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FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB OF VICTORIA.

THE ordinary monthly meeting of the Club was held at the Royal Society's Hall on Monday evening, 14th September, 1908.

The president, Mr. G. A. Kearnland, occupied the chair, and about 80 members and visitors were present.

REPORTS.

A report of the Club excursion to South Morang on Saturday, 22nd August, was given by the leaders, Messrs. G. A. Kearnland and A. D. Hardy, F.L.S. The former said that a fair variety of small birds, such as shrike-tits, cuckoos, tree-creepers, and honey-eaters, had been observed in the timber along the banks of the Plenty River, but the squally weather of the afternoon had been against good work being done. Mr. A. D. Hardy said that beyond seeing some good specimens of the Silver Wattle, *Acacia dealbata*, in full bloom, which was mainly the object of the excursion, little of botanical interest was noted during the afternoon. Owing to recent rains the stream was too high to be crossed, and attention could therefore only be given to one bank. Later in the season the locality would prove more interesting, owing to the variety of shrubs which would then be in bloom. Advantage was taken of the presence of young fruits on the Native Cherry, *Exocarpos cupressiformis*, to demonstrate their mode of growth, and to point out that the part popularly regarded as the fruit is really the fleshy fruit-stalk. He mentioned that a short demonstration on the geological features had been given by Dr. T. S. Hall, M.A. The party, which numbered about twenty-two, returned to Armstrong's Hotel for tea, and spent a pleasant hour or so before the train left for town.

A report of the Club excursion to Sandringham on Saturday, 12th September, was given by Mr. C. A. Topp, M.A., who said he was very pleased to be able to join in the Club excursions once more. Since he last collected over the Sandringham country the spread of building operations had greatly curtailed the collecting ground, and he was much indebted to Mr. C. French, jun., for guidance as to the direction for the excursion. Some forty species of plants were noted in bloom during the afternoon. Under the tea-tree the orchids *Pterostylis nutans*, *P. nana*, *P. pedunculata*, and *P. concinna* were fairly common, though the ground seemed unusually dry. In an opening in the scrub a number of the little Adder's-tongue Fern, *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, were pointed out. On turning inland, near the Blackrock estate, the more showy orchids *Caladenia deformis* and *C. carnea* were noted. Here also the acacias *A. longifolia*,

A. suaveolens, and *A. oxycedrus* were prominent features, together with *Bossiaea cinerea* and *Daviesia ulicina*. Taken altogether, the outing was much enjoyed by the members present, who numbered about twenty-five.

It was reported that the junior excursion to Sandringham on Saturday, 5th September, under the leadership of Miss Jean White, M.Sc., had to be abandoned on account of inclement weather.

ELECTIONS.

On a ballot being taken, Miss Z. Fenton, 81 Merton-street, Albert Park, Miss M. Lazarus, M'Kean-street, North Fitzroy, Miss H. Maddren, Retreat-road, Hampton, Mrs. C. J. Sarovitch, Beach-street, Port Melbourne, and Mr. C. Waters, Continuation School, Melbourne, were elected as members; Miss E. Showers, Showers-street, Preston, as an associate; and Master N. Crossley, High-street, Northcote, as a junior member of the Club.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

WILSON'S PROMONTORY NATIONAL PARK.—In the absence of Prof. A. J. Ewart, D.Sc., Mr. J. A. Kershaw, F.E.S., reported that Prof. Baldwin Spencer, M.A., C.M.G., had been elected chairman of the Board of Management of the Wilson's Promontory National Park, and that, as the result of representations to the Minister of Lands, it had been decided to add to the Park almost the whole of the half-mile strip along the coast line which had not been included in the original reservation, the excepted portions being the lighthouse reserve and small areas at Refuge Cove, Waterloo Bay, Oberon Bay, and Mt. Singapore, which, though under the control of the Board, would be set aside as landing-places for fishermen and others. A sum of money had been granted for the expenses of management, and it was intended to erect a stock-proof fence across the isthmus as soon as possible. It was resolved, on the motion of Messrs. Sayce and Gatliff—"That the thanks of this Club be accorded to the Hon. the Minister of Lands for his efforts in securing the permanent reservation of the half-mile strip at Wilson's Promontory, and for his action in generally forwarding the movement."

Mr. G. Coghill said that he understood the Government Botanist proposed to make a botanical survey of the Park at Christmas time, and suggested that the proposed excursion to Baw Baw be postponed, with the view of helping Prof. Ewart.

The matter was left for future consideration.

PAPER READ.

By Dr. T. S. Hall, M.A., entitled "Australian Animals and their Origin."

The author's remarks took the form of a lecture, illustrated by lantern views, in which he dealt very fully with the various aspects of the subject. He first of all pointed out that it was remarkable



Topp, C. A., Kearland, George Arthur, and Hardy, A D. 1908. "Reports: (report of the Club excursion to South Morang on Saturday, 22nd August, ... G. A. Kearland and A. D. Hardy) (report of the Club excursion to Sandringham on Saturday, 12th September, ... C. A. Topp)." *The Victorian Naturalist* 25, 89–90.

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