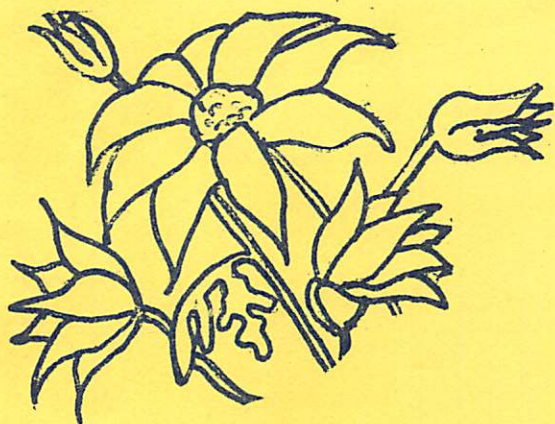


14 JUN 1981



THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST



Monthly Newsletter of the
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club



Registered for posting as a periodical - Category "B".

PRICE 10c

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

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

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1980 - 1981

PRESIDENT	Robin McCosker
VICE PRESIDENTS	Colin Hockings John O'Donnell
SECRETARY	Graham Greenup
TREASURER	Dot Archer
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Jean Harslett
NEWSLETTER SUB-COMMITTEE	Janet Hockings Ian Jackson
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LIBRARIAN	Millie Marsden
FLORA OFFICER	Dore McCosker
FAUNA OFFICER	Brian McDonagh
GEOLOGY OFFICER	Maurice Passmore
YOUTH OFFICER	Ruth Greenup
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.

THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB.MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING?WEDNESDAY 22nd.MAY 1981..

MOTION:- The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed,taken as read, and moved by Mr,Don Lightfoot and seconded by Mr.John O'Donnell..
Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:-

- INWARD:-1.Letter from Mr.Roy Buchanan advising us of his inability to lead us on an outing to Westray's Grave, due to his suffering from 'Q'Fever.Mr. Buchanan is of Lamington.
2.Letter from Mr.Errol Guilfoyle Warden of Beaudesert National Fitness Camp,with information about the track to Westray's Grave and about the camping conditions and facilities.
3. Eight press statements from the Minister of Tourism and National Parks Sport and the Arts.
4. "Down Under,newsletter of the University of Queensland Spleological Society.
5, 'Contact' Vol.10 No.1.,newsletter of the Conservation and Bush Resque Associations.
6. Information from the Department of Continuing Education Studies,University of New England N.S.W about "Ecofest "and programmes of Enviromental Studies.

- OUTWARD:-1. To Mr Errol Guilfoyle, concerning the postponed June Outing to Westray's Grave.
2. To Radio 4QS. requesting broadcast of the outing and the meeting times etc.

MOTION:-Moved by Mr.Martin Davies and seconded by Mr. Ben Colin Hockings that the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed.
Carried.

Business Arising From the Correspondence:-

The meeting discussed the the letters concerning the proposed outing to Westray's Grave on June 20th.-21 Evidently the track is fairly marked and a guide is not necessary. However, it was decided that the Winter solstice would not be the best time to make the walk of several hours duration either way,and in heavy rainforest. Thus it is intended to make the trip later in the year, when there will be more daylight.

FINANCIAL REPORT:- The financial report was presented by Mrs.Dot Archer.

MOTION:- Moved by Mrs.Dot Archer and seconded by Mrs. Ailsa Wilkinson that the treasurers report be adopted,and the accounts passed for payment.
Carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT Cont.

22nd April 1981 Bank Balance.....	\$177.37.	\$177.37
Receipts 22.4.1981. Room rent Collection	\$5.00	
	\$182.37.	\$182.37
<u>Payments:-</u>		
April 22nd. Magazine wrappers	\$32.89	
April Magazine Postage:-.....	\$5.30	
April Room rent.....	\$6.00	
April Magazine Duplication.....	\$1.00	
Graham Greenup Petty Cash.....	10.00 (\$10.00)	
	\$64.19	\$64.19
Balance per (Bank Balance) May 27th. 1981.....		\$118.18

Accounts to be paid:-

Lees Newsagency Stencils	\$14.50
May Magazine Postage	\$ 5.31.
May Room Rent.....	\$6.00

GENERAL BUSINESS:-

As from the 1st. July 1981 an annual fee of \$20.00 will be charged by the Australian Post for Category 'B' registration. Since the the saving on postage of the Granite Belt Naturalist as a Category 'B' periodical would exceed the \$20 fee, it was moved by Mrs Archer and seconded by Mrs Jean Harslett that it be paid.

Carried.

OUTING REPORT:-Girraween Through Walk, Sunday May 24th.

A brief report, nine members and eleven visitors (or vice versa) participated in the Girraween Through Walk led by Errol Walker. They braved an extremely miserable day of wind and drizzle.

NEXT OUTING.

Mr. John O'Donnell will lead us on an outing to "Rokeby" down the old Dalveen Road to Warwick. on June 22nd. 1981. Meeting time is at 9am. at Weerona Park, or alternately 9.30. outside the gate of John's property, "Mountain Park" just north of Dalveen on the old Dalveen to Warwick Road along the railway. Geological Formations are to be observed including two distinctly different fossil beds, marine and fresh water fossils. Also some rainforest is promised.

NEXT MEETING:- C.W.A. ROOMS Wednesday 25th. June at 8pm.

SPEAKER:- MR. Geoff Marsden of Stanthorpe.

SUBJECT:- "SERVICE NEW Guinea Style" An illustrated talk on a recent Rotoact Service Project up There.

Meeting closed 8.50pm, followed by an after meeting programme. Mr. John O'Donnell entertained us with an illustrated talk, titled "Adrift in the Arid Zone". John has travelled extensively in western Qld and N.S.W. and it was interesting to hear his views of the damage of man & his grazing enterprises are having on the environment.

JUNE 1981.

OUTING REPORT. EUKEY TO GIRRAWEEEN THROUGH WALK (or WANDERING
WET IN THE WILDERNESS.) by ERROL WALKER.

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The through walk turned out to be the non-event of the NATS. OUTING'S year. Twenty-one brave or silly souls stood at or rather in the wind and rain beside the Eukey Hall trying to convince themselves that the weather-man might be right and conditions might improve as the day dragged on.

Everything was organized, six empty cars were waiting at Girraween, and we were to walk through approximately five miles of some of the best scenery in the Park to arrive at the waiting "pick-up" cars.

The decision was made to go, but it turned out to be the wrong one, because by the time we had reached the heights of the hills we were in rain, wind and fog.

The beaut. view from Petzler's Hill, turned out to be a scramble through a muddy cave, only to be swept by mist-laden wind on the summit.

The pattern was set for the rest of the trip and five hours later, after going astray in the mist, briefly on one occasion, we were in the warm cars heading home.

There was plenty of evidence of the fire, which went through that area of the Park earlier in the year, but there was plenty of evidence too, where new wild flower plants and ferns were re-establishing themselves everywhere. The burnt scrub let us view some of the remarkable rock formations, which otherwise would have been hidden. There was a lot of time for such a study because there was no visibility beyond the immediate vicinity.

I hope the potential of the area was realised and we may one-day attempt the walk under more favourable weather conditions.

I would like to thank everyone for their co-operation in helping me organise the walk and for their helping me the walk and those who willingly acted as taxis for the returning walkers.

Errol Walker (misleader)

As one of the "wet shags" of the above walk, though perhaps we felt some discomfort with cold and wet conditions-missed some of the dramatic fine day scenery, and collected a few bruises from slips and slides, all that was far outbalanced by the other worthwhile memories and experiences.

The joy of understanding more fully the moods of mountains, and the elements which more substantially shape them and their tangled growth, than the fair weather moods. The joy of returning to your home with hot baths and cosy fires, combined thoughts which have stimulated writers and poets to some of their most inspired writings.

In a close-knit party (kept close together by necessity

EUKEY-Girraween WALK THROUGH NOTES Cont.

of safty) the warmth of fellowship is of higher order, and in our hearts we congratulate Errol as leader, in making the difficult decision, to lead off his small band whatever the conditions might be. He displayed his usual care of detail in organization, and every care was taken on the day to ensure that no unnecessary dangers arose.

The 'under fiver' of the party Kerry Langdon, with her merry little eyes, peeping out of her track sut-water proof covered being, was indicative of the spirit of adventure the 'oldies' felt, too. She had no words of complaint as she danced along.

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ADRIFT IN THE ARID ZONE. MAY PROGRAMME.

As the title suggests, there was something new for us to think about. I think we have come to know that when John O'Donnell presents us with a programme, that it will have thoughts and ideas which will be both worthwhile and stimulating. This particular programme was no exception, and

John was dealing with a field for which he was trained at the University and also had put into practice in his work and thoughts while based with the D.P.I. at Charlieville. He was associated with others with a number of trials, in which many types of pastures were tested for hopeful re-establishment, of some of the areas which had become barron after over stocking by hard footed animals.

Some of John's pictures told very vivid stories, and I feel sure we all went home with some food for thought.

Our club is fortunate to have within its ranks some people who can provide us with good programmes on a variety of themes. It is also lucky to have amongst its ranks people like Frank and Ailsa Wilkinson who always pay a charming compliment to these "local club member speakers" by inviting "The Guest Speaker" up to their home for a cup of tea and their special bradd of hospitality. In recent times Desley Mc. Donagh, John and I have all been paid this tribute and have all felt gratitude for your thought. Thank you both for this kind gesture.

John O'Donnell with picture and story covered a very wide area of the arid zone of Queensland and northern N.S.W. and many contrasts. On the high note he showed the best Leopard wood we had ever seen, some fine Flinders and Mitchell grassland on the other end of the scale large bare areas or a coverage of the grass which in his book was "The Last Cab on the Rank". Spear Grass. He was able to tell us that 170 species of grass from tropical and arid areas in other parts of the world have been given a test run amongst these trials. Thank you John for an interesting story.

Jean Harslett.

STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB BULLETIN.

No.126.

P222 143  
444 04

JUNE 1984.

FORTH COMING PROGRAMMES

JULY will be the annual meeting. Please give some thought to good slides you may have of the years activities, and make the programme a good one. Here is a brief reminder for you in case you have forgotten what you did.

June:-Half day,Maryland River..Leader Graham Greenup.

July:-Bald Rock Ck.National Park..Janet &Colin Hockings.

Aug.Pikedale Copper Mines &Deer.. Don Lightfoot.

Sept:-Mount Norman.. Robin Mc.Cosker.

Oct. Mt. Colliery area..Ray and Millie Marsden.

Nov. Cunningham's Gap area..Colin & Janet Hockings

Dec. Christmas Party at Robin & Trish's Home.

Jan.. no outing.

Feb.Dr.Dark's Property was to be led by F.&A Wilkinson.

Mar. Texas Visit with Hist.Soc. arranged by Dore McCosker.

April:-Horan's Gorge by Millie & Ray Marsden.

May@- Eukey-Girraween Through Walk by Errol Walker.

June Hopefully'Rokeby'area fossil hunting.

Now there is no excuse for not remembering what pictures you took.

The July Outing is planned to be at the western end of rather newly acquired National Park area of Sundown. The trip will commence from the area where old friend of Girraween Nat.Park Peter Hazelgrove is in residence establishing a link down there.

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WHAT TO DO FOR A SNAKE BITE (BALLANDEAN 1906 STYLE)

The editor is running out of material,so perhaps this little note from my historical gleanings is appropriate.

It happened just 75 years ago when Ballandean was real "Marlborough Country". It concerns a gentleman by the

name of William Carmack,who all alone was tin mining

down the Severn River.He was rolling some loose rocks

to enable him to work some surface tin,and make a few

'bob'.Quite inadvertently he unearthed the home of a

black snake,which showed its annoyance by biting his

2nd.right finger. Being alone the chap exhibited great

coolness and presence of mind.He twisted his boot lace

as tight as he could below the bite. Having no knife he

dove a nail into the two bite marks and sucked the wounds.

He then walked half a mile to his brother-in-laws house,

Mr.Mungall) resucked the wounds until all traces of discol-

-ouration had disappeared, bathed it in kerosene as hot

as he could stand. If my listeners are still conscious!!

and with me,you will be pleased to hear he then applied

painkiller externally, and three teaspoonfuls internally,

(they do not say what the wonder drug was). After an hour

or so he was only suffering from fright and a drowsy

feeling.

Yours in Nats Jean.