

**EXCURSION REPORT:** Camp Mountain - 23 February

Twenty-one members and friends gathered at Dr Marks' property for this mid-week excursion. Sixteen set off on the walk about 9.30 a.m. on this warm summer day, while the remainder enjoyed a relaxing morning with their host.

Dr Marks' property covers an area of 125 acres, bounded on the NW side by Samford Creek and by Upper Camp Mountain Road on the SE. About one-third has been cleared for grazing and fire control, with the remainder in a more or less natural state subject to grazing by cattle *and* horses. Most of the area is open eucalypt forest dominated by forest red gum, ironbark, Moreton Bay ash and bloodwood, but there are smaller areas of paperbark and banksia, as well as remnant vine forest along the creek.

Most of the party concentrated on the vegetation along the creek, while the bird watchers quietly went their own way.

Thirty-three species of birds were recorded, the most notable being the Speckled Warbler, *Sericornis sagittatus* and Pacific Baza, *Aviceda subcristata*. Nine species of butterfly were seen, as well as a hare, a lace monitor and a water dragon. Though the creek was very low, there were deep waterholes which appeared full of life. In the first waterhole, four large catfish swam in a leisurely fashion. Further upstream, the pools were covered in weed which rippled to the movement of fish beneath and hoppers above.

An incomplete list of the plant species identified, mainly from the vine forest along Samford Creek, numbered 110 naturally occurring species, three planted Australian species and about a dozen weedy exotics. There were a number of native orchids, seven native ferns, a naturally occurring staghorn and a rare vine, identified by the Herbarium as *Ripogonum discolor*.

Time was insufficient for a study of the paperbark and open forest areas, or to identify all the eucalypt and acacia species. By 1 p.m., most of the party had returned to base for lunch, very hot and thirsty.

Over the past 37 years, six ladies have occupied the office of Secretary of the Queensland Naturalists' Club. Five of them were present at this excursion. For those who can remember back to 1956, they were Margaret Pearson, Betty McKenzie, Clarice Clarke, Ailsa Gillies and Norma Thornthwaite - a memorable excursion indeed.

- Clarice Clarke

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