

174

The

North Queensland Naturalist

The Journal and Magazine of the North Queensland Naturalists' Club.

Vol. XIV 14

CAIRNS, 1st SEPTEMBER, 1946.

No. 80

NORTH QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS' CLUB

Meets at School of Arts, Shields Street, Cairns.
usually on second Tuesday in alternate months, at 8 p.m.

Annual General Meeting, Tuesday, 10th September, 1946.

Annual Report, Balance Sheet, Election of Officers.

MEETINGS AND EXCURSIONS

June 15-17: Excursion to Chillagoe and Mungana. Description on p. 7.

9th July: General Meeting. Lecture by E. W. Priest. Reclamation of Desert as exemplified at Broken Hill and Mildura.

New Members elected: Mr. and Mrs. Giraud; 147 Esplanade, Cairns; Mr. Holdcroft, care Chandler's Ltd., Cairns; Mrs. May, Esplanade, Cairns.

28th July: Lower Stoney Creek, via Kamerunga Crossing. Attendance, 20.

31st August: Pine Creek.

29th September: Mossman Gorge.

27th October: Fitzroy Island.

24th November: Fishery Falls.

27th December: Behana Creeks.

Will those wishing to take part in excursions please communicate with President or Hon. Secretary of the Club.

A Ceremonial Ground of the Wakamen Tribe

By S. E. STEPHENS

Whilst prospecting in the vicinity of Gurrumba some ten years ago Messrs. G. B. Stephens and A. Willoughby encountered a bora ring in good preservation on the summit of Iron Mountain. The existence of the ring was reported to the writer late in 1945 and arrangements were made to visit the area and record it. The visit was made during Easter of 1946.

Iron Mountain is the highest mountain in the area, rising to 2907 feet, and being some 700 feet above the level of the surrounding valleys. The mountain is conical on three sides but on the northern side a spur runs from the summit to a minor peak some five or six hundred yards distant and about one hundred feet lower. The tops of both the major and minor peaks are very limited in area and the connecting ridge is a rocky razor back only sufficiently wide on the top for a single track.

The examination of the mountain top disclosed that during the war period a trigonometrical survey disc had

been erected in the centre of the bora ring, and that most of the stones of which the ring had been formed had been displaced and used to anchor the disc supports. The spirit of destructiveness that seemed to pervade the military forces has almost completely obliterated what must have been a very well preserved ring.

Piecing together the meagre traces still remaining it appears that the ground was enclosed by a double ring of stones, the diameter of the outer ring being 34 feet and of the inner ring 26 feet. A narrow opening into the centre of the ground was left through the rings on the northern side so that it could be entered by way of the razor backed spur above mentioned. The centre of the ground was occupied by a low raised platform of broken stones, circular in outline, and measuring 13 feet 6 inches in diameter. From a point on the inner stone ring immediately to the left when entering through the gap, two lines of stones diverged to form a