

WANTHORPE & DISTRICT FIELD NATURALIST CLUB NEWSLETTER NO.1 DEC.1969

There was a very good response from a wide section of the community to the inaugural meeting of the above club held at the Civic Centre on 26th Nov.1969. After discussion on what activities would interest the largest number of people a steering committee was elected; this comprises Tom Chapman president, Jean Harslett and Errol Walker vice-presidents, Robin McCosker sec/treasurer, John Heaton, Noel Newman, Joan Westcott and Irene Chapman. It was decided the special interests would include bush walking, climbing, bird-watching, fossicking and study of native plants. The Board of Adult Education is to be approached for support, and other naturalist clubs are to be contacted with a view to the exchanging of news and possibly combined outings.

The club had its first outing to Girraween National Park at Wyberba on Sunday 7th Dec.1969. About fifty people arrived with lunches, plastic bags, note-books, binoculars, reference books, magnifying glasses, papoose carriers and all the paraphernalia for a good day's outing. Tom Chapman welcomed everyone and Jean Harslett gave an interesting talk on the purpose of a naturalist club, illustrating some of her points by referring to the composition of specimens of wild flowers and pointing out how they adapt to dry conditions etc. The party then divided into various groups. One of the Pyramids and Castle Rock were climbed and the creek area was well and truly combed for birds and plants. An interesting variety of specimens was brought back for the experts to identify and talk about. After lunch many members went on to the Junction where swimming and general nature study were enjoyed for the remainder of the afternoon.

The bird list for the day was not very long but included the following:- Magpie, Crow, Willie-Wagtail, Grey-Fantail, Grey Thrush, Rufous Whistler, Double-barred and Zebra Finches, White-throated Warbler (heard) White eared Honeyeater, Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, Lewin Honeyeater, Blue Wren Red Wattle-bird, Crimson Rosella, Eastern Rosella and King Parrot.

An outing has been arranged for New Year's Day when it is hoped that members and friends will assemble at 12 Wallangarra Rd. at 10am, or meet for lunch at Rivertree at one o'clock. A brief call to Undercliff Falls will be made on the outward journey. After lunch a tour of the old mine workings should be of interest. Don't forget your swimming gear if the day is warm!

On Wed. Jan. 28th at 8pm in the C.W.A. rooms everyone is invited to a meeting at which Malcolm Wilson will speak and show slides about his recent trip across the Simpson Desert. Malcolm was a member of the team which crossed Australia from East to West. He is a member of the Toowoomba Field Naturalist Club and of the Bird Observers Club and has travelled all over Australia.

That's all for this time, hope to see you on New Year's Day with all your friends. The compliments of the Season to everyone.

Flo Tremear and Irene Chapman.