

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE

STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB

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

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1979-1980

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	FRANK WILKINSON

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

OUTINGS - Each SUNDAY PRECEDING the FOURTH WEDNESDAY of the Month.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

SINGLE - \$4.00

FAMILY - \$6.00

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 GENERAL MEETING, WEDNESDAY, MAY 28th, 1980.

Present 17 . Apologies 6.

The President extended a warm welcome to all members and visitors and a special welcome to our Guest Speakers for the evening Mr. & Mrs. Wally Mackenzie.

Apologies - listed in Attendance Book. Moved by Mr. T. Archer and seconded by Mrs. McDonald that the apologies be accepted. Carried.

Minutes of General Meeting held Wednesday, April 23rd, 1980 - "taken as read" in the Newsletter. Moved by Mrs. Marsden and seconded by Mrs. Hockings that the minutes "taken as read" in the newsletter be confirmed. Carried.

Inward Correspondence:

1. Letter from the Stanthorpe Rover Scouts advising of the necessity to increase their duplicating charges for the Newsletter.

Newsletters from - 1. Richmond Valley Naturalists Club. 2. National Parks Association. 3. Queensland Naturalists.

Press Statements - from the Minister for National Parks.

Outward Correspondence -

Letter to Radio Station 4QS for advertising our May outing and meeting.

Moved by Mr. Pfrunder and seconded by Mr. Archer that the Inward Correspondence be received and the outward adopted. Carried.

Business Arising from Correspondence -

Moved by Mrs. Archer and seconded by Mrs. McCosker that we pay the Stanthorpe Rover Scouts their minimum charge of \$5.00 for duplicating the Magazine. Carried.

Treasurer's Report

Balance b/f April 23rd, 1980		135.33
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Income for Month

Donation for year for room rent	\$2.00	
Room rent collection	4.00	6.00
		141.33

Expenditures for Month

Room rent	5.00	
Magazine Postage - April	5.26	
March Magazine printing	3.00	
Hire of projector for April meeting	5.00	18.26

Balance - May 28th, 1980		\$123.07
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<u>Accounts for Payment</u> Stanthorpe C.W.A. - room rent	\$5.00
Janet Hockings - May Magazine Postage -	\$5.64
Lees Newsagency - Ream quarto duplicating paper	\$6.35
Rover Scouts - Duplicating April Magazine	\$5.00
- Duplicating May Magazine	\$5.00

Moved by Mrs. Archer and seconded by Mrs. McCosker that the Treasurer's Report be adopted and the accounts be passed for payment. Carried.

Minutes continued -Outing Reports

Campout- 3rd, 4th and 5th May - Bunya Mts. The President reported that 8 attended the Campout from Stanthorpe and despite a wet start to the weekend members participated in several walks in the area and it was agreed the weekend was interesting and enjoyable.

May Outing - Texas Area - Sunday May 25th - Fourteen members and friends participated in this outing under the Leadership of Mr. Laurie Jeffrey of Texas. The rendezvous point at Romani Station provided access to a hill top with attractive views including the country back towards the Granite Belt. Another feature of interest on this outing was the 100 year old 12 wire Shire Boundary Fence. The main objective was the junction of Sandy Creek and the Dumaresque River with its attractive surroundings, water holes and bird life. Platypus are reported to still frequent this area. Possibly the bird creating the most interest was the Golden Whistler.

(Our sincere thanks to Laurie for arranging such an enjoyable outing and we look forward to more in the future and urge more members to take advantage of these.)

NEXT OUTING - June Monthly Outing

Date - Sunday, June 22nd, 1980

Leader - Graham Greenup

Venue - Wylie Creek

Departure Time - $\frac{1}{2}$ day outing.

1 p.m. from Starting point on Wylie Creek Rd.

SEE WRITE UP AND MAP FOR FURTHER DETAILS.NEXT MEETING - Wednesday, 25th June, 1980. C.W.A. Rooms 8 p.m.

Aftermeeting Programme - Guest Speaker - World Traveller - Douglas Stevenson

Subject- Illustrated talk on some of his travels.

As Douglas has travelled widely around the world this should be extremely interesting if the write-ups we have had in last months magazine and the one to follow in this edition are a sample of what we can expect.

General Business

The President on behalf of the executive and members of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club extended best wishes and good luck to David Pfrunder and Judith Sweet on their wedding on 14th June.

Meeting closed - 8.40 p.m.

After Meeting Programme: Guest speakers - Mr. & Mrs. Wally McKenzie presented a slide programme on a section of a Round Australia trip which highlighted the wonderful wildflower areas of Western Australia and showed some unique and fascinating blooms.

(We are very grateful to Mr. & Mrs. McKenzie for coming so far to share their beautiful slides of their trip. They certainly captured on film a wonderful collection of unusual wild flowers and we are all anxious to set off for that area to see it for ourselves. Again many thanks to you both.)

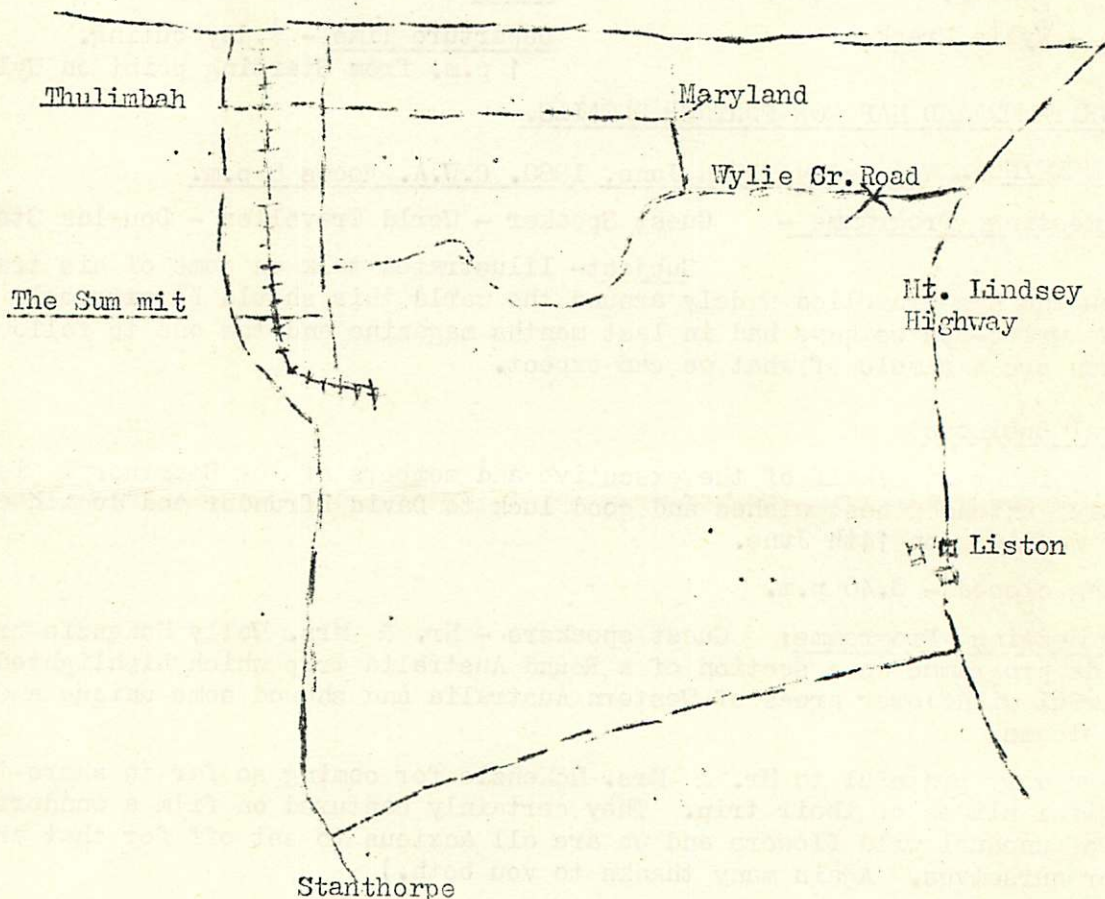
PRE-OUTING REPORT - Wylie Creek - June 22nd, 1980.

Starting Point - on Wylie Creek Road, concrete bridge over Maryland River.

Time - 1 p.m. - This is a good picnic spot so members wishing to take advantage of this should allow sufficient time to enable us to start walking at 1 p.m. The Gorge is about 1.6 km upstream from the bridge. Half an hour's walk - bit rugged in places.

How to get there - at the meeting spot - There are two routes that can be taken from Stanthorpe, via Liston or via Maryland. Both are about the same distance (30 km) but the former is quicker.

1. Via Liston - Proceed through Amosfield Border Gate following the road signs to Liston. Continue through Liston 12 km along the Mt. Lindsey Highway to sharp turn off on left, Wylie Creek Road, sign post "Maryland" 16 km.". The bridge is 2 km along this road.
2. Via Maryland - through The Summit or Thulimbah Border Gates; then through a high gate on to the Wylie Creek Road. Over several grids, through one tick gate to bridge. 14 km from Maryland.



I'm sure you are looking forward to hear the rest of Douglas Stevensons "Trek through the Himilayas, April 1980. Continued from last month.

DOUGLAS STEVENSON'S TREK THROUGH THE HIMILAYAS .. APRIL 1980).

Continuing:- " On the 5th. day I saw Annapurna 2, - 26,041 ft. and lots of other peaks... Camped one night under a rocky ledge and with a small fire was quite warm, despite a light frost. At every turn of the river fresh peaks come into view - awe inspiring is the word. They look so savage with their knife edges and glaciers. All are over 22,000 ft. Have passed at least three groups of people and now there is a lot of Tibetan influence. Much homespun clothing etc. Timber for the houses is hand-sawn or adzed. Lots of small water-wheels, but they are horizontal and a few sheep, cattle and goats, but little meat. Wheat is fermented into a reasonably strong drink. To-day a party came down from Tharong Pass with their porters snow blind, because of no glasses.

Am over the pass and stayed the night in an abandoned stone house $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours out of Manang. There was a herd of yaks grazing there and looked after by nomadic people. Thought I would have the hut to myself, but before evening had six people come. After an $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of snow during the night I had an early start and had beautiful views of purple alpenglow on the Annapurna range behind. The Pass was at 17,880 ft. Views of higher snow fields and scree slopes. But paces very (as in very) slow and lots of pauses. Had a little cloud cover but the glare of the snow was intense. Porters had to return, some, because of snow blindness. Fortunately charcoal blackening round the eyes and my sunglasses were enough. From the top it was several hours down to Mucktanath.

I am now a couple of days down this trail on the way out. The scenery is totally different. The high regions are desolate and the river has cut a wide valley, often 1 km. wide. Many more tourists on this side as it is one of the main treks to Nepal. Consequently I stay in lodges with menus. Gaily decorated packhorses instead of porters are used. Overall mountain views are not so impressive. Villages are more prosperous and the season more advanced. I am a bit burnt from the pass and the dry, thin air, has played havoc with my nose. Rushed along to Tatopani where there are hot springs and fantastic food. The hot springs was water coming out of bamboo pipes. Hot water !. My first since Kathmandu, and judging by the expressions, most other people thought it good too. Met an Aussie I had travelled in India with and we did the last section together. One ridge (12,000ft.) was covered in a rhododendrum forest - in season - beautiful with reds, pinks and occasional whites. Haze is spoiling the view. Rested a day at Pokhara, the second largest town in Nepal, and at the end of the inland road. The town would be half the size of Stanthorpe, but the King's summer palace is there on the lake. You can sit in one of the outside restaurants, in the tourist section, by the lake, and during the meal most of the local cow population, will thread its way through the tables.

The trail for the last couple of days was hot and dusty from

DOUGLAS STEVENSON'S TREK THROUGH THE HIMALAYAS.. APRIL 1980.CONTINUED:-

the mule trains so the first thing was a bath in the lake. The water temp. was fine, but to one side we had local women washing clothes and getting water and on the other, water buffaloes, soaking themselves. Pokhara has water or electricity, but not both at the same time. Took the bus back to Kathmandu which was a long, bumpy, hot and dusty ride, but had really good views of the snow covered ranges and some good peaks.

I am not doing the Everest Trek as it would take three weeks, unless I flew in. There are many monastries up there, but I think I have done enough for now. This trek was about 180 miles.

Thank you for a fascinating report, made even more topical by the failure of the Ausventure trek to Annapurna.2 and 3. which ended in tragedy when three young Australian men were killed, when Camp 1 was avalanched, where the party of seven were camped. It was a 10 day trip to Annapurna 3, to the base, passing the dry hill country of Manang, (which Douglas made mention of in his article.) J.H.

TEXAS OUTING

Sunday, May 25th dawned as one of those perfect Autumn days of which Stanthorpe and Texas people are justly proud. Just one of those days that brings everybody out to enjoy the outdoors. However, though people went out, not all went to the NATS. Outing and our numbers were down. A jolly group met at the nominated rendezvous, just on the Stanthorpe side of the Inglewood shire boundary along the GlenLyon Texas road.

Laurie Jeffrey, our leader, his wife Joy and several others from Texas, joined our party. It was good to see Douglas Stevenson back in the family circle after several years tripping around the world and we found some of his experiences very interesting.

We drove a short distance and then climbed an attractive knoll on "Romani Station", which provided a good panorama, and Laurie pointed out land marks, and we all became familiar with the layout of the countryside. The deep lilting call of the striped Honeyeater attracted attention, and subsequently several were observed feeding amongst the seed pods of the Kurrajongs. Also freely calling, were, Mistletoe Birds and soon we had good opportunities to view this little gem of irridiscent deep blue and scarlet. A yellow Robin popped up and then a Whistler which proved to be a female Golden Whistler. Later in the day two male Golden Whistlers were seen. A very handsome chap in sharply contrasting black, white and a rich golden yellow garb. A marked rustling sound proved to be a group of starlings, really rustling through Kurrajong seed pods. From this knoll a good view of Silverspur was gained and Laurie told us some of its history of mining days. Cox's Sugarloaf was also noted and we heard that a name carved into a Kurrajong tree on top of it, also bears a date of the 1890's. A cup of tea was enjoyed here on the Romani Knoll.

We then drove towards Texas and paused enroute to look at a dingo fence of 12 wires in height, which was constructed, also in the 1890's and carefully laced at regular intervals. It is known that the contractors of this type of fence, stood the fence posts by day, and bored holes in the posts by night - to maintain the contract - One ponders on what their reaction would be to a 35 hour week!!!

TEXAS OUTING REPORT CONTINUES.

We then proceeded to Texas and called at the Museum to see the progress at "Eucalyptus Park" --- Laurie explained its growth and told us about the species and progress. We were interested in the methods for protecting the frost tender species. The Jeffrey's have taken a sincere interest in this project and have worked very hard at it. It promises to be a very attractive project. We were also told of the finding of aboriginal bones in the sands. We then had a brief look at Laurie & Joy's own garden which is always such an oasis and saw some very interesting native species.

The party then proceeded to the river and some beautiful reaches on the river, on what was originally "Texas Station". Willows blended charmingly with magnificent specimens of "River Red Gums" (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), along the banks of the reaches of water and a variety of birds including water fowl, provided a lot of interest. After lunch we walked along the banks including a lagoon, and later drove to several other large water holes to watch bird life. Groups of Red Rumped Parrots drank elegantly from the edge of the lagoon and provided us with a splendid view, as well as a most aesthetically beautiful display.

The party then returned to Texas and we departed for home some via Glenlyon road and others along the old "Red Gate" Warroo road. The Stanthorpe Nats enjoy this opportunity to see Laurie and Joy who used to be Stanthorpe residents and we thank them for providing such an interesting and varied day.

JEAN HARSLETT.

SIPPING OFF

A long, hard tramp on a perfect day,

What could be better fun?

The miles fly past when the heart is gay

And the world laughs in the sun.

DAVID HOPE.

DON'T FORGET THE NEXT OUTING ON JUNE 22nd -- A HALF DAY OUTING -- SO COME ONE
COME ALL.

JULY MEETING IS OUR ANNUAL MEETING WE WILL BE HAVING A SHOWING OF THE SLIDES
TAKEN AT PAST OUTINGS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR SO LOOK THEM OUT -- MORE ABOUT
THIS AT OUR JUNE MEETING.