

May 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
LIBRARIAN	Millie Marsden
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.

STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB BULLETIN...MONTHLY MEETING, HELD ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 28th. 1982 at Q.C.W.A.

PRESENT 18..... APOLOGIES 3.

The President welcomed all to the meeting with a special welcome to Kate Greenup.

MINUTES:- That the minutes be taken as read was moved by Frank Wilkinson seconded by Jean Davies and Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:-

INWARD:- 1.A.C.F. re Rainforest rescue.

2.May Prentice.

3.Bicentennial Authority.

4.Four Press statements.

5.Richmond Valley Nats.April newsletter.

6.Fauna Ranger, Mr Stechy re fauna laws and

~~7.4QS re meeting and outing~~ taxidermy.

8. Contact Vol.10 No.1.

OUTWARD:- 1.Desley McDonagh.

2.Richmond Valley Nats re campout.

3.4QS re meeting and outing.

4.Fauna Ranger re fauna laws and taxidermy.

Moved by Tom Archer and seconded by Jean Harslett that the inward correspondence be received and the outward adopted... carried.

BUSINESS FROM CORRESPONDENCE:-

A suggestion was made that the secretary write a press item to the Border Post on the activities of the Naturalist club and to include a mention of taxidermists being aware of fauna laws.

FINANCIAL REPORT:- For April 28th.1982.

March 24th 1982 Cr. Balance.....\$72.82

Receipts for Month.

Rent Collection.....\$4.00

Stanthorpe C.C.half

share Rent on P.O. Box 154...\$9.00

\$13.00

\$85.82.

Payments for the Month

Room Rent.....\$6.00.

March Mag.Postage \$6.98.

Mar.Mag.Duplication \$5.00.

Rental P.O.Box.154. \$18.00.

\$35.98.

April 28th.1982 Cr. Bank Balance.

\$49.84.

Mrs D.Archer moved that the financial statement showing a credit balance of \$49.84 be received and that the following accounts be passed for payment.

Room \$6.00, Magazine postage for April \$6.51. and Magazine duplication also for April, seconded by Mrs.Millie Marsden..... Carried.

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES CONT:-

OUTING REPORT President John reported on the outing to the northern area of Girraween National Park led by Robin Mc.Cosker. This led to the high ridge to the west of the Pyramids and from there the rivulets on the Pyramids were quite spectacular, and were highlighted by the sun on them. Regeneration was good after the fire last summer. There were some out-of-season plants flowering. Members were excited to hear Lyre birds calling. The party left the ridge to join Bald Rock Creek and the Junction track back to the Park.

NEXT OUTING This will be to Eukey area and led by Tom Archer. tails in the Magazine..... (SEE OVER )

NEXT MEETING. Mr.Tom Chapman will speak on a recent visit to Russia.

SPECIMENS . Joan Stevenson sought information on a weed, which produces unwelcome burrs. As no one could identify it, information will be sought through the D.P.I.

BUSINESS

For the June outing it was suggested that the Club make it a camp-out, but to be in a warmer area than here. Tom Archer is to investigate a suitable site.

Members were advised that our Dalby friends Jack and May Bennie have commenced a business by conducting tours. They have a minnie bus and notice was given of their first tour to the Isla Gorge in May. Further tours are planned to other areas and contact may be made to P.O.Box 292 Dalby.

Lake Broadwater near Dalby is now an environmental park and available for campouts. Water birds are in abundance, and wildflowers good in Sept and October. Vic.Wood is the Ranger.

Tom Spiller suggested that the club hold further outings in the Stanthorpe vicinity, around April as a yearly practice.... (in memory of past member Joan Westcott)

Robin Mc.Cosker suggested that as it was the 'Year of the Tree', that the club participate in some way. The secretary is to approach Ted Fitzgerald to find out if he has any project in hand, in which we could assist and to take information back to the club. for the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

GUEST SPEAKERS. Tom and Dot Archer showed us yet another area of Western Australia, that was new to us. Based at Kambalda amid the mining projects, Tom took advantage of the green of the township, the harshness of the surrounding country for interesting pictures.

May 1982.

GENERAL BUSINESS CONT. GUEST SPEAKER REPORT.

We were also shown the magnificence of the wild-flowers. Thank you Dot and Tom.

Joan Stevenson Hon Sec.

OUTING TO THE NORTHERN AREA OF GIRRAWEE NATIONAL PARK  
18th APRIL 1982 by the LEADER ROBIN Mc.COSKER.

Eighteen members assembled at the Park Headquarters, and some asked where we were going? and would it be a hard walk?? and when would we get back??? Well I could'nt honestly give a straight answer, my pre-outing investigations consisted of perusing the Park map, and picking out an area, which, from my memory we had not previously visited. When I pointed to the steep peak overlooking the Pyramids there were gasps and groans, and comments like, "we'll go along some of the way!"

We set off at about 9.30, with three year old son Patrick, firmly clutching my right hand, setting the pace. Leaving the 'Granite Arch' track, where it turns westward, we climbed slowly towards the eastern side of the peak. The severe bush fire of last year had almost completely removed the lower story shrubs and bushes, so walking was quite easy. It was noticed how much more clearly the large boulders could be seen, and the new growth of plantlife showed promise of variety and of a return to the areas former dense covering. Areas of regenerated flannel flowers, dwarf geebung and eriostemon plants were noticed particularly.

The was exceptionally fine and a storm the previous day made the air cool and fresh. A vantage point along the way gave us a breathtaking view of the first of the Pyramids, with streaks of water running down the face, glistening in the morning sunlight. At the summit of the peak on a verandah of rock facing the Pyramids the view of all the prominent peaks of Girraween was quite something, and I think members thought that the climb onto this verandah, via a couple of wabby sticks, leaning against the rock was no mean feat either.

Before having lunch we explored the rock formations including a balancing rock and a sheer vertical face perhaps 20 metres high, but only one metre thick at the top. From here, we also enjoyed the repertoire of the lyre bird which fed in that "territory. Fairly close the tail feathers of a lyrebird had been seen, no doubt cast off to make way for fine new ones in readiness for the approaching breeding season. It is also the time of year with June and July, when they are most frequently heard calling. Study of the tail feathers established that they were grey underneath, and not white, which is a feature of the form occurring here, along the border range of Queensland and NSW. where a deal a deal of our National Park lies.

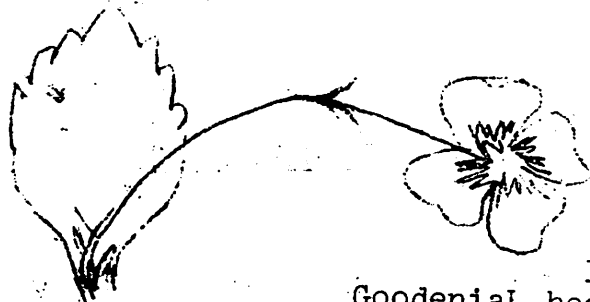
APRIL OUTING REPORT CONT:-

After lunch we set off down the gradual western slope. I had intended to follow this ridge to where it runs down to Bald Rock Creek below the 'Junction' but instead took a more southerly course to meet the 'Junction' track about halfway down from the camping ground. Of course, nursing a now sleeping three year old son, may have changed my intentions a little. Never-the-less I'm sure we all felt most satisfied with the outing, when we arrived back at our cars at about 3pm., from up on top of that steep peak, after a not very hard walk.

Leader Robin Mc.Cosker.

NOTES on a few of the flowers seen on the above  
outing

Some beautiful specimens of perhaps one of our most handsome winter flowering greenhood orchids were seen. This is *Pterostylis revoluta* and sometimes called "The Autumn Orchid". Also seen were the tiny flowering "Gnat Orchid", *Acianthus exertus* which here has the dark green upper leaf with deep purple/red tones beneath. The shiny green leaves of *Ligustrum*, which lives in cool forests and bears the appearance of a garden shrub were talked about. Some specially fine, out of season "Fringed Violets" were seen and photographed & seemed thicker and more robust than usual. The blue and gold theme was carried out by Bluebells, Lobelias, Blueberry Ash (*Elaeocarpus cyaene*), *Helichrysum*, Dwarf Geobunga (*Persoonia tenuifolia*) and heavily budded *Acacia ruppii*, respectively. Fivecorners blooming freely but no dainty fruit to taste. Numerous young plants of *Eriostemon lanceolatus* were seen over quite a range of the hill tops which was pleasing to note. The spiral foliage of a plant of *Macrozamia flexuosa*, belonging to that ancient order of plants was seen, and also another tall slender shrub with silvery white under leaf colouring discussed. This is commonly called "The Long Leaf Star Hair" a common name longer than its botanical one *Astrotricha longifolia*. the generic name refers to the star like arrangement of hairs beneath the leaf. Later in the year it boasts a head of small cream flowers.



Some may remember a yellow open low growing flower, something like this which I named incorrectly, that day.

It is the "Ivy Goodenia" or *Goodenia hederacea*, and is rather distinctive with the two bracts on the stalk well below the flower thus

Jean Harslett

YEAR OF THE TREE

In keeping with the 'Year of the Tree' theme I believe it would be appropriate to make mention of two species of Gum Trees both beautiful, limited in range of habitat and seen in fine example on our April outing.

As we assembled near the Information Centre and waited for all to arrive we turned our interest to the view of the Pyramids. Leading in from the left to the point of interest is a very virile avenue of shiny dark green Gum trees, which have been planted. The result must be quite exciting to those responsible, and they are Euc. deanei. Later we walked by more mature specimens, with their shaft-like trunks. The other Gum is the 'Wallan-arra Gum' and as its name suggests it has a much more limited habitat, and its willow like leaves and silvery stems make it one with sought after seed for establishment in gardens. This is more formally called Eucalyptus scoparia. Several lovely specimens as we climbed gave us an opportunity to pause and admire and gain our bre breath.

Jean Harslett

WEST AUSTRALIAN TRIP AND WILD FLOWERS

Not sure that this should not be headed the "ARCHERS" FOR I note not only did they do our last programme but somehow they are billed to organize and lead the next two outings and including the camp-out, which is surely an oversight and rather a heavy loading. However as usual they've accepted the jobs happily.

The programme took us in pictures to Western Aust depicting mining in the extremes from the abandoned mining town to the modern version of an oasis of modern facilities and shady trees in an otherwise desert. Tom's knowledge of geology gave the activities more depth of interest for the members. While discussing mining practice an interesting little note was struck, where extraneous metal had to be located, by magnet, before the process could proceed further, and 18 pairs of pliers were shown as part of the loot!!

We met with their family and granddaughter Emma, & their everyday doings. Went from the dry interior to the "Valley of Giants" in the far S.W. from sand-blows to Tingle Trees, to end up with a fine collection of West Australian wildflowers as can be seen at that time of the year.

A good and varied programme enjoyed by all.

THE NEXT OUTING At the time of going to press some details concerning other than people and their properties were not finalised. However THE LEADER IS TOM ARCHER Phone 811754 if you need extra information.

DATE SUNDAY 23rd May.

MEET WEEROONA PARK

TIME 9.30am.

Listen to 4QS or ring Tom, and enjoy some measure of surprise in what you do.

Yours in Nats. Jean.