

July 1981

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
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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 CLUBMINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24th, 1981.

PRESENT - 16, Apologies 4.

President Rob welcomed those present, in particular our guest speaker Geoff Marsden and his wife Gloria.

MOTION:- The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read. Moved by Lyle Thompson and seconded by Jean Harslett. Carried.CORRESPONDENCE:-

- INWARDS:-
1. 'The Darling Downs Naturalist', Vol. 4, No.1 June 81
 2. N.P.A. News (June and July editions (National Parks Assoc.)
 3. Five press statements from the Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and the Arts.
 4. Queensland Naturalists Club News (June, July/81)
 5. Newsletter (May) of the Richmond Valley Naturalist Club
 6. Letter from the Australian Conservation Foundation concerning "Rescue the Rainforests", a campaign the foundation is organizing.
 7. Letter from the Society for Growing Australian Plants concerning the show on the weekend of the 12th & 13th of September.

OUTWARD:- 1. Letter to Radio 4QS requesting broadcast of outing and meeting times.MOTION:- Moved by Tom Archer, seconded by Lyle Thompson that the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed. Carried.FINANCIAL REPORT

May 27, 1981

RECEIPTS

May 27,	Room Rent collection	2.50	118.18
June	Bank Interest	<u>6.38</u>	
			<u>8.88</u>
			<u>127.06</u>

PAYMENTS

May 27	Stencils	14.50	
	Mag. Postage	5.31	
	Room Rent	6.00	
	Mag. Postage Registration	<u>20.00</u>	
			<u>45.81</u>

June, 24, 1981 Bank Balance \$ 81.25Accounts for Payment

C.W.A. - Room Rent \$6.00; Mag. Postage for June \$5.74;
 Rover Scouts Magazine Printing Jan., Feb., Mar., April, May -\$25.00

MOTION Moved by Mrs. Dot Archer and seconded by Mrs. Millie Marsden that the Treasurer's report be adopted and the accounts passed for payment. Carried.

Business Arising From the Correspondence:- It was decided that the club will endeavour to support the S.G.A.P. Flower Show by sending flowers. A letter to this effect will be written.

GENERAL BUSINESS

MOTION:- Mrs. Millie Marsden moved that time be allowed after General Business for discussion of interesting objects. Seconded by Mrs. Dot Archer. Carried.

- This motion should encourage members to bring along objects collected on outings or elsewhere for others to view. Also, allocating a specific time should ensure that such objects are not placed aside to be examined by only a few.

OUTING REPORT

John O'Donnell reported on the June outing to Rokeby. Two different fossil beds were examined after which participants viewed the rain forest.

NEXT OUTING

July 19th, 1981 - This outing is to be at the Western end of the Sundown National Park area. Since a drive to Glen Lyon Dam is involved - an early start (8.30 a.m.) from Weeroona Park is necessary.

NEXT MEETING

July 22nd, 1981 - 8 p.m., C.W.A. Rooms.

This is our Annual Meeting, so members are urged to make a special effort to attend.

Slides taken by members at outings will be shown following the meeting so please bring yours along.

ALSO, please bring along a plate for supper.

AFTER MEETING PROGRAM - we were entertained by Geoff Marsden in an illustrated talk entitled "International Service - New Guinea Style". Rotoract of Stanthorpe Members Gloria and Geoff visited New Guinea in March, 1979 as members of a team involved in erecting a new building at a school. It was most interesting and some excellent slides were shown.

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DON'T FORGET

Next Outing - July 19th with an early start.

Next Meeting - July 22nd - ANNUAL MEETING

after meeting programme includes "Remember Last Year" slides evening to end with a cuppa - so bring a plate of eats.

JUNE PROGRAMME REPORT

For the June programme we had an interesting account by Geoff Marsden of their trip to T.P.N.G. in which three Rotaract Club of Stanthorpe members took part, namely Geoff Marsden, Gloria Marsden and Debbie Rashleigh. A very well told story was related, accompanied by pictures brimming with human interest.

The exercise was under F.A.I.M. which is the 'Fourth Avenue in Motion' in Rotary. It has taken many people to interesting places in the world. In the earlier days of Rotary it was difficult to implement International Schemes, and also be sure they were amongst the most beneficial, and in the best fields to work amongst, and F.A.I.M. has filled that need.

The Rotary Club of Stanthorpe has a proud record in International Service, and its members have been for years 100% financial members of F.A.I.M., to assist it financially. In International service Stanthorpe has supplied ploughs and spectacles to India, supplied 460 students in a village in Vietnam with 3 note books, 3 pencils, eraser, ruler and coloured pencils to each one of them. A boar and three sows provided for the isolated village of Sarakiwa in N.G., to assist in the breeding programme, was given headline news under "Pigs can fly - Project a Squealing Success!" In another village a well was dug, motor pump and piping supplied. Indian Schools have been helped and Doug Croston, Bob and Jean Harslett assisted in the building of a teachers training college at Tari, one of the remotest areas in the territory. They were "Cabinet Makers", "Builder" and "Cook" respectively. Dr. Buchanan has recently given three months service in the medical sphere for refugees and now Geoff, Gloria and Debbie. Memories flooded back when Geoff said he was "builder" and the girls "cooks" and everything else that "turned up". What can "turn up" couldn't be realised unless you were "there"!"

Each and everyone of these people, though they work hard under difficult conditions, all come back with stories that inspire and thrill others, and Geoff and team were no exception. Not only do one's views change dramatically "in the field", but there is also a wonderful personal joy of achievement and I think this came through loud and clear as Geoff's story unfolded to our club members.

Most team members pay their own way, entirely, though younger people are helped with fares by the Rotary Club of Stanthorpe. On location a minimum of tinned food is supplied, with little variety - most supplied by the Missions. It is supplemented by locally grown foods, very different from those you usually eat and with the added interest of bartering for it in the open markets "cheek by jowl" with the locals. This was well described by Geoff, as was the simple life with seemingly no cares for time or organization. Hair raising rides in "dugouts" or along unbelievably poor bush tracks, achievement done seemingly by smiles and good luck rather than management.

It was interesting to hear that teaching staff was mostly made up of "volunteers abroad" - Stanthorpe has also provided some very successful people to this Scheme of World Understanding. Peter Kerridge and his sister Penelope Kerridge of Glen Aplin, both gave outstanding service in this field. Also to see a picture of that beautiful monument at Madang to the memory of "The Coast Watchers" to whom the late Fred Archer was such an inspiration in the Territory.

JUNE PROGRAMME REPORT CONCLUDES --

Thank you team for your contribution to World Understanding, a good programme and hopefully making us grateful for our "easy street" life.

Jean Harslett.

OUTING REPORT TO "ROKEBY"

by John O'Donnell, Leader.

Members met at Weeroona Park, drove to Dalveen and then on to the Old Warwick Road for a few kilometres where they met the leader. Observant members would have noticed the geological changes along the way. From Cottonvale to Dalveen, one passes through an area of durassic sandstone. Then on the Old Warwick Road, Permian rocks outcrop -- these are locally called 'traprock'. They contain some volcanic rocks which break down to give a fairly fertile clay soil -- which is hell to drive on after rain -- and explains the presence of the short strip of bitumen road here. At "Mountain Park" turnoff the country changes again -- back to the familiar Stanthorpe granite.

The Permian aged sedimentary outcrop near "Rokeby" homestead gave us a little glimpse of life as it was 250 million years ago. One youngster was hoping to see dinosaur footprints -- but was disappointed to learn that these sediments were so old that dinosaurs hadn't even been invented. The sediments settled originally in sea water. One shudders to think of the tantrums thrown by the young Mother Nature on reflecting that the ocean is now 150 kilometres away. It's also hard to imagine that during the Permian, Australia was part of the southern supercontinent of Gondwanaland, at its southeastern corner, about 1000 kilometres south of its present position, and turned so that the present east coast faced the Antarctic Ocean. No wonder we had trouble with Ice Ages!

To get back to "Rokeby" -- the geologists explanation of what happened here starts 300 million years ago when land to the West (Texas High) was pushed up from beneath the sea. This land then started to erode, and the material (gravel, sand or mud) was carried down to the sea and settled to the bottom. Simple plants grew around the fresh water swamps inland, some of their shed leaves fell into the water and were gradually covered with mud. In the estuaries shellfish similar to today's mussels eked out an existence. The weight of sediments above, plus lots of time compressed and hardened the lower sediments. Sea level fell and rose during this period as each Ice Age came and went. Then the land was compressed from the sides again, from the north and east, and it rose above the sea. A little later "Nature" decided to put "icing on the cake" -- and poured lava out over these sediments.

We were able to recognise some of the rocks -- such as sandstone, shale and conglomerate; and we soon found fossil shells (Eurydesma). By looking at parts of several specimens one was able to imagine that they were bivalved. We didn't find the coral reefs, but about a kilometre from the homestead Tom Archer found the mudstone containing the terrestrial plant remains -- leaves of Glossopteris and Gangamopteris.

Lunch was consumed near the homestead while Jean photographed products of the well known Arabian Horse Stud.

JOHN CONTINUES HIS OUTING REPORT

After lunch, a little light exercise was called for, following the heavy academically orientated morning. We left the cars near the old "Rokeby Stud" buildings and climbed a ridge near the line of contact of rainforest and eucalyptus woodland. Along the contact zone was the blackwood tree (*Acacia melanoxylon*) which is the 'meat in the sandwich' between the two types of tree cover. With regular fires, or decreased rainfall, eucalypt trees will gradually colonise the blackwood stand. If the reverse situation occurs, young rainforest trees will use the blackwood as a protective canopy while they establish.

During the walk we saw the usual signs of damage to the land. An introduced prickly relation of buffel grass was seen in a small open area, ploughed ground indicated the presence of feral pigs and three clumps of lantana were found --- one being too large to pull out.

Quite a number of birds associated with rainforest or dense vegetation have been seen here. The list includes Brush cuckoo, yellow robin, rufous fantail, brown warbler, black faced monarch, golden whistler and Lewin honeyeaters. Ground living birds seem to be scarce - probably foxes and pigs can take the credit for this situation.

And so we set our lensmatic compasses for home - all in all a good day was had by all.

(Note from the Typist)- and so say all of us who were on the outing so ably led by John. Many thanks John for the interesting way you explained the points in the academically orientated morning. We all understood and really enjoyed it.

Dot.A.

H A R M O N Y

LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS!

THERE'S BEAUTY HERE

TO CHEER THE FAINTING SOUL:

NATURE'S PERFECT HARMONY

SHALL MAKE OUR SPIRITS WHOLE.

David Hope.

DON'T FORGET THE ANNUAL MEETING ON JULY 22nd -

"REMEMBER LAST YEAR" SLIDES AND

A PLATE FOR SUPPER.