

Minutes of the General Monthly meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalists, held in the Q.C.W.A. Rooms Victoria Street Stanthorpe on Wednesday 26th October, 1988 at 8pm.

Present 23

Apologies 5

Opening. President Ray Marsden declared the meeting opened and welcomed all present.

Minutes. It was moved by Errol Walker and seconded by Esme Lacey that the minutes be taken as read in the October Newsletter and confirmed. Carried

Correspondence. Inward received: 1. Bank s tatement 2. Resignation from Pam Harvey. 3. Subs from John O'Donnell and Anne Gibson. 4. Directory of Aus. Associations. Newsletters received from 1. Darling Downs Naturalist 2. Qld. Naturalists 3. Chinchilla Naturalist 4. Richmond Valley Naturalist Club. Outward forwarded to : 1. Thanks to Peter Roger 2. 4QS re outing and meeting notices. It was moved by Diana Holley and seconded by Bob Lacey that the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed. Carried.

Treasurer's Report Treasurer Joan Stevenson read her report which showed balance as at 8/8/88 Credit \$145-61 Receipts 236-50 Credit 382-11 Payments 62-85 Credit as at 26/10/88 \$319-26 J. Stevenson moved her report for adoption and the accounts Magazine postage \$17.00, Magazine duplication \$16.00, Room Rent \$8.00, Photocopying \$5.00 and Magazine covers \$7.50 be passed for payment. This was seconded by Rob McCosker. Carried.

Outing Report. Leader of the October outing, Rob McCosker, reported that it was a good outing and the weather was perfect. 35 attended with an age span of 4½ years to 84. Lovely flowers were seen. Lunch was eaten near West Bald Rock and after lunch a few of the more hardy folk went on to West Bald Rock while the rest of the party returned along Racecourse Creek to the road.

Next Outing. This will be a camp-out to the Forgotten Country with Rob McCosker to be the leader once again. Full details will appear in the November Newsletter. The book "The Forgotten Country" was brought to the meeting by Dore McCosker and the following are exerpt from it. "Forgotten Country is a narrative report of the local history of the district centered on the township of Drake and the Upper Clarence Valley."

October Meeting Minutes(cont'd)

"The Mines Department was not established until 1874, by which time the mines on the Timbarra had been in business for twenty years or more."

After Meeting Program. In November Errol Walker will be the guest Speaker who will take us on a trip to the Flinders Ranges

General Business. Joan Stevenson tendered her resignation as treasurer, which was accepted with regret. Joan was thanked for her great contribution to the Club both as secretary and latterly as treasurer. Julia Brown was nominated to the vacant position by Tom Archer and she accepted the position.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

After Meeting Program.

Ray Marsden introduced Jean Harslett B.E.M. who presented a most interesting program entitled "The Stanthorpe Saga". This was greatly enjoyed by those present and many thanks are extended to Jean for a very pleasant trip down the memory lane of Stanthorpe history.

Dorothy Archer.
Hon. Sec.

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October Outing Report on Racecourse Creek Area on October 23rd, 1988.

By Leader Rob McCosker.

After the high temperatures and winds of the past few days, the 35 people who attended the Nats. Outing were treated to much more mild weather. We left Weeroona Park a little after 8.30am, and after re-grouping at Wallangarra, drove to the Mt. Norman Day Use Parking area for smoko. The display of wildflowers along the roadside gave an indication of what was in store, as we set off in single file towards West Bald Rock. As there was no track to follow, we made use of the many open granite areas and the paths made by animals. Although painful on the leg muscles, these paths gave the opportunity to see the variety of wildflowers - predominately PULTANAEA the orange pea flower and pink boronia. We came to a large swampy section, which fortunately was mostly dry underfoot, and followed a fence line down to Racecourse Creek, as it tumbled through a rocky crevice. In the clear waters several small red crayfish were seen and, on the rock face above, an area of tongue orchid in full bloom. We crossed the creek and kept on in the same direction to reach the top of a boulder strewn hill. Many of the children present delighted in climbing under and over these boulders and exploring the many caverns while everyone else enjoyed the view of West Bald Rock from the lunch spot.

I was grateful to Errol Walker for offering to take a group

Outing report(con't).

to the top of West Bald Rock. So after lunch, we set off in different directions, one group to climb West Bald Rock and the other to follow Racecourse Creek downstream to the road. As we followed the creek it cascaded down an interesting waterfall and through a long swampy gully. This made quite pleasant level walking until we reached the road. It was then only a couple of kilometres to the cars and an enjoyable cuppa.

The more energetic group arrived soon after, with reports of a good walk, looking at Bill Goebel Waterfall and the abandoned roundhouse on their way.

In conclusion I must mention some numbers. Included in the party of 35 there were three visiting exchange agricultural students from Germany and Denmark; ages of the group ranged from 4½ years to over 80; there were ten different species of orchids flowering in a total of over 100 flowering plants.

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Condolences are extended to members of the club who have lost loved ones. Rene Thompson, whose sister Mrs. Dewsbury, died in tragic circumstances. Janet Hockings lost her beloved father Wally McKenzie. Wally and his wife Betty had joined on our club outings on a number of occasions and endeared themselves to all. Our thoughts are with both families during these sorrowing times.

Ed.

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November Campout on 19th and 20th to Forgotten Country.

The Forgotten Country, an old gold mining area of the Gibraltar Range, mostly within the Ewingar State Forest, just east of Rocky River.

Directions to the Campsite. Drive to Tenterfield(56k), turn left onto Bruxner Highway in centre of Tenterfield and drive to Plains Station Road turnoff on right, 21k past Drake(74k from Tenterfield). Follow this road 22km to Yates Crossing on the Clarence River. After crossing, turn right at road junction 4km and continue 23km to Baryulgil; turn right to Lionsville, cross the Clarence River again at 4km and continue a further 7km to campsite on right, beside Washpool Creek. Total distance about 190km from Stanthorpe, allow 4 hours. Fuel available at Tabulam and Baryulgil.

I suggest an 8.00am start(due to daylight saving) to arrive at the campsite for lunch. After lunch we hope to inspect abandoned gold mines and find the Cyrstal Cave Mine. There will be a country dance at nearby Baryulgil on Saturday night, so anyone wishing to trip the light fantastic - bring your dancing shoes. Sunday morning we will break camp and drive some of the trails through Ewingar state forest to inspect the Bulldog diggings, abandoned gold field. I am hoping to be at the campsite on Friday, but will meet members at Yates Crossing at 11am on Saturday Morning. Please contact me for further information.

Rob McCosker - Leader - 835217

ALBINISM.

from a member who would like to remain Anon.

Albinism is a genetic lack of pigment which can occur in all living things. Albino plants cannot survive, as the lack of chlorophyll means that they cannot manufacture food, but animals can survive.

There was a colony(and may still be) of albino wallabies on an island in Lake Eucumbene. This was founded and tended by Sir Edward Halstrom and the Taronga Park Trust.

Many years ago I saw a white wallaby probably a brush or red-necked wallaby in, what is now, Girraween National Park.

Recently I saw a snow-white bird among a group of double-bar finches. One of our members hosted an albino blue-wren in her garden for about a month, but the other birds persecuted and probably killed it.

Albino rabbits were not uncommon before myxomatosis, but because of lack of camouflage and, because they were boycotted by their more normal brothers, never seemed to reach adulthood.

Walter Anderson says that when they were children at Lyra, he and his brothers used this trait to catch any albinos they saw. The idea was to note which burrow in a warren the white rabbit was using. When the rabbit was feeding, on boy stalked to the warren and reached that burrow before the white rabbit and remained there. The albino then entered another burrow but was ejected by its normal occupant. After a number of rejections, the rabbit just sat and was picked up by the second boy.

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IN THE ARCHER'S GARDEN

from Dot Archer.

Life is still very busy in the garden where the birds come to feed, drink and bathe. The wattle bird parents are having trouble getting one of their new fledglings to leave home - the youngster apparently doesn't want to leave and we see it being chased back and forth between the bars of the patio railing. When no other wattle bird is around, it enjoys a go at the nectar bottle.

The past two months we have had a newcomer to our visitors - several pairs of galahs have been seen regularly eating seed up on the big rock. They are quite a familiar sight at the High School on McGlew Street but this is the first time they have come here and are now quite regular visitors. Tom and I do enjoy our birds and hope they continue to come to enjoy our garden.

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I thought it may be a good idea to get a list of the wildflowers on our recent outing. Many thanks to Jean Harslett who had the task of identifying and listing the plants in order. This was a big job on its own but Jean also cut the stencils, I am most grateful and I trust members will be able to use this long list for future sightings. Jean's expertise in so many fields, so willingly shared, is a wonderful asset to our Club.

Ed.

The October outing to the West Bald Rock area led by Robin McLosker proved so good for variety of wild flowers that Millie Marsden kept a list of all those noted by various members, and only those which actually had flowers were listed. The number is rather remarkable.

1. *Actinotis helianthi* ... Flannel Flower.
2. *Amyema pendulum* ... Euc. mistletoe.
3. *Anth. ocercis albicans* (now *Cyphanthera albicans*) "Grey Ray Flower."
4. *Aotms subglauca*.
5. *Anguillaria dioica* ... Early Nancy or Harbinger of Spring.
6. *Astrotricha* sp.
7. *Baekea densifolia*.. Dwarf Cherry Blossom.
8. *Banksia spinulosa* var. *cunninghamii*. Hairpin Banksia.
9. *Boronia polygalifolia* .. Dwarf Boronia, or Waxy boronia.
10. *Boronia microphylla*... Small -leaved Boronia.
11. *Boronia bipinnatifida*.
12. *Billardiera scandens*.. Dumpling Plant or Wild Peach.
13. *Bossiaea scortechini*.
14. *Brachycome angustifolia* .. Mauve Forest Daisy.
15. *Brachycome stuartii*... Rock Daisy.
16. *Brachyloma daphnoides*.. Scented Heath.
17. *Bulbine bulbosa*.. Yellow Bulbine Lily.
18. *Callistemon flavo-virens*.. Tableland Bottlebrush.
19. *Callistemon sieberi*.. Alpine Bottlebrush.
20. *Choretrum candollei*... White Broom.
21. *Clematis aristata*.. Headache Vine
22. *Comesperma retusum*.. Milkwort.
23. *Conospermum taxuifolium*.. Devil's Rice, or Yew-leaf Conosperm
24. *Conospermum longifolium*.. Long-leaved.C.
25. *Conospermum tenuifolium*.. Dwarf Pink or Sprawling C.
26. *Craspedia uniflora*.. Billy Buttons or Bachelor Buttons.
27. *Dampiera stricta*... Blue Dampiera.
28. *Dampiera purpurea*.. Mountain Dampiera.
29. *Daviesia latifolia*.. Bitter Pea.
30. *Dianella laevis*.. Pale Flax Lily.
31. *Dillwynia retorta* Twisted Parrot Pea.
32. *Dillwynia florabunda*.. Showy Parrot Pea.
33. *Dodonaea triquetra*.. Green or Black Hop.
34. *Dodonaea hirsuta*.. Hairy Hop.
35. *Dodonaea attenuata*.
36. *Drosera auriculata* .. Tall Sundew.
37. *Drosera peltata*... Pale Sundew.
38. *Elaeocarpus cyaneus*.. Blueberry Ash.

39. *Epacris microphylla*..Coral Heath.
- 40 *Calochilus robertsoni*..Bearded Orchid
41. *Diuris aurea*..Golden Doubletail or Donkey Orchid
- 42 *Diuris cucullata* ..Donkey Orchid.
43. *Galeola cassythoides*..Leafless Climbing Orchid.
44. *Gastrodia sesamoides*..Potatoe Orchid.
45. *Lyperanthus suavolens*..Snake Orchid or Scented Orchid.
46. *Microtis parviflora*..Leek or Onion Orchid.
47. *Pterostylis rufa*..Ruddy Greenhood.
48. *Thelymitra ixioides*..Spotted Sun Orchid.
49. *Dendrobium linguiforme*..Tongue Orchid (bestever flowering)
50. *Geranium pilosa*..Swamp pale pink.
51. *Goodenia hederacea*..Ivy Goodenia.
52. *Goodenia bellidifolia*..Common Goodenia.
53. *Hakea dactyloides*
54. *Hakea microcarpa*..Needle bush. (also broad leaf form ?)
55. *Hardenbergia monophylla* var. *ovata*.. 'Sarsaparilla'
56. *Helichrysum collinum*..(distinction brown bracts.
57. *Helichrysum diosmifolium* ..Sago or Rice flower.
58. *Helipterum albicans* Everlasting Daisy.
59. *Hibbertia stricta*..Common Rock Rose.
60. *Hibbertia linearis* var. *obtusifolia*.
61. *Hibbertia elata* (large flower, higher country)
- 62 *Hybanthus filiformis* (now *monopetalus*) Purple Slipper.
63. *Hypoxis glabella* (tiny single yellow star in grass)
64. *Isopogon petiolaris* (Spreading Cone Bush) *I. anemonifolius*, tall
65. *Jacksonia scoparia*..Dogwood.
- 66 *Kunzea capitata* (now *obovata*) Pink Kunzea.
67. *Leptospermum flavescens* Var *grandiflorum* (Large pink buds)
68. *Leptospermum attenuatum*.
69. *Leptospermum liversidgii* .Swamp Teatree only eastern side.
- 70 *Lomandra longifolia* .Spiny-headed Mat-Rush.
71. *Lomandra multiflora*..May flowered Mat-Rush.
72. *Lomandra* sp. (low, brown flowered, swampy ground.)
- 73 *Marianthus procumbens* (this = white like Virgin Mary)
74. *Melichris procumbens* (Honey Flower, only 1 flower, common.)
75. *Micromyrtus ciliata* .. Heather.
76. *Muhlenbeckia* sp. (wire-like plant , tiny cream flowers)
77. *Olax stricta*
78. *Oxylobium arborescens* (Tall Shaggy Pea.)
- 79 *Olearia microphyllia* .Star Flower (1 single flower !!)
80. *Patersonia sericea*. Wild Iris (almost all finished)
81. *Pelargonium australe*..Wild geranium.
- 82 *Persoonia tenuifolia* (small fine leaf, low growing Persoonia)

83. *Persoonia cornifolia* (Broad-leaved Geebung.)
84. *Pimelea collina* (Swamp Rice flower)
85. *Pimelea humilis* (low bush round near Water reservoir)
86. *Prostanthera microphylla*. (Small *Prostanthera*)
87. *Prostanthera phyllicifolia* (purple-black throated Mint Bush)
88. *Pultenaea foliolosa* (Soft hairy foliaged Egg and Bacon)
89. *Ranunculus lappaceus*.. Buttercup.
90. *Rulingia dasphylla*.. *rostrate* creeping *Rulingia*.
91. *Sphaerolobium viminalis* (leafless Globe Pea) wiry in swamp.
92. *Solanum prinosphyllum* (was *armatum*) Prickly Nightshade
93. *Stypandra caespitosa* Swamp *Stypandra* (Racecourse Swamp)
94. *Stylidium graminifolium* (Common Grass Triggerplant)
95. *Stylidium laricifolium* (Bushy Triggerplant)
96. *Stylidium debile* (Dwarf Swamp Triggerplant)
97. *Tricoryne elatior* (Yellow Rush Lily) Yellow star on angular stalks)
98. *Utricularia dichotoma* (purple Bladderwort or Fairy Aprons)
99. *Viola betonicaefolia* (Common violet)
100. *Viola hederacea* (Ivy leafed or Blue & white violet)
101. *Wahlenbergia* sp. (Bluebells)
102. *Xanthorrhoea* sp. Common Grasstree.
103. *Xanthosia diffusa*
104. *Calythrix tetragona* (Fringed. Myrtle)

There were a few other small ground species which we were unable to identify. The very tall *Gahnia pittacorum*, with its brown spikes and spiky leaves made its presence known. It is the foodplant of a very interesting butterfly *Tisiphone abeona* var. *regalis*. These were seen flying at the lunch site and in valley, and are very dark brown with creamy eyes. It is only known from above 450m at Dorrigo and Barrington Tops in N.S.W. and at Glen Aplin and at 900m in the National Park Mount

Norman and Bald Rock areas. The larva of another rare small Jewel Butterfly was found under a leaf of *Pomaderris lanigera* where it rests during day, moving to the top of the leaf at night to skeletonize the leaf. This has only been recorded from Glen Aplin near Dillon's Peak, so this extends its range to near West Bald Rock. I first recorded and bred it in 1943, and to an entomologist its like meeting a dear and old friend to see it in a new locality !! The larvae can sometimes be seen feeding late in the evening and early in the morning too. All other known life histories of the beautiful Jewel butterflies appear to have a direct relation with various species of ants, some living right in the nest. This species caused some extra interest, when found not to be so, & brought quite a few entomologists to this area... Jean Harslett

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