

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE

STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB

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

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1980 - 1981

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BUSHWALKING OFFICER	Ray Marsden
<u>COMMITTEE</u>	Frank Wilkinson Lyle Thompson David Pfrunder Tom Archer Desley McDonagh Jean Harslett

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.

MINUTES. A resume of the minutes of the meeting is reproduced, the reason for which is not recorded, but there is really nothing radical to report. We will recommend that our raconteur of records, Graham, will read and reliably report them at the meeting and you may ratify or refute them. Regret the reversal of ritual and resorting to rubbish... Regards... "Radish"

PRESENT:- 22

APOLOGIES:- 4

GENERAL BUSINESS:- Mr. John Walters of Pittsworth was a visitor for the evening, and he kindly spoke briefly on his work with the Bird Atlas project for 1876-1981, and the map which will be reproduced, showing the known distribution of every bird in Australia. Mr Walters is a Sub Regional Organizer, and is an enthusiastic worker for the scheme. The relating and tabulating of all the data which comes in from various people doing Bird Atlas work is a very big job.

Mr. Walters also gave a short account of the recent trip by Bird Observers to the Diamantina River area. Their headquarters were on "Devenport Downs" a 5,000 square mile property running 5,000 head of cattle (which gives an interesting and neat square mile figure). Reputed reports of the sightings of Night Parrots, encouraged the trip. However these were not seen, a good view-ing of Yellow Chats was a highlight as was the sighting of Flock Pigeons in the Mount Isa area. This report was just a bonus for the members and a programme of films from the Education Department followed. The films featured "Spiders", "Camouflage" and "Coastal Sandhills"

NEXT OUTING:-

DATE:- Sunday 21st. September 1980.

Location:- Mount Norman

LEADER:- Robin Mc.Cosker.

Departure Time:- From Weeroona Park at 8.30pm.

It is planned to travel the full round trip entering the Park at the northern end of the Service Club's road, and return via Wallangarra. Robin would like us to travel together, his reason being that on the pre-outing he did last weekend he found the road rather rough in two short sections. He felt he would like to be sure all the party got over the route without ee hold-ups, or delays, and being together we help each other.

MEETING PROGRAMME:-

Member Mr. Denis Marsden is going to give a programme which will be illustrated by slides on his trip to Central and Northern Queensland areas. WED. 24th SEPT. C.W.A. Rooms 8pm.

RABBITS.

STANTHORPE 9.4.1909. A rabbit was seen and killed quite close to the town, at the back of the Cemetery, others have been seen in the southern end of the district.

THE RABBIT QUESTION. 20.6.1913. A second item just four years later is rather remarkable. "Rabbits are becoming a very serious pest and are very numerous. Mr. P. Walsh (Shire Chairman) has called a PUBLIC MEETING AT THE SHIRE HALL on SAT. 21.6.1913, to consider what should be done, with the Rabbit Question & The Carnarvon Rabbit Board.

The following article has been provided by our member Mrs. Ailsa Wilkinson, who is most sincere in her endeavours to make people, realise the dangers Queenslanders face in their open-air activities. She has given a great deal of her personal time trying to make every one understand the dangers. We as a club, who get so much of our enjoyment outside, are very vulnerable and we thank you Ailsa for caring for us so much. Perhaps we could best show our appreciation by heading and acting upon your suggestions.

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a TAKE COVER by AILSA WILKINSON..

Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world, and Queensland is the state with the highest rate.

Unprotected exposure to the sun causes cancer, wrinkles, leather-y skin, premature ageing and can trigger off moles, causing them to become cancerous. Queensland has the highest rate of malignant melanomas in the world.

Children are at greatest risk with their delicate skins, especially if they are blue eyed blondes or redheads. It is essential they are protected from the harmful ultra violet rays of the sun. These attack the tender microscopic elastic fibres in the upper skin layers. Once they are damaged they never recover. The damage is accumulative and permanent. This damage may not be visible for many years. It is like a delayed time bomb. The more sun you have the worse it will be. Rough patches, scaly patches, flaky patches and dark patches become visible. These Keratoses are not harmful in themselves, but if left untended some may proceed to form a cancer. A cancer is a cancer wherever it happens. Early diagnosis is essential, and with early treatment skin cancers may be cured. This early diagnosis applies to any suspicious mark on the skin, especially the alteration of a mole, in appearance. If in doubt see a doctor.

Dermatologists, gerontologists, cosmeticians and beauticians are unanimous that overexposure to the sun is dangerous and damaging. Psychologists think this worship of the sun started as a snob thing. It originated because the idle rich could afford to go places in the sun, such as the Riviera, the Lido, the Seychelles or the Greek Islands.

But a tan should be an outdated status symbol, especially in Australia and it is hoped the former status of an untanned, undamaged, beautiful skin may be the fashion once again.

The legacy of too much sun is devastating, not only does it promote serious skin diseases, sometimes fatal, but it can transform a tanned beauty of twenty into an old crone at forty.

It is high time we learned a few more hard facts and took heed of them. Skin cancer is not confined to old people, children as young as 13 years are receiving treatment. We should realise that here, in Australia, a boy of 10 years old shows the same degeneration of his skin as does a 60 year old English farmer. A girl of 14 years of age will already have the wrinkles of a middle aged English woman. One in three of Queenslanders have skin cancer. A child who has his scalp sunburned may have impaired health and strength of hair for the rest of his life.

SEPTEMBER 1980.

THE PIKEDALE OUTING AND COPPER MINE for AUGUST.REPORT BY LEADER Mr. DON LIGHTFOOT.

Thirty-three members, including some children came along for the of varied interests. As leader it is very pleasing to have such a party to make a pleasant outing. After leaving Weeroona Park at 9.30am. and our first stop was where the granite and the "trap-rock" country separates with the granite going east and the trap rock to the west

At this point the site of the old hotel was pointed out, the remains of which is used now for a wool shed. The Hotel was run by Mrs. Malone in the late 1800's and was also a stop over for the teamsters of the day. The area was originally known as "The Pike-dale Ten Mile, as was the hotel and in later years the place was formally named "Mallow" and the hotel still in the hands of the Malones became known as The Mallow Hotel or equally as often as 'Malone's Hotel'

Then the party continued on to the gully crossing near the copper mines, where the cars were left, and an interesting walk was taken over the Pikedale Mine. This mine was discovered in 1895 and commenced production in 1896 the yield being about 750 tons of ore raised, which in turn yielded 22,500 ozs. of silver, 500 ozs of gold and 34.5 tons of copper. The last work was about 1907. With some findings of rocks, showing various shades of colours, we drifted on to the site of the old Pikedale provision-al School. This school with the Mallow school was a $\frac{1}{2}$ day or $\frac{1}{2}$ week school, which means they shared the same teacher turn about. Only the one teacher for the two schools.

From here we walked down the road on yet another "pub crawl" to see the site of the old Pikedale Boarding House, where once stood a fine building, complete with meat house and other out-buildings. The Mail Coaches would pass this way, with maybe a passenger or two, and stop for a cup of tea and a change of horses. Up the road a little was a set of gates that had to be opened to let the traffic through. These were in the care of, and opened by Mr. Fred Holzworth, and the Boarding House was run by Mrs. J. Holzworth. This was around the 1908 period.

A short drive over to the old pump hole, where a lunch break was taken rather quickly as deer stalking was next on the programme. We crossed the creek with far too much noise, climbed a small hill, and roamed through the bush, with quite a few birds whistling and singing. Also noticed a number of possum claw marks on some trees, and a couple of spots where deer had rested, not long before we came along. During the day there was also a goanna seen. This poor chap appeared to be in severe trouble and distress, having partly swallowed something thrice the size of his throat.

It was pleasing to hear some members saw a few deer, for those that didn't there will be another time. On returning back to the cars, we saw with disgust a deer's head and antlers, pushed under a log. It would appear to have been shot, and the rest taken for meat probably 2 or 3 months ago, by deterioration. The day wound up about 4.30pm. and we set off for home. Yours in Nats, Don Lightfoot

TAKE COVER Cont:-

Thus noone is immune from the burning heat of our suns rays. The suns rays bounce off any large expanse or reflecting surface, such as, waterways, sandy beaches, walls, large open spaces such as paddocks and masses of clouds, even on a dull and overcast day. (Many of us have been 'trapped' by a cloudy day and really suffered later. We are exposed to radiation, from the moment we are outside, and from the time we are a baby to old age.

We must therefore re-think our ideas of tanning, and begin to use our commonsense in protecting ourselves especially as the summer months come on. Especially we have a duty to protect our children from the burning rays of the sun. So much damage can be done before the little ones can understand the need for protection, or the reason for it.

I appeal to Governments, councils, doctors, parents and teachers and to all who have charge of children, to be ever vigilant so that they may grow up with the beautiful, undamaged skin which is their inherited and inherent right. Please provide shade whenever possible.

ADVICE:- Keep out of the sun as much as possible.

Never Sunbake.

Be especially careful between the hours of 10am. and 3pm. Set an example by wearing a shady hat and sensible clothing when out of doors.

Use sunscreen cream.

Put zinc cream on nose, lips cheeks and ears, when needed.

Remember in Winter as well as in Summer, these rays are still dangerous.

I appeal to the members of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalists Club to wear a shady hat, to set an example and to encourage others to do the same and may slogan be not only "KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL"... but "KEEP AUSTRALIANS BEAUTIFUL "

Ailsa Wilkinson.

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THE EXTRA HALF DAY OUTING. To area in vicinity of Caves Road and the Caves Winery.. A small number of members attended this outing, no report to hand as this goes to print.

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MEMORIES OF A SMALL PROVISIONAL SCHOOL 1911 STYLE.

For those who attended the Pikedale outing, this news item popped up, by chance, and I feel is rather topical and special for those of us who stood by what remained of the little gate way, and dreamt of the past. It comes from a Border Post dated 16th. June 1911.

"Another cosy little dance was brought off on 10.6.1911 at the Pikedale School Room. At the invitation of Mrs. Johnson, Miss Fox and Miss Hardwicke. The catering was extra special, cakes of all kinds, hot rolls, with a round of hot tea or coffee. Indeed at any time of the night something hot and appetising could be procured. Mr. Lee of "Terrica" was "M.C." The floor was excellent for dancing. Mr. Thompson thanked the ladies. The night was warmer than expected, no frost being visible at day break when all returned to their homes.

(It would seem that we returned at a very respectable hour...J.H.)

THE GARDEN

Thus, more is known from the burning heat of our own days. The sun rays become all my face, as if I were a flower, such as, waterways, sandy beaches, walls, and green spaces, even on a hill and a mountain, and masses of clouds, even on a hill and a mountain, and many of us have been changed by a change that has really altered. We are exposed to radiation, from the moment we are born, and from the time we are a baby to old age. We must therefore re-think our ideas of health, and begin to use common sense in protecting ourselves especially as the summer months come on. Especially we have a duty to protect our children from the burning rays of the sun. So much damage can be done before the little ones can understand the need for protection, by the reason for it.

I appeal to Government, community, doctors, parents and teachers and to all who have charge of children, to be ever vigilant so that they may grow up with the beautiful, unadorned skin which is their natural and inherent right. Please provide shade whenever possible. Keep out of the sun as much as possible.

Never tanned. He especially careful between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Set an example by wearing a shady hat and possibly sunglasses when out of doors. Use sun-screen cream. Put this cream on nose, lips, cheeks and ears, when needed. Remember in winter as well as in summer, these rays are still dangerous.

I appeal to the members of the Starbuck Field Hospital to join to wear a shady hat, to set an example and to encourage others to do the same and may always be not only "KEEP AWAY FROM THE SUN" but "KEEP AWAY FROM THE SUN".

THE EXETER FAIR DAY OUTING. To see in witness of Gavea Road and the Gavea River, a small number of members attended this outing, no report to hand as this goes to print. MEMORIES OF A SMALL TROUPE OF SCHOOLBOYS. For those who attended the Fiske's outing, this was a very happy chance, and I feel it rather special and special for the time. The story of what remained of the little case was, and dated at the past. It comes from a letter that dated 1911. "Another very little dance was brought off on 10.10.1911 at the Fiske's School room. At the invitation of Mr. Johnson, Miss Fiske and Miss Handcock. The catering was extra special, cooked at all kinds of hot rolls, with a round of hot tea or coffee. Indeed at any time of the night something hot and appetizing could be procured. Mr. Johnson 'termed' was M.C. The floor was excellent for dancing, the first part of the night was worse than expected, the first part of the night was better when all returned to their homes. It would seem that we returned at a very respectable hour."