (*C. glauca*) for the wetter sites. These can be grown easily from seed. The large 'seeds' or 'nuts' if left to dry in an open container or paper bag will shed numerous seed which usually germinate readily in good seed bed conditions. They also sucker fairly readily and can be grown from these. Gum trees can also be propagated from seed in much

COOLMUNDA AREA OUTING CONTINUES -

the same way, but the seed from the gumnuts is very fine - the same for bottle brushes.

For low growing shrubs Col has found the bottlebrushes or Calistemons, if frost resistant, do well as do many other native flowering shrubs - also if frost resistant.

NOTE -

Unfortunately for Stanthorpe, frost resistance is a much greater problem and many of the species listed as frost resistant are not so in this area.

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AROUND THE ARCHER HOME

Our feathered friends continue to bring Tom and I and our visitors much enjoyment and many happy hours watching their actions during the day.

A family of Kites in an Apple Gum just below the shed gave us quite a display of family life. Dad was the food collector and could be seen hovering over the paddock looking for mice etc. while mother sat on the nest -- she could be heard telling him I'm sure 'to hurry up as she was hungry'. After the eggs were hatched there was quite a chorus from the nest as youngsters expressed their desire for something to eat and kept Dad quite busy, searching over a wider area each day.

Up near the house we have 2 families of Wattle birds - the young birds sit on a branch while a loving parent wings from Nectar bottle to hungry fledgeling with drops of nectar. Often this was interrupted to chase another bird away. A few times we've seen the young birds examining the bottle of nectar so it shouldn't be long before they are enjoying a drink on their own. One little trick the parent Wattle birds have been seen doing that amuses us, is to get a grub - rub it on the drinking end of the bottle and then eat it. Even birds like a bit of sweetness on their 'meat'.

It is wonderful to be able to enjoy these feathered friends eating, playing and squabbling while we are having a meal or a cup of tea.

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SETTING OFF

by David Hope

A long, hard tramp on a perfect day,

What could be better fun?

The miles fly past when the heart is gay

And the world laughs in the sun.