

March 82

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

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

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1981 - 1982

PRESIDENT	John O'Donnell
VICE-PRESIDENTS	Robin McCosker Frank Wilkinson
SECRETARY	Joan Stevenson
TREASURER	Dot Archer
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Jean Harslett
NEWSLETTER SUB-COMMITTEE	Janet Hockings Ian Jackson
PUBLICITY	Joan Stevenson
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FLORA OFFICER	Dore McCosker
FAUNA OFFICER	Brian McDonagh
GEOLOGY OFFICER	Maurice Passmore
YOUTH OFFICER	Errol Walker
BUSHWALKING OFFICER	Ray Marsden
<u>COMMITTEE</u>	Colin Hockings David Pfrunder Tom Archer Ailsa Wilkinson Lyle Thompson Jean Harslett

MEETINGS - 4th WEDNESDAY of each MONTH at C.W.A. ROOMS at 8p.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 NEWSPAPER.

THE MINUTES OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB HELD AT  
THE C.W.A. ROOMS AT 8PM..MONTHLY MEETING WEDNESDAY 24:2:1982.

ATTENDANCE:- Present 19.... Apologies 7.

The President John O'Donnell welcomed all to the meeting.

MINUTES:- That the minutes be taken as read was moved by Mr.F.Wilkinson and seconded by Mr.T.Archer..Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:-

Inward was received from:-

1. Aust. Senate re Tasmanian Wilderness.
2. Richmond Valley Nats. re Easter Campout.
3. Centre for continuing Education, re Monash University Courses on Mosses and Liverworts.
4. 13 Press Statements from the Dept. of Tourism, National Parks, Sports and Arts.
5. Richmond Valley Nats Mag. Dec. 81 and Feb 82.
6. N.P.A. Mag. Dec 1981 Vol 51 No. 8.
- & 7. N.P.A. " Feb. 1982 Vol. 52 No. 1.
8. Qld. Nat. Park Annual Report.
9. Darling Downs Nats. Mag. Dec. 81 Vol. 4 No. 3.
10. Contact
11. Ecofest Study Programme.
12. A.C.F. re Petition to Save the Reef.

Outward:-

1. Leo Butler thanks for Nov. Outing campsite.
2. Senate Select Committee re S.W. Tasmania.
3. 4QS two notices.
4. John Walker thanks for speaking to our meeting in Nov.
5. Keith Fraser re Feb. Outing.
6. Tasmanian Wilderness return of petition.
7. To Mrs. Prentice Club Condolences.

Moved F.Wilkinson and seconded by T.Archer .Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE CORRESPONDENCE.

Discussion took place re a joint "campout" with the Richmond Valley Club, and T.Archer moved and Jean Harslett seconded that a letter be forwarded suggesting they combine with us for a campout on April 24th. and 25th April. It was agreed to change the venue from Goomburra to Rocky River east of Tenterfield... Carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:- Mrs.D.Archer moved and Mr.Lyle Thompson seconded that the credit balance of \$134.62. be received and accounts be passed for payment for the room rent C.W.A. \$6.00; Feb. magazine postage \$6.76; Feb. magazine dup. \$5.00; Stencils \$14.50 and wrappers \$49.94. Carried.

Details of Treasurers report of Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club. continued next page.

FINANCIAL REPORTFeb.24th.1982.Bank Balance..... November 1981. .... \$132.44Receipts Nov.1981

Subs.....\$14.00

Donation..... \$2.00

Rent Collection..... \$2.80\$18.80.  
\$151.24.Payments

Nov.27th. Room Rent....\$6.00

Nov.Mag.Dup. \$5.00

Nov.Postage \$5.62.\$16.62.February Bank Balance..... \$134.62

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Accounts to be passed for payment  
were: Room Rent \$6.00

Feb.Mag.Dup.\$5.00

Feb.Mag.Post\$6.76.

Lees News agency box of stencils \$14.50.

International Colour Productions Wrappers \$49.94.

OUTING REPORT: Jean Harslett reported on the outing for Feb. to the Passchendaele State Forestry, led by Mr Peter Langdon. Twelve adults and one child attended. Thanks must be extended to Keith Fraser for explaining the purposes and functions being carried out at the station. Of special were the fire controls in use, followed by a very pleasant drive in the forestry, and lunch and some walking..J.Harslett asked that a letter be written to Keith Fraser thanking him, this request on behalf of our leader Peter Langdon.

NEXT OUTING. Errol Walker will lead the next outing. Plans are to walk from Mt. Norman across to Girraween. A shuffle of cars will be needed for this outing. A full report later in this bulletin.

GUEST SPEAKER NEXT MEETING: Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie will be speaking of their trip to Cape Tribulation.

SPECIMENS:-J.Harslett brought Bunyas Nuts, which have fruited locally and the growth of her tree is about 10 metres in height in 30 years

BUSINESS:-Discussion took place re the petition to "Save the Reef". Moved by R.Marsden and seconded by J.Stevenson that the club would not take any action.. Carried.

A suggestion was made that a magazine be sent to The Warwick Daily News... Carried.  
There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10.

GUEST SPEAKERS. Frank and Ailsa Wilkinson and Ray and Millie Marsden shared their trip to the Carnarvons with us. This fascinating area is seen in so many different ways, that it always holds interest. Camping tales were shared, plus a bonus of supper produced from a camp oven by Ray, damper, syrup and tea. Ray has a good reputation to live up to

GUEST SPEAKERS CONT.

. we can help him to mark up again. Many thanks to you all for a delightful evening.  
Joan Stevenson.

THE YEAR OF THE TREE.

President John brought to our attention that 1982 is 'The Year of the Tree'. With that in mind perhaps we could feature something on trees each month. Do you have a special 'Tree' quotation? 'I think that I'll never see a poem lovelier than a tree.....Let me have any thoughts on trees. To start the ball rolling let us turn our thoughts to Australia's giant.

The Mountain Ash (*Euc. regnans*) of which some of the superlatives include, "one of the tallest forest trees in the world, "the world's tallest hardwood", "the tallest flowering tree in the world". In height it is only rivalled by the Californian Redwood (*Sequoia*). Some gums are known to be 100 metres in height, or near that. The Thorpdale Tree in Victoria, which was accurately measured in 1880 when felled was 114.3 metres (375 feet). Other reports of 120 metres in height were not uncommonly tallied of but not verified. A healthy Tasmanian example, standing is 322 feet in height, measured by surveyors, and could produce, if felled 50,000 super feet of timber or produce paper valued in late 1950's at £10,000, which would approach \$50,000 in value to-day. Some of these had huge buttresses and when partially burnt out and the tree still had the tenacity to survive made good cover from the weather. There are records of these being used in Victoria for stables for animals, and even one unusual case for school rooms. This particular tree had a girth of 63 feet.

Have also been told on the grape vine that its "The Year of the Tree in Aust. and The Year of the Tree Dog in Japan!!.

FEBRUARY OUTING TO PASSCHENDAELE FORESTRY REPORT.LEADER Mr. PETER LANGDON.

On 21st Feb. on a hot and dry day, twelve adults and one child set out. There had been a special wish that a drop of rain might fall before the outing, but that was not to be, ironically 250 mm has fallen since. Peter and Darlyn had done a pre-outing sp plans went very smoothly. The party met at 10am. in a small park-like area opposite the forestry station, where we were joined by Forest Officer Mr. Keith Fraser, who explained that, indeed the area was being groomed and prepared for a picnic area, from which some forest drives, will be arranged. He spoke of old war-time charcoal burning pits nearby.

Keith Fraser also gave a very good insight into methods of 'control' burning, and how it was carefully plotted beforehand according to amount of trash, temperature and weather and heat conditions. Radiata does not respond well to 'control' burning methods, however some other species do, and are not markedly effected, and in some cases are actually planted, as 'fire breaks' in terrain where it is difficult to reach with fire fighting

PASSCHENDAELE OUTING Cont.  
machinery.

Later, in the office maps shown to us substantiated the science of burning, and the large area of rock within the forestry, while charts told of many other facets of forestry responsibilities. A service is a week daily weather report to the weather bureau, for which in turn they provide forecasts for week-end conditions very necessary in high fire danger periods. A visit to the nursery provided further interesting facts. Some of us were interested to learn that local T.V. masts were being added to, for improving the presentation of the Olympic Games later this year.

Mr. Fraser has shown a real willingness, both at our meeting which he addressed previously and with this follow up at the nursery, to tell us of Forestry activities in this district. Furthermore he has a splendid way of imparting the information to the layman, and his enthusiasm for forestry is infectious. I believe he has helped considerably to build up goodwill between forestry landholders and local landholders in this district. The Stanthorpe Field Nats Club thank him for the personal time he has given us.

The party then moved on and the first stop near Turkey Gully to look at a couple of rarer plants, proved a longish stop, when those with geological interests looked more closely at their surrounds and saw some beautiful samples of mica in forms of black (biotite) and the paler form (muscovite) and some shapely black quartz crystals. A short pause to look at a Wonga pigeon, which paused even shorter to look at us. Lunch was enjoyed in the deep shade of exotic pines, and on such a hot day the leader had to urge the party to move to other activities. Millie remarked at the great comradeship in a small group and we had all felt it. Some interesting rock formations were climbed up to and explored, channells and small caves of interest revealing in one place the 'nests' of grass of breeding and feeding pigs. Another cave offered light reading in the form of some 12 year old copies of 'Guys and Gals' and their finding created a deal of hilarity and conjecture, because of the remote spot.

Still hot with very odd clouds in the sky, we left to our various points of home. It was difficult to believe that some passed through a very small but vicious storm which unroofed a home and sheds, leaving another house fifty yards away unscattered, and the rest of us thinking they were kidding about the rain, had not the evidence of iron wrapped around trees, and wash along the road, been there to prove it.

Jean Harslett.

CARNARVON PROGRAMME WITH A DIFFERENCE.. FEBRUARY.

Frank and Ailsa Wilkinson and Ray and Millie Marsden combined to provide us with a new light and presentation on the Carnarvon Ranges. Apart from information they provided the atmosphere & pleasure of a stay there. Ailsa opened the presentation by reading Judith Wright's poem from 'Bora Ring', 'The song is gone....

etc.etc..

VME CONT:-

.....'their passing remains painted and etched in sandstone'. Frank then presented what he called Carnarvon's vital statistics, then projected slides of theirs and Marsdens and they each commented upon them where applicable. Light bits of humour were dropped in (eg. the surprise to see a lass asleep with a real live kangaroo tucked in beside her) and the gay comradeship of their camp life and visitors, came through. After the pictures we were surprised to find that a mock camp was set up, even to the illusion of glowing coals, camp oven and equipment, even to a popular camp 'hotwater system' the brain child of Ray, who then described the articles, as a true-blue scout. Somehow with 'Millie Magic' & Ailsa Art they produced hot damper and tea to conclude the evening. Thank you for a programme with a difference, a deal of personal thought, and a message of the joy of outdoors.

Jean Harslett

GIRRAWEEEN SOUTH TO NORTH .. MARCH OUTING

March outing Sunday 21st. Meet at Girraween National Park Headquarters.. 8.30am. Leader Errol Walker... Phone 812008.

To complement a previous outing which I led from the northern boundary of Girraween to the Park headquarters, it is now intended to walk from the southern extremity to the headquarters.

While the first trip was wet and trackless, this walk will be on graded trails with fine weather (I hope). Contrary to my first thoughts expressed at the meeting I think it will save some time if we can all meet at the National Park Headquarters at 8.30am. Half the cars will be left at the parking area (with our afternoon-tea) while we all travel in the remainder of the vehicles to the Mount Norman parking area, near Wallangarra, a distance of 23 km.

There should be time for a cuppa before we set out for Mount Norman, which we won't be climbing, and our cars some 7.2km distant.

The walking track is 80% downhill and very scenic. We should arrive at our waiting cars by mid-afternoon, leaving us time to travel again to the Mount Norman area and the rest of the vehicles. From there we can find out respective way home.

Due to its deteriorated condition, it is not recommended to return to Stanthorpe by Palingyard Creek Rd., but to return through Wallangarra.

P.S. Lunch carried and maybe water will be needed on the through walk.

Errol Walker.

CAPE TRIBULATION. Just south of Cooktown. It was close to where Cook's 'Endeavour' struck rocks and "here began all our troubles" wrote Cook in his journal in 1770. Two hundred and two years later, for us in a programme by Wally and Betty Mc.Kenzie, who have given our members several other memorable programmes, combining their skills of photography, artistry and knowledge of Australiana. Both this month's activities will be highlights so give them the support they deserve. Ed.