

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB

P.O. BOX 154,
STANTHORPE, Q., 4380.

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MEETINGS - 4th WEDNESDAY of each MONTH at the C.W.A. ROOMS at 8P.M.

OUTINGS - Each SUNDAY PRECEDING the FOURTH WEDNESDAY.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

SINGLE - \$3.00

FAMILY \$4.00

AIMS OF THE CLUB

1. TO STUDY ALL BRANCHES OF NATURAL HISTORY.
2. PRESERVATION OF THE FLORA AND FAUNA OF QUEENSLAND.
3. ENCOURAGEMENT OF A SPIRIT OF PROTECTION TOWARDS NATIVE BIRDS, ANIMALS AND PLANTS.
4. TO ASSIST WHERE POSSIBLE IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.
5. TO PUBLISH A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER.

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MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING - WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 22nd 1978.

Present - 13

Apologies - 6

Welcome The President extended a welcome to all present with a special welcome to Miss Helen Todd, Principal of the Enviromental school at Cement Mills, and the guest speaker Mr. Mark Hockings.

Minutes It was moved by Mrs Harslett and seconded by Mr.F. Wilkinson that the minutes as per the November magazine be taken as read. Carried.

Correspondence

Inward Correspondence - 2 Press statements from National parks and Wildlife and information leaflets on "The Magpie", "Walking at Lamington", "The Platypus" and "Kinaba". Warwick Walker vol.6 No. 3 ; Urimbirra Act Vol. 12 No. 10. Outward was forwarded to - Queensland Naturalist Club re October combined camp 4QS.

It was moved by Mrs. Archer and seconded by Mrs. McAllister that the Inward be adopted and the Outward endorsed. Carried

Finance Mrs. Archer moved that the credit of \$120.65 be received & the following accounts be passed for payment:

C.W.A. Rent \$4.00; Magazine Postage \$5.76; Dup

Nov. Magazine \$3.00. Seconded by Mr. Lightfoot. Carried

Outing Report Mrs. J Stevenson reported on the monthly outing to South Bald Rock to which 18 members attended. The actual climb together with the scramble and "squeeze" through the underground section, provided a challenging & enjoyable day for all those who attended. Our thanks go to Mr Goebel who was the outing leader.

Next Outing Christmas Break Up - A bar-b-que is to be held on December Sunday 10th at the home of Mr. Mrs Colin Hockings. Cooking facilities will be provided. Members slides of Wallaroo Station will be shown in the evening.

Place Dillon Hill

Leader Mrs. Marsden

Date Sunday February 25th 1979.

Meeting Place Members are asked to meet at 12 noon at Weeroona Park. Bring a picnic lunch.

Next Meeting

Date Wednesday February 28th 1979.

Guest Speaker Jean Harslett

Topic A slide programme encompassing a recent holiday to Western Australia

General Business It was moved by Mrs. D Archer & seconded by Mrs. Wilkinson that the next magazine be published in February 1979.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30 pm. The guest speaker, Mr. Mark Hockings presented an informative and interesting programme on "Small Mammals"

Janet Hockings Honorary Secretary

Feb. 1979

Mr. Bill Goebel gave us this poem written by one of Queen-
-slands well known poets, Brunton Stephens. It was written
while Brunton Stephens was resident in Stanthorpe between
1874-75. It was a prolific period in his life and he later
stated, "one of the happiest periods of his life."
Thank you, Bill for sending it along.

QUART POT CREEK. by Brunton Stephens.

On an evening ramble lately, as I wandered on sedately
Linking curious fancies, modern, mediaeval, and antique,-
Suddenly the sun descended, and a radiance ruby splendid,
With a gleam of water blended, thrilled my sensitive physique-
Fired my eye and flushed my cheek.

Heeding not where I was going, I had wandered, all unknowing
Where a river gently flowing caught the radiant streak;
And this new-found stream beguiling my sedateness into smiling
Set me classically styling it with Latin names and Greek-
Names Idalian and Castalian, such as lovers of the Greek
Roll like quids within their cheek.

On its merge was many a burrow, many a mound and many a furrow
Where the fossickers of fortune play at Nature's hide-and-see;
And instead of bridges to span it, there are stepping-stones of
granite.
And wherever the river ran it seemed of hidden wealth to speak
Presently my soul grew stronger, and I, too, was fain to speak:-
I assumed a pose plastique.

"Stream," said I, "I'll celebrate thee!
Rhymes and rhythms galore await thee!
In a weekly 'Poet's Corner' I'll a niche for thee bespeak:
But, to aid my lucubration, thou must let thine appellation,
Tell thy Naiad-designation, ~~thou must~~ let for the journal of
next week
Give thy sweet Pactolian title to my poem of next week
Whisper, whisper it...in Greek!"

But the river gave no token, and the name remained unspoken,
Though I kept apostrophising till my voice became a shriek;-
When there hove in sight the figure of a homeward veering
digger,
Looming big and looming bigger, and ejecting clouds of reek-
In fuliginous advance emitting clouds of noisome reek
from the tube below his beak.

"Neighbour mine", said I, "and miner, here I showed a silver
shiner-

"For a moment, and for sixpence, take thy pipe from out thy
cheek.

This the guerdon of thy fame is; very cheap indeed the same is
Tell me only what the name is ('tis the stream whereof I speak."
Name the Naiad-name Pactolian! Digger, I adjure thee speak!"
Quoth the digger, "Quart Pot Creek."

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O Pol! Edepol! Mecastor! O most luckless poetaster!
 I went home a triple faster in a twitter of a pique;
 For we cannot help agreeing that no living rhyming being
 Ever yet was cursed with seeing, in his poem for the week
 Brook or river made immortal in his poem for the week,
 With such a name as "Quart Pot Creek!"

But the river, never mending, still is winding, still is winding
 By the gardens where the Mongol tends the cabbage and the leek
 And the ruby's radiance nightly touches it with farewell :

lightly
 But the name sticks to it tightly, and this sensitive physique
 The already-mentioned (vide-supra) sensitive physique,
 Shudders still at "Quart Pot Creek!"

This poem has several interesting points of description of mining activities of the day, of Chinese gardeners and of the dislike by some for the name of Quart Pot. Poets, politicians, and church dignitaries and some locals shared this dislike for the name, while others were heated in their desire to retain it. However the powers that be, and the civic fathers opted for the more dignified title of "Stanthorpe". One publican was so confused that he gave his address as:- Stanthorpe, otherwise Stannum, otherwise Quart Pot. Another indignant writer said, "It has for years been known as Quart Pot, it has since been changed to Stannum (by someone who wished to show their proficiency in Latin, and now the Government are going to call it Stanthorpe. Surely the unassuming name of Quart Pot is as applicable to a tin country town."
 Ed.

Christmas Party & Bar-b-que.

The annual Christmas Party and BBQ was held at the home of our President Colin and Janet Hockings. It was a happy gathering with time to chat. - I hear some arrived at 2pm (and didn't have any to chat to bad luck!) Most gathered about 5pm and it soon grew to a representative group - including quite a few visiting people who took part in outings during the year. The BBQ was held in the garden but threatening clouds dictated that the pictures be projected inside. Everyone managed to get into the lounge and find a place to perch. Slides of the recent trip by the Stanthorpe Camera Club to Fearnside's property "Wallaroo" between Injune and the Carnarvon Ranges were projected followed by some taken last year by Colin & Janet Hockings in the Wilsons Promontory area. The gathering was a pleasant ending to the years activities and thanks to Colin and Janet for hosting the occasion.

The Christmas party completed 1978 on a good note and may 1979 be a happy year for the members and their families and may they find inspiration in the pursuance of their outdoor activities and sectors of special appeal, and in so doing contribute in some small way to the preservation and knowledge of our wealth of natural history and unique landscape.

BINOCULARS.

A few notes on binoculars and why people select different types for different situations may be of interest and constructive when you are making a selection. Most people would like to have a pair if they have not already got a pair. It is good news that usually speaking the most suited types for the average bird-watcher is in the cheaper range.

Therefore members may be interested in an explanation of the figures etc. which appear on the side of them. This is just an explanation in the very simplest of terms. Also a few thoughts of how to get the best out of them may help.

Perhaps the first thought should be the selection of a smaller and fairly compact pair, light in weight. (After you have used them regularly for a while you'll be 'hooked' and wish to carry them all the time) Thus if they are going to become part of your attire you had better make them comfortable and light, because they do feel heavier at the top of the mountain than the bottom!!

There are a bewildering number of brands and forms to select from if and when you arrive at making a choice. Just as in cameras they are designed to do all sorts of things and this one decision you have to make. If you want to see an insect half way up Mt. Everest, the expression on the jockey's face at the races or use them for bird watching and very general purposes, then you have to decide on your purpose first. For this exercise we will think in terms of in fact the simpler ones the cheaper ones and the most useful to the members of a naturalist club. However remember that it only a guide and perhaps an understanding of those bewildering figures.

The words "wide Field" beware, read the figures. Any field under degrees is no good for bird watching.

In width of field.

6 degrees	=	105 metres	at	1,000 metres
7 "	=	22 "	"	1,000 "
8 "	=	140 "	"	1,000 "
9 "	=	157 "	"	1,000 "
10 "	=	175 "	"	1,000 "

Zoom binoculars are usually not much good for bird watching. Never buy more than 40X for bird watching, they cannot be handled and keep sufficient steadiness.

If the figure reads eg. 8 x 40 the "8" means that an object 80 metres away should appear as 10 metres away.

For light acceptance using 8 x 40 again you divide the objective diameter "40" by the magnification "8" and you get 5 (or in 8 x 30 you get 3.75.)

The larger the result the better the light as seen through. Birds in leafy situations can be in poor light, however you have to balance this and the above figures and usually the ideal turns out to be around x 8.

Various little tests you can make from the shop doorway are:- 1. Look at a vertical line at left and see how far right, with different binoculars.

SELECTION OF BINOCULARS CONT.

2. Test at 20 metres for good sharp lines.
3. Check colour accuracy (Quite important if describing small birds and noting details of smaller feathers).
4. Check for any rainbow effects around the image.
5. Check lettering at 50 metres away and look for good sharp edges.

Ofcourse before you start one should adjust the eye pieces to suit you individually, and surprisingly many people do not know how to fully do this.

1. Adjust width of eye pieces to suit you personally.
2. Keep the right eye shut and adjust the centre piece and note the scale adjustment figure. The reason being that, that is your personal adjustment and thereafter if others use the glasses you can very quickly re-adjust them by that figure setting.
3. Adjust the right eye piece with the ring eye piece (The placement of the figure scales may vary in position of where they are written on different makes) but the information remains universally the same

FEBRUARY OUTING. The Feb. outing Dillions "ountain under the leadership of Mrs. Marsden. Our party frequently finds its self on tops of mountains with "Trigonometrical Discs." and there is always some question as to their functions. so I asked my surveyor nephew how they are used. As they addressed always, in olden days, "Mr. Surveyor" John Paskin said, Trigonometrical Discs are erected on various high points, directly over the surveyors "mark". The discs themselves are only seeing targets, but they are erected or sited vertically and plumb over the survey 'mark', from which a surveyor can work. The modern discs are mounted on screw out poles, and the surveyor is priveleged to screw it out and put his instruments in its place and take readings, and replace it. Usually there are 'offset' markers (this is the case where the disc is mounted in a cairn of rocks (which was the usual way in earlier times. These "off-set markers" may be in many forms, sometimes 303 metal shell ends are cemented in as markers, or metal pins cemented into rocks nearby. It would be interesting to see if we can find these markers.

During the last 3 or 4 years Australia, N.S.W. and Qld have been doing a lot of work in this area, of updating and renewing some of these discs. This is part of an all over plan of detailed mapping of Australia (at the moment Australian mapping is sub-standard by world standards. With ground and aerial surveys working hand-in-hand very accurate mapping can be done. The "Trig" discs are also used as basis by local surveyors for bearings and checking boundaries, etc.

FEBRUARY PROGRAMME. Will deal with West Australia and will depict some of its harsh yet beautiful gorge scenery, wild flowers in the Aug-Sept period, plants which are remarkably designed for very specialized conditions, and some of the Western fauna. It covers a 7 week trip by Bob and Jean from the south-west corner to the Kimberleys in the far N.W.