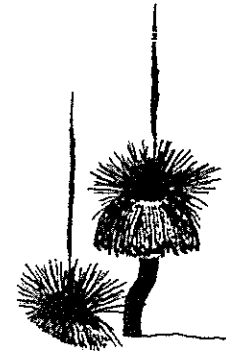


NORTH QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS' CLUB CAIRNS



NEWSLETTER

FOUNDER PRESIDENT:

*The late
Dr Hugo Flecker*

INTERNATIONAL

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OBJECTS:

*The furtherance of the
study of the various
branches of natural
history and the
preservation of our
heritage of indigenous
flora and fauna.*

FIELD DAYS:

*Sunday before second
Tuesday of each month.*

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Final Edition, November 2002

FAREWELL, NATS CLUB

The Club Christmas Breakup on 8 December will mark the passing, after 70 years, of the North Queensland Naturalists' Club. The club, established in 1932 in response to a call for locals to assist with the preservation of the Lake Barrine environment, has finally succumbed to dwindling membership, insurance premiums going in the opposite direction and the advancing years of those who have been its leaders over the past decade or so. A resolution passed at the AGM in September will wind up the Club's activities at the end of the year, with its assets being passed on to other groups with similar aims.

The final Tuesday night meeting on 12 November was a nostalgia evening, with members bringing along photos and slides of previous camps and outings. May the memories of all those who have been part of the Nats down the years be as vivid and enjoyable as those shared that night! Perhaps the letter from Marion Cassels (Club Secretary for 13 years) reprinted on page 7 is a suitable representation of what the club has meant to so many.

Fittingly the Club's final event, the Christmas Breakup, will be at Lake Barrine, with a cruise on the lake and a 70th birthday cake at lunch time. The fact that the lake is still protected by its National Park status, and that even more visitors, local and overseas can come to share and admire its features than in 1932 is perhaps the most appropriate tribute we can leave with.

WELCOME, MABEL'S MATES

At the risk of being labelled sexist (or even politically incorrect), Mabel is a real doll. Specifically, a knitted doll made and presented to the Club earlier this year by Jan Docherty. Mabel is kitted out with all the paraphernalia carried by the typical Club member – binoculars, bird book, stick, lunch pack (including cheese and tomato sandwiches) and flask and she comes with us on each outing, accompanied by Dawn, her guardian.

In the new year, Mabel's Mates will continue the activities previously carried out by the Nats Club, with the exception of the monthly meetings and Newsletter, and of course without the subscriptions. This informal group will start with a camp at Ravenshoe on the Australia Day weekend in January 2003, and follow the program outlined on page 3 through the remainder of the year. If you are, or would like to be, one of Mabel's Mates, we'd love to see you there.