

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALISTS
HELD IN THE Q.C.W.A. ROOMS VICTORIA STREET ON October 28, 1987.

Present 32

Apologies 3

OPENING.

President Ray welcomed all present as he opened the meeting.

MINUTES

Moved by Mary Walters and seconded by Bob Lacey that the minutes of the September meeting be taken as read in the October newsletter and confirmed. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Inward received from 1. National Library re back issues of newsletter from Sept. 1985. 2. Australian National University with 1988 Summer School lists. 3. From Marion Carney Warwick, tendering resignation because of ill health. Newsletters and journals from 1. Qld Naturalist 2. "Footprint" Toowoomba Bush Walker 3. Natinal Parks, 4. Chinchilla Field Naturalist Club 5. Darling Downs Naturalist Club 6. Richmond Valley Naturalist Club.

Outward forwarded to: 1. 4QS re outing and meeting for October. 2. Marion Carney accepting her resignation with regret and wishing her better health in the future.

Moved by Esmé Lacey and seconded by Errol Walker that the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed. Carried.

TREASURER'S
REPORT

Credit balance as at 23/9/87 \$226.11.

Receipts of Subscriptions \$56.00 and Rent Room Collections of \$7.90 were received. Payment of Room Rent \$6.00, Magazine Photocopying \$20.00, Postage \$15.75, Duplication \$6.00, FDT \$1.65

Credit balance as at 28/10/87 \$240.61

Moved by Joan Stevenson and seconded by Lyle Thompson that the treasurer's report be received and the following accounts be passed for payment. Room Rent \$6.00, Paper for covers \$37.50, Duplication \$6.00, Postage \$15.75, Stencils \$29.76. Carried.

OUTING REPORT

to Basket Swamp Creek on Sunday October 25 under the leadership of May Prentice, was given by Jean Harslett who complimented May on a successful well planned outing. About 31 in number enjoyed the beautiful native flowers and wonderful scenery. May was thanked by acclamation for a very enjoyable outing.

NEXT OUTING.

is a campout to Spicers Gap which Colin Hocking spoke on. The area to camp is Yaramalong camping area and Ray will organise this part. Details in

NEXT OUTING(cont'd)

the November newsletter.

GUEST SPEAKERS. for the November meeting on Wednesday 25 will be Jack and May Bennie, former members of the club, who will present a slide show on Lawn Hill National Park.

SPECIMENS. Jean Harslett spoke on an English Gold Finch which had been a road fatality and Dore spoke on the samples of some of the flowers seen on Sunday's outing to Basket Swamp.

GENERAL BUSINESS. Members were reminded of the Christmas-Break-up which will be held at Colin and Janet Hacking's property on December 6. Joan reported that she had entry forms for the colour transparency section of the Stanthorpe Show.

GUEST SPEAKER. Ray introduced the guest speaker for the evening club member Jean Harslett B.E.M. Jean showed superb slides on Switzerland taken from more than one trip to this lovely country. Millie Marsden moved the vote of thanks and this was carried with enthusiastic acclamation.

Dot Archer.

Hon. Sec.

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WILDFLOWERS OF THE BASKET SWAMP CREEK AREA by Dore McCosker.

Our leader treated us to a veritable feast of showy wild flowers in the Basket Swamp district on Sunday October 25. The flower of the day (in my book) was certainly the dainty *Baronia*, appearing, as we drove along, like great carpets of pink scattered in the shade of the forest trees.

New shoots on the gum trees were very colourful, especially one variety with deep ruby red leaves which glowed as the light shone through them.

The brilliant metallic yellow of the large Golden Glory Pea (*Gompholobium latifolium*) outshone the more subdued yellows and reds of the many other pea flowered shrubs - *Daviesia* (3 varieties), *Pultenaea*, *Dillwynia* etc. but the plentiful holly leaf pea *Oxylobium trilobata* was a fair competition.

The taller growing *Comesperma* carries its deeper red head of flower above the masses of pink *Baronia*. The buds of this flower are the colour and shape of some old type matches, hence the common name of 'Matchtop'.

There are several types of *Hibbertia* in the area with flowers ranging from less than 1cm to more than 5cm. Their flowering time is only just commencing.

Wildflowers(continued)

Dense masses of fluffy blossom on a small dark leaved tree- possibly *Symplocos cochinchinensis*, or White Hazelwood- made a dramatic picture against the back drop of dark granite on the top of Timbarra Lookout. Large white everlastings had started to bloom on the slopes, *Helichrysum elata*.

Patches of snowy white above the grass of the swamp indicated *Epacris*. *Epacris obtusifolia*, in full bloom, with $\frac{1}{2}$ " long bells was very showy and *Epacris microphylla* will soon be likewise.

Two *Patersonias*, Wild Iris, were noticed here and there by the roadside. They were *Patersonia glabrata* and *serices*. However along the edge of the swamp were two other varieties, new to us, one with a tender smooth flower stalk and the other with a tough brown stalk with a furry coat. Both varieties were flowering very freely. Nearby, in the shade of the trees, were the ground orchids *Caladenia alba* and violets.

We located the *Grevilleas*, which our visitors from Chinchilla had spoken about last month. They form low rounded shrubs bearing flowers with deep pink styles protruding from purple flowers which are protected by curved divided leaves ending in an extremely sharp point of each division- a dozen or more. It is a most unfriendly customer.

In these very moist areas, two shrubs are often found together *Bauera* (which I had seen blooming in a Stanthorpe garden the week before) and *Tetratheca thymifolia*. Both are attractive shrubs and are known as 'Dogrose' and Black-eyed Susan respectively.

Leaving Basket Swamp, we moved to the Desert which revealed a whole new world of plants. The deep mulch of the very coarse snowy white quartz sand, provided the right environment for various ground covering plants, of which a species of *Mirbelia* with tiny pinky-mauve flowers on dense terminal inflorescences, demanded most attention.

The pink *Baronia* was still with us but it seemed to have twice as many flowers. There was also another *Boronia* with numerous small flowers on bushes up to 70cm high, in colours from white to palest pink with a darker centre. The leaves are very small and round, it is probably *Baronia alga*.

On the homeward journey we admired the lemon coloured *Diuris* and stopped at the patch of showy red flowered prostrate *Grevillea* which has given me pleasure over many years.

Various *Leptospermums*, *Hakeas* ----- I could go on and on as I noted over 70 plants of interest but the 25 I have mentioned should be quite enough.

A truly wonderful day, a delight for those interested in our native plants.

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Welcome home to those seasoned travellers - Frank and Ailsa Wilkinson. We are looking forward to hearing of your travels and sharing some laughs with you both. Ed.

REPORT ON THE OCTOBER OUTING TO BASKET SWAMP AND BOONOO FORESTRY AREA...LEADER MRS. MAY PRENTICE.

(Report presented on behalf of May Prentice by Jean Harslett)

Success usually follows if the outing is well planned, and May did just that. She consulted Mr. Woods the forester on which were the best routes to follow to see the greatest variety of flowers. A pre-outing was also arranged to check routes and arrangements, times and mileages. May made contact with Mr. Woods on the eve of departure to be sure heavy rain had not damaged roads. She also provided an excellent forestry map. The morning dawned anything but promising, but May believing the A.B.C. weather report explicately (despite the unpromising skyscape) made the decision to go, and the day by 10am. had blossomed into a perfect one.

Some gathered at Weeroona Park in Stanthorpe and the rest at the Tenterfield Park, making a final party of 31. The rain had laid the dust perfectly. Morning tea was staved-off and the first stop was made at the monument to R.A.A.F. men who lost their lives last April when their plane crashed there. Soon after entering Boonoo Forest a morning-tea break was enjoyed in a lovely patch of flowers. Pink boronia and vivid blue Dampiera mingling with masses of golden peas. Mrs. Val White appropriately found a white form, bush of boronia. A dingo was sighted by Peter, a golden dog loping along the timber track, but his dreams and direction quickly altered when he saw some of us.

Next stop was amongst some beautiful specimens of 'Milkwort' or Purple Match-heads interspersed with plenty of golden peas. Peter Langdon again produced an interest in the form of a Grey Shafted Fantail's nest complete with two young ('atrocious' looking offspring just out of the egg, but a most charming nest and the young nodoubt the parents pride and joy. The wine-glass shaped nest so beautifully made was only 2 metres off the ground, and easily enjoyed by all, while the parents fittered around with the agility of butterflies, but without apparent fear of undue agitation. A dead gum leaf just below the nest and similiar shape gave a double image effect and great camouflage.

A small loop road takes one within a short climb of the Timbarra Tng. Lookout. Flat rocks give a grandstand view, but the sturdy of nerve who climbed the tall steel ladder (placed for the convenience of visitors) enjoyed a 360 degree view. Two semi-scrub flowering trees and the giant yellow pea, "Golden Glory" or Queen of the Peas (*Gompholobium latifolium*) were specials.

Another stop was made irresistable by the Wild Iris (3 species) and here also was a lovely patch of *Caladenia alba* orchids with an odd pink form. Also a rarer yellow *Diuris*. Then lunch at Basket Swamp. More tanterlizing $\frac{1}{2}$ open sun orchids and the pink shades were the winners *Grevillea* sp, pink *Baueria rubioides* and pink *Kunzia* and pink *Tetratheca thymifolia* which bows its little head more than the *Baueria* and has a dark centre. The New Holland honeyeaters also gave great pleasure.

A visit to "The Desert" area proved worthwhile too, where carpets of *Mirbelia rubiifolia*, a whitish *Boronia* (or was it *Zieria* sp.) But the peas 10 or 11 species were winners for the day. *Dillwynia retorta*, *Daviesia latifolia*, *D. squarrosa* (prickly) *D. corymbosa*, *Daviesia* sp. *Pultenaea villosa*, *P. pedunculata* (mat) *Ox. illicifolium*, *Kennedia* etc. etc.

Thanks to May with hearty acclamation..

You are probably all aware that Janet Hocking was called to Brisbane on the morning of October 29 in preparation for her kidney transplant operation. Thoughts and prayers of the member of the Club will be with Janet and her family during the long convalescent period. At the time of writing, Colin reported that Janet was doing well and we trust that she will continue in this vein.

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OUTING REPORT

from Ray Marsden

In view of Colin (proposed leader for the outing to Spicer's Gap on November 21 and 22) being engaged in the more important business of being with Janet and his family in Brisbane, the outing has had to be organised in slightly different form.

Colin has furnished me with information, Errol has had some input and the best we can come up with is as follows.

For those intending to travel to the area on Friday 20 the camp site is at "Yarramalong", a private camping area below the dam wall (look for the sign), fees are \$3.50 per person per night and \$3 if the group is more than 20 persons.

It is proposed to meet at the Mt. Edwards-Clumber Dip turnoff on the main highway about 15k from Cunninghams Gap or 5k from Aratula at 9am on Saturday 21. We will then proceed to Spicer's Gap, about 15k. On the way up we will pass pioneer graves an old hotel site and Moss's Well. We can drive close to the Governor's Chair from where great views of the valleys are obtained, there is a 6k walking track circuit. Mid afternoon we plan to proceed to the campsite via Moogerah Dam.

If it has been raining prior to our trip, the road to Spicer's Gap will be cut off by a locked gate. In this case we will proceed to the campsite and go to Mt. French after lunch. On Sunday 22 we may go to the Gap area or Mt. French, the decision will be made on Saturday night. As I have not been to Spicer's Gap and will not be able to do a pre-outing check, you will have to bear with me on this outing.

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Trip to Salvator National Park

Birds of a feather flock together - this seemed to be the case on a recent trip to Salvator Rosa National Park when most of the group were members of Field Naturalists Clubs, Queensland Nats, Chinchilla and Stanthorpe.

Tour leaders, Jack and May Bennie, were making their fourth trip to the park, having once been airlifted out by helicopter during floodtime. The tour left from Dalby and travelled in two 4WD Toyota Land Cruiser Troop Carriers, especially adapted for such trips. The food trailer, towed by one vehicle, proved to contain a wealth of food surprises.

The group consisted of a couple from Brisbane, another from Jandowae, two from Stanthorpe, one lady from Noosa, another from Montville, one from Caboolture, a man from Toowoomba and the tour

leaders. An overnight stop in Injune saw us all bedded down in the CWA rooms in the middle of town. A walk around the town extremities provided an opportunity to talk to a number of the residents. Injune, in fact all the country west of Toowoomba, was very dry at that time, September 16-26. Apart from cattle, Injune relies very heavily on timber products to keep the economy going.

Following a good night's rest we left early on the long trek to the eventual destination at the Nogoa crossing in Salvator Rosa. We had been to Salvator three years previously but had travelled a different route. Bituman extends 80ks from Injune toward Rolleston, the gravel road was slow but in fair condition, Major road works are in operation prior to the turn-off to Carnarvon National Park. A morning tea break at the road junction at Rolleston gave the drivers a break, and on then to Springsure and west along the Tamba road. Lunch was taken at the Tresswell cricket ground, just the school and the cricket ground, that's Tresswell. Spectator seats under the shade trees were carved with the name Tresswell cricket club and proved a good picnic stop for us.

Approaching the Cungelella turnoff, it was apparent that storms were in the vicinity-while we realised the land holders desperately needed rain, we were not too keen to encounter rain before we had passed over the black plains of Lake Salvator. Storms were all around so someone would have got some relief from the dry conditions, we only experienced a sharp shower.

We were impressed with the improvements which had taken place on Cungelella since we had last seen it. The first homestead had been washed away by floods many moons ago, the second was still in evidence when we were there last but now the current brand new homestead stands proudly high on the rise with a number of workman's cottages scattered around. The property is very large and has been cleared and pastured improved and is now carrying great numbers of cattle.

A cairn of the property has been erected to honour Lt.Col. Sir Thomas L Mitchell who passed and repassed through the area in July to September 1846 and named the area Salvator Rosa as the countryside reminded him of the paintings of the 17th century Italian painter of that name. He named the Lake Salvator which has since broken its rock bar and drained away into the Nogoa. The level of the lake area is about 20' above the present water level so it is not hard to visualise the great expanse of water as seen by Mitchell in 1846. Cungelella is now channeling water from the Nogoa into a dam built on the old lake site. When he discovered this area Lt. Col. Mitchell wrote in his diary "It was a discovery worthy of the toils of a pilgrimage."

On reaching the Nogoa, the camp was very quickly erected and without any interference from storms. The eating section was quickly affixed to the food trailer, eight tents, shower room and an extra toilet (one is now provided at the camp site) mushroomed up in no time at all.

Ahead were six days of exploration, visits to the old friendly places seen on the last trip, many areas of flowers to inspect and birds to identify and record. The group was issued with Betty Ballingalls Plant list of 1981-86 and we made very good use of it. It was great to have a great wealth of information available from members - Dot Brown and Megan Thomas with flowers and plants and

Salvator Rosa(continued)

Jon Geeves with his expertise on birds. Leaders Jack and May Bennie shared their wealth of knowledge in both these areas as well as in the field of photography.

Places visited included Major Mitchell Springs, Belinda Spring Pythagoras, Sentinel, Spyglass, Mt. Minda and last but not least Mt. Salvator. This was finally pinpointed following much cross compass bearings, vegetation is vastly different from the time Mitchell wrote about it in his diary. However we found the geology was different around this part of the high area in the park, the red cliffs are still on the side but now obscured by vegetation. It was a wonderful thrill to climb the mountain, it was not quite so good getting down off the rock on the summit, this was achieved by using a rope. (The bottom parts of apparel of some of the party was never the same again - a ripping good time was had.)

The Nogoa River is mainly spring fed and some of the springs gush crystal clear water at the rate of 200,00 to 250,000 gallons per day, others are emitted below the sands of the river and cannot be measured. The park consists of 38,500 hectares and is sandstone outcrops, many weird and wonderful shapes have been created due to erosion over the centuries. The park is managed by the ranger who lives in Springsure. On our trip three years ago we did not see another soul while we were in the park for the week, this time there were five camps at Louisa Creek when we arrived and twelve more groups arrived during our stay. 4WD vehicles are just so popular and versatile aren't they?

We all felt as though we had stepped off the world for those few days and found it a wonderful way in which to charge the batteries. A feature of the trips is that everyone shares their knowledge whether it be the name of some unusual plant or how to barbecue onions without burning them.

Jack and May produced wonderful camp oven meals and we all ate too much, lunch was usually eaten on the track and was a choose your own salad or sandwich. Fruit was plentiful Dalby oranges, Stanthorpe apples and Caboolture avocados. Damper was served, complete with the ceremony and accompanied by Ray playing his new Northern Territory didgeridoo.

On the return journey we stopped at many historical sites, at Cungelella to view an old grave of a 21 year old boy killed by a horse in 1907, and two memorials to railway workers and their families along the Warrego highway.

We overnighted at the Barcoola property of Beryl and Bob Wilson, just south of Injune and experienced real country hospitality. The drivers had had a long day as two flat tyres were experienced on the trailer, one near Rolleston and the other 74ks out of Injune. This necessitated one vehicle having to be driven to Injune to get replacements and take them back to the stranded vehicle (four tyres were ruined on the trip - the first near Cungelella on the way in, then the two mentioned and the last within 6ks of Dalby on the way home). Beryl and Bob provided space for us to eat and sleep in comfort and we have made two new friends.

Salvator Trip.

We arrived back at Lakeview about 3pm and after a very late lunch most of the group wended homewards. We stayed on for a couple of days, explored the newly opened environmental camping site, walked out across the Lake Broadwater which was covered in grass and feeding kangaroos (hadn't had any water in it since March). Ray and Jack attended a "penguin" meeting at Warra on the Saturday evening and we headed back to Stanthorpe on Sunday.

We walked so many kilometres, climbed a lot of mountains and had eaten very well so we felt on top of the world and would thoroughly recommend this type of outdoor holiday. I wonder if we will make a third trip to Salvator in the future.

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Remnants of native flowers in Stanthorpe town.

Following all the walking done in Salvator National Park, I have been doing a bit of walking around the home area just to keep my hand in - or should I say "just to keep my feet in"?

I have been pleased to see just how many natives have been able to keep blooming in the populated areas. The golden paper daisy seems indestructible and are still to be seen in bloom whenever they can escape from the lawnmowing activities. Goodenias also bloom freely in the same conditions. Donkey orchids are quite prolific in Day Street adjacent to the Blue Nursing Centre while Jacksonia and Hardenbergia bloom in the back section of the hospital enclosure. In that same area two or three species of wattle are surviving.

Rotary Park has been the scene of extensive plantings of natives with the Creek beautification scheme and it is pleasing to note that Callistemon, Leptospermum, Acacias and Caltrix are still growing there naturally.

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BEAUTITUDES FOR THE AGED.

(Anon)

Blessed are they who understand my faltering steps and palsied hands,

Blessed are they who know my ears today, must strain to catch the things they say.

Blessed are they who seem to know, my eyes are dim and wits are slow.

Blessed are they who looked away when coffee was spilled on the table today.

Blessed are they with a cheery smile, who stop and chat for a little while.

Blessed are they who never say "You've told that story twice Today".

Blessed are they who know the way to bring back memories of yesterday.

Blessed are they who make it known I'm loved, respected and not alone.

Blessed are they who ease the days of my journey home, in loving ways.