

1

9

17

"THE NORTH QUEENSLAND NATURALIST."

**THE MONTHLY JOURNAL AND MAGAZINE OF THE NORTH QUEENSLAND
NATURALISTS CLUB.**

Vol. 1 No.3

December 1932.

Hon. Editor: V.Kennedy.

The author of each article or other contribution in the "NORTH QUEENSLAND NATURALIST" is wholly responsible for the opinions or conclusions set out therein.

C O N T E N T S .

North Queensland Naturalist Club
Current Subjects
The Library
Club excursions
The Club Officials
"Ferns"

Page.

2
3
4
5
6
9

"The North Queensland Naturalist" is for free distribution amongst members of the Club, and may be obtained from the Hon-Secretary (C/- Cairns Harbour Board) or the Hon-Secretary (C/- Cairns Harbour Board).

(2).

FERNS OF NORTH QUEENSLAND.

The lecture adjournment at the November meeting was occupied by Mr. M.J. Manski of Cairns, his subject being "The ferns of North Queensland."

Beginning with the various uses to which ferns could be put to, he explained how ferns were classified and identified, giving Class, Order, Tribes, Genera, Species and varieties.

Ferns belong to Class Acotyledon, order Filices and he stated that belonging to class Acotyledons they possessed no true leaves and order Filices, no real flowers. After explaining how the frond is made up, the lecturer placed the genera into their respective tribes, and by means of pressed fronds he explained the species and varieties of each genus obtained about the ranges of Trinity Bay and gave the meanings of the names in each instance.

The lecture though long was very interesting and the lecturer concluded by stating that the Lantana is fast making inroads to our fern gullies and it will only be a matter of a few years when no ferns would be obtained in the Trinity Bay ranges, and suggested that licenses be issued to Bona fide collectors who would cultivate the species now in danger of extinction.

(3)

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CURRENT SUBJECTS.

The Club has taken up with the City Council the question of establishment of a "Museum" for Cairns. In a city of the importance of Cairns and the centre of the winter tourist traffic in Australia, and with such scope with the Barrier Reef so adjacent and the numerous varieties of Timbers and Minerals on its Tablelands, as well as other specimens of local tropical interest etc., there is every reason why a Museum should be established and it should be capable of being one of the best in the State.

A conference between the Club and City Council has been set down for 14th. instant.

TOURIST GUIDES.

This also is a matter that the Club has taken up with the City Council, as the need of guides in connection with trips to the Great Barrier Reef, in particular, as well as elsewhere, is at present a long felt want.

BEAUTIFICATION OF NORMAN PARK.

This is also another matter which the Club are moving in and it is to be hoped that in the near future the City Council will be able to do something towards beautifying this Park, which is in the centre of the City, and which at present does not present a very attractive appearance, but it is hoped that before long this Park will be laid out and planted in a manner that will be an ornament to the City.

(4)

T H E L I B R A R Y .

It is the hope of the North Queensland Naturalists Club to establish a library of scientific works for the use of its members. Naturally no great progress can be made if reliance is placed solely upon the subscription fees of Members, and consequently the Executive would greatly appreciate donations of books, papers, etc., for this purpose. Meanwhile, in addition to acknowledgments in last month's issue of this Journal, the Hon. Librarian wishes to acknowledge receipt of "Flora of N.S.W." by Moore, from Dr. Flecker, President of Club; also a very handsome gift of 6 Vols. of "Flora of Queensland" by Bailey, from the Department of Agriculture and Stock; also "Timbers of Queensland" by Swain, the gift of the Forestry Department.

For the information of Members, the Launch Morinda, will leave for Cooktown on Saturday 24th. December at 7 a.m. and returns about 6 p.m. on Tuesday 27th December.

Return Fare 30/-.

(5)

CLUB EXCURSIONS.

The third excursion conducted by Club took place on November 20th, as described below. It was considered appropriate to follow up the lecture given last meeting by Mr. Manski on "Ferns", by an excursion to Collins Gully, Edge Hill, where ferns may be seen growing very profusely, and notwithstanding the ravages that the Lantana pest is causing, the party were keenly interested in the trip.

On the way an opportunity was taken to inspect the massive proportions of a six year old growth of Bougainvillea completely hiding from view a shed which it covered as well as burdening half the height of a hoop pine 40 feet high, and it can easily be imagined what a poor chance the bush would have of surviving if such growth were permitted in its midst. An extraordinary contrast of the barren western hills of the small range which has been almost completely devastated by the lantana curse can easily be compared even by the most casual observer to the rich tropical vegetation of the gullies further east. It is indeed sad to think that in only a very few years these same luxuriant gullies will be doomed to the same fate, as the lantana is rapidly advancing. The bush fires, marked with extraordinary indifference by the local population, are no doubt in a large part responsible for this terrible state of affairs.

Yet in these gullies at the driest season of the year is a wealth of interesting vegetation and fauna, especially insect life, the beautiful butterflies, being to the nature lover an unending source of delight. The truly majestic king fern (*Murattia fraxinia*) is growing here in all its magnificence, and it seems very extraordinary that the powers

(6).

that be have completely neglected to cultivate this fern, with fronds 15 feet long, and one of the finest in existence, in the public parks and gardens. It is to be hoped that this state of affairs will not last long.

OFFICE

SECRETERS.

President: Dr. H. Flecker; Vice-Presidents: Capt. W.P. Fish and Miss Hooper; Secretary: J. Wyer; Executive Committee with Miss M. Hall and Mr. M.J. Manski; Treasurer: R.J. Gorton; Librarian and Editor: Victor Kennedy.

The edecutive committee meets on the first Monday in each month and the General Meeting of members is held on the following (the second) Monday, at 8 p.m.

(2)

"NORTH QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS CLUB"

Rooms at Anzac Club Esplanade, Cairns.

Business Paper for Monthly Meeting at 8 p.m. December 12th, 1932.

Minutes, Correspondence and Reports also Nominations and Election of new Members.

Forthcoming Excursions: Members are always requested to bring suggestions for new excursions.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

Remarks by exhibitors: It is desired that Members having interesting specimens to exhibit at the meeting should make a few remarks on them and furnish the Hon. Secretary (Mr. J. Wyer) with written particulars concerning their inclusion in the Club's minutes or other books of references.

INTERVAL TEN MINUTES.

Subject for the evening: Lecture by Mr. J. Harold Smith, B.Sc., Entomologist, on "The character of Rain Forests"

NATURE NOTESCONVERSAZIONE ."

The Notice of meeting published on this page in each issue of the "NORTH QUEENSLAND NATURALIST" is the only notice of meeting which will be issued to members.