

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
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TREASURER	Dot Archer
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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 GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 24th.
1982 AT THE C.W.A. ROOMS 8pm.

PRESENT 15 APOLOGIES 8.

The President welcomed all to the meeting with special mention to Mr. and Mrs. Wally Mc.Kenzie who were our guest speakers for the evening.

MINUTES:- That the minutes be taken as read was moved by Lyle Thompson and seconded by Ray Marsden... Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE was received from:

Inward:- 1. Desley Mc. Donagh with her new address in Melbourne.
2. Australian Post Account for Mail Box.
3. Five Press Statements.
4. A.C.F. Rainforest Campaigne.
5. Terania Native Forest Action Group.
6. Peregrine Expeditions
7. Magazines. The Volunteer Vol. 2 No. 4.
The Darling Downs Nat. Mar. 82. Vol. No. 4 No. 4.
N.P.A. News April 82 Vol. 52 No 2.
Richmond Valley Newsletter, March.

Outward:-

1. Richmond Valley Nats. re Campout with them.
2. 4 QS, Notices.
3. Keith Frazer re Thanks Feb. outing
4. Graham Greenup with wedding wishes.

Moved Robin Mc. Cosker seconded by Don Lightfoot and carried that the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed.

BUSINESS FROM THE MINUTES:-

Following a telephone call from the Richmond Valley Nats. Club, it was decided as their club was not able to come to our April Campout that thought be given to meeting with them later in the year.. possibly in October.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:-

Feb 24th. 1982 ... Bank Balance.....\$134.62.
Receipts for the month.

Subscriptions..... \$18.00
Room rent donation &
collection at meeting \$2.40.

\$20.40

\$155.02.

Payments for the month:-

Room rent \$6.00
Mag. Dup. Feb..... \$5.00
Mag Postage Feb... \$6.76.
Stencils for Mag. \$14.50.
Mag. Wrappers \$49.94.

\$82.20.

March 24th. 1982 Balance on the books \$72.82.

Cont.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:- CONT.

Bank Balance shows \$77.82

(O/S Cheque Stanthorpe Rover Scouts \$5.00.)

Accounts for payment:- Room Rent\$6.00
Mag. Postage Mar. \$6.98.
Mag. duplication Mar. \$5.00
P.O.Box Rental.....\$18.00

Dot Archer moved that this report be adopted and the above accounts passed for payment, that the credit balance of \$72.82 be received, seconded by Millie Marsden... Carried

OUTING REPORT:-

As Errol Walker, the leader for the outing from Mount Norman through to Girraween National Park Headquarters was not present, the report was given by Ray Marsden. The outing was well attended and weather ideal for walking. Recent rain had freshened the vegetation and the rivulets present across the rocks. Flowers not in abundance, but some blooming out of season.

First stage of the walk went to the "Eye of The Needle" on Mount Norman, with a detour to the old 'trig' point.

Next stage was downhill on made tracks to Girraween. Rock outcrops were on every ridge and our imaginations well exercised. In all a very pleasant day. Thanks to Errol

Walker for the organization needed to arrange the transport and the outing.

NEXT OUTING:

PLEASE NOTE THIS OUTING IS TO BE HELD ONE WEEK EARLIER

THAN IS OUR USUAL.....18th. APRIL.

The April outing was to have been a campout, but owing to number of members able to attend not being sufficient to make it worthwhile. A number of the members are involved with Tenterfield's "Autumn in Focus" Programmes.

Due to lack of numbers, it was moved by Tom Archer and seconded by M. Marsden that the campout be postponed, and that the normal outing be brought forward by one week to 18th. April. Robin Mc.Cosker will lead the outing to the northern end of Girraween National Park.

PLANS ARE TO MEET ROBIN AT THE NATIONAL PARK HEADQUARTERS AT 9am. on APRIL 18th. 1982.

BRING PACKED LUNCH FOR CARRYING AND SOMETHING TO DRINK.

At the time of going to print no plans had crystalized in Robin's mind, but he will have something in mind by the 18th. April.

NEXT MEETING: PROGRAMME.

TOM and DOT ARCHER will speak on their trip to Western Australia, and we look forward to sharing their trip with them
PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MEETING IS AT THE NORMAL TIME AND PLACE. Q.C.W.A. APRIL 28th. at 8pm.

BUSINESS. With the outing being one week earlier, it will necessitate the Magazine going out earlier.

(Every endeavour will be made, but I'm sorry I was unaware of this until zero hour, no fault of our efficient secretary, but just a small oversight. However by that time everyone involved was going north, south, east and west for Easter, and it has become quite an involved exercise getting the bulletin to you, should it be a little late, for earlier outing, please forgive us. However, those at the meeting already know, 4QS, will tell others and an effort has been made to ring others.

Mr. John Walter, Toowoomba contacted the President stating his concern that some protected animals and birds had been used by a local taxidermist. He requested our club to write to the Fauna Ranger in Toowoomba requesting his attention to this matter.

F. Wilkinson moved and D. Archer seconded that a letter be written to the Fauna Ranger requesting that a press release be made to inform persons undertaking taxidermy be aware of the laws re protected fauna.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm.

GUEST SPEAKERS:-

Guest Speakers Mr. and Mrs. Wally McKenzie, then took us through the tropical wonderland of the Cape Tribulation countryside and the surrounding areas. The breathtaking views of rainforest, beaches, tropic isles, blue seas beckoned. Equally inviting were the magnificent blossoms of trees of the tropics and the many orchids found there.

Robin Mc.Cosker expressed thanks on behalf of those present.

Joan Stevenson.. Hon. Sec.

GIRRAWEEEN SOUTH TO NORTH..SUNDAY 21.3.1982.

OUTING REPORT by ERROL WALKER.

The morning dawned cloudy but fine after almost six weeks of intermittent rain. It looked as though the wet weather jinx had been broken, and with a soft cool breeze the pattern for an enjoyable day in the bush was set.

By 9am, approx. thirty Nats and visitors were sorted out into four vehicles for the trip to Wallangarra and the Mount Norman parking area. The road had deteriorated even more than expected, but fallen trees have been removed enabling the keen traveller to proceed.

We had parked the cars by 10am. and were at the foot of Mount Norman by 11am.

The scenery was at its best with water running from beneath every brilliant green moss patch, spreading wide across the broad expanses of granite. The sun glistened and danced on small cascades as we enjoyed crystal clear pools with only fellow Nats and lizards for company.

A one metre brown snake brought shrieks of delight and or fear from some of the younger members, as we started climbing

GIRRAWEEEN SOUTH TO NORTH CONT.

towards the Eye of the Needle.

Some wildflowers were observed, probably mostly flowering out of season, but these were minimal with the main botanical interest being the 'mallee type gum', The Bell-fruited Ash (Euc. codonocarpa) and the snowy-white branched "Wallangarra White Gum" (Euc. scoparia). These trees were observed on Robin Mc.Cosker's recent outing to a nearby area, but I consider them worthy of mention here.

Before lunch a quick trip to the original survey cairn, on a ridge adjacent to Mount Norman, rewarded us with views of the mountain's summit, and the broad dish of granite valley below. We could only wonder at the spectacle which would be presented when a cloud burst occurred over Mount Norman.

Some of our party decided to attempt the summit, while we took in the views. No doubt there were excellent views to all quarters from the summit with the air as clear as it was.

The Eye of the Needle watched over us at our lunch break, before we selected low gear for the downhill run to the Park Headquarters.

Frequent stops were made to enjoy the remarkably weathered granite while the kids scrambled around like so many little rock wallabies. The only injury noticed was a grazed young Mc.Cosker, knee.

Interesting bracken filled gullies, with clear water and dubious-looking log crossings, were a surprise as we descended from areas of bare granite and open forest.

Climbing slightly we soon reached the turnoff to Castle Rock and took the downhill run to the National Park Headquarters via the new camping grounds, to our waiting cars.

All that was left was to sort out how to pick up our abandoned cars at the Wallangarra end and find our way home.

Errol Walker.

Members were delighted to learn that president John's mother was out of hospital and making good progress.

Please Note the Q.O.S. (Queensland ~~Historical~~ Ornithological Society) will be camped out at 'Mountain View' Amiens over the Easter period and a cordial welcome to any member of Nats who might enjoy bird watching or just their company is issued.

HAPPY EASTER EVERYBODY..... DON'T FORGET OUTING is a WEEK EARLIER... 18th April and April with TOM and DOT ARCHER in W.A. is at normal DATE 28th April.

Yours in Nats Jean.