

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'S NEWSLETTER.

PRESENT....21

APOLOGIES 6.

The President welcomed all to the meeting with a special welcome to May and Jack Bennie from Dalby.

MINUTES: That the minutes be taken as read was moved by Ray Marsden and seconded by Frank Wilkinson and Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Inward was received from:-  
 1. Australia Post re Registration for Magazine Postage.  
 2. Dept. of Education re Film Library Membership.  
 3. Eleven Press Statements from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife.  
 4. Darling Downs Naturalist; Vol. 5 No. 1 June 1982.  
 5. N.P.A. Magazine Vol. 52, No. 4 July 1982.

Outward correspondence was sent to :-

1. Richmond Valley Nats re proposed Campout.
  2. 4QS re outing and meeting.
  3. Bi-centennial Authority re the Club's effort.
- Moved by Lyle Thompson and seconded by Ailsa Wilkinson that the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed.... Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Tom Archer (in the absence of Dot Archer) moved that the credit balance of \$20 be received and accounts for Rental \$6.00; Postage \$6.73; Duplicating \$5.00 be passed for payment, seconded by Lyle Thompson and Carried.

STATEMENT STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST'S CLUB.

Wednesday, June 23, 1982.

May 26, 1982.... Bank Balance..... \$34.73.

Receipts

May 26..Room Rent Collection, \$3.40.. 3.40

\$38.13

Payments:

May 26..Magazine Postage \$6.61

" 26..Magazine Duplication \$5.00

" 26..Room Rent.... ~~\$6.00~~ \$17.61

JUNE 23, 1982 Bank Balance..... \$ 20.52.

June Postage \$6.73

June Magazine Duplication. \$5.00

June Meeting Room Rent \$6.00

Passed for payment see above.

THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB NEWSLETTER.

OUTING REPORT: Tom Archer reported on the successful Camp-out in the Wiangerie State Forest. Despite cold nights the party of approximately 21 made the most of the beautiful days and the spectacular scenery. Good company and good leadership. Thanks to Tom and Dot were given on behalf of those attending the campout by Millie Marsden

NEXT OUTING: This will be in the Donnybrook Range area with Brian Mc.Donagh as leader.

NEXT MEETING: This will be the annual / general one and slides to "Remember Last Year" will be shown. Members are to leave these with Robin Mc.Cosker as soon as possible, at the Exchange if convenient.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Re the proposed tree planting at Storm King Dam. Following contact with Ted Fitzgerald at the Shire Council, a committee of members consisting of John O'Donnell; Tom Archer; Lyle Thompson; and Joan Stevenson, were delegated to visit the area and report back to the meeting.

PROGRAMME:

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9pm. after which Jack and May Bennie added to the coolness of the evening by suggesting, "Kosciuszko" as their topic !! Members were relieved to know that it was a summer holiday, and enjoyed the scenery there. To really warm us for our homegoing we were then taken to Cooktown and introduced to the commercial areas and lifestyle of the tropics. "any thanks from all present.

Joan Stevenson

Hon. Secretary.

REPORT ON THE CAMPOUT, 19th-20th. June, WIANGAREE STATE FOREST, LEADERS TOM and DOT ARCHER.

Not often do we have the pleasure of camping so completely within tropical scrub as we did at the "Treetop Camping Area". Few camp sites are so completely surrounded by lush growth, with rainforest birds to grace our table as well as the ubiquitous and friendly 'colony' of yellow robins.

About half the party arrived sometime on the Friday, and the rest who had other commitments, came on the Saturday morning. The Bennies from Dalby joined us. Leaving before daylight on Saturday, the scene the entire way was in white, with examples of frost right into the rain-forest, which is unusual. Those that came in the morning were just able to define the rugged up bodies, shrouded in smoke as Stanthorpe Nats, and they quickly gather around the warm van, and cups of hot tea. However, both days were quite perfect after the frosts, and views crisp and clear.

WIANGAREE STATE FOREST REPORT CONT.

Tom and Dot, who had done a pre-outing to the area led us to some splendid scenery, the Pinnacle being the first challenge. Many got well out on the knife edge, like spur, in fact all finally took up the challenge, and went far beyond the sign that suggested if you did not have a head for heights 'Do not go beyond this point.' However despite several seats in the sun on rocks partly to meditate, to soak in the beauty (and psych ourselves up a bit) the final point of the Pinnacle was left in its majestic silence by us. We did see some young people take off towards it, pockets bulging with "stubbies" and decided we were not "properly equipped for Dutch courage". The Pinnacle is a quaint piece of landform with grass trees growing at almost right angles from its sides giving it a pin cushion appearance.

Walks during the day through rainforest and along crystal clear streams gave us the opportunity to see many interesting things including the ancient Beech trees, with their original bases 2 to 3 metres above present ground level, painting patterns of the natural erosion in the last 10,000 years.

Rainforest bird life was interesting but most elusive, and there were many without positive identification which could not be added to our list.

A return to the Pinnacle at dawn was made by a few crazy camera enthusiasts, but oh what joy as the rising sun turned the mists of the valley into liquid gold, and stately "black boys" greeted the dawn in silhouette. The Blackbutt Lookout was powerfully beautiful in the early lights, then all returned there after breakfast. After lunch we began to pack up and start on our way home as individual choices led us. Thank you Leaders Archers for a great weekend.

Jean Harslett.

# WIANGAREE STATE FOREST

## CAMPOUT BIRD LIST by MAY BENNIE

Thanks to May we have this bird list.

During the Camp-out at Wiangaree State Forest, our party took up residence at Hilltop Camping area and visited Brindle Creek, The Pinnacle, and the Blackbutts Lookout. The bird of the trip would certainly be the female or immature male Paradise Rifle Bird, and was seen on both Saturday and Sunday high in the tall trees fossicking for food.

To list all the birds identified:-

Paradise Rifle Bird.	Green Catbird.
Brown Pigeon.	Lyre Bird.
Yellow Robin.	Eastern Whipbird
Currawong.	Grey Shrike Thrush.
Brown Thornbill.	Grey Fantail
Crimson Rosella.	Striated Thornbill
White throated Treecreeper.	King Parrot.
White Browed Scrub Wren.	Leewin Honeyeater.
Scrub Turkey.	Satin Bowerbird,
Golden Whistler	Pheasant Cougal.
Large Billed Scrub Wren	White Headed Pigeon.

WIANGAREE STATE FOREST BIRD LIST CONT:-

Yellow faced Honeyeater.

Wedgetail Eagle.

May Bennie.

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PROGRAMME BY JACK AND MAY BENNIE by Jean Harslett

Jack and May Bennie provided us with an interesting programme, in audio-visual form on a summer-time visit to the Mount Kosciusko National Park. Most of us in Stanthorpe visit this area (per necessity) during the winter months, so it was particularly good to see the area in its summer raiment, with all the beautiful and unusual alpine flowers. Golden Billy buttons, Everlastings in gold and white were depicted en masse, and those highest areas which remain a secret to the winter visitors, displayed all sorts of lichens and mosses and tussocky growth of great interest. Alpine marigolds decorated the edges of tiny streams and the Snow Gums had a different beauty.

This programme was followed by a short picture of historical and tropical Cooktown. This showed the buildings which were erected during the golden days of mining and the simple erections for tropical climates and created the mood of simple and the freedom of tropical living.

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FOR YOUR REMEMBER LAST YEAR PROGRAMME..YOU'VE DONE.

July 1981. Sundown Nat. Park Glenlyon end. Robin Mc.Cosker.  
 Aug. 1981. Coolmunda Wildflowers.. Maurice Passmore.  
 Sept. 1981. Mount Norman Hills, Rocks etc. Robin Mc.Cosker.  
           Blue Mt. Wildflower extra.. Dore Mc.Cosker.  
 Oct. 1981 Lee's Hill, half day... Errol Walker.  
 Nov. 1981. Through walk Town hills and Campout. Marsdens.  
 Dec. Christmas Party John O'Donnell's home.  
 Jan. 1982 Nil.  
 Feb. 1982 Passchendaele State Forestry.. Peter Langdon.  
 Mar. Girraween North to South through walk. Errol Walker.  
 April. Girraween Ridge Walk... Robin Mc.Cosker.  
 May 1982. Belfords property.. Tom Archer.  
 June 1982. Campout Wiangaree State Forest.. Archers.

THE YEAR OF THE TREE.....Jean Harslett

The characters for this month, Antarctic Beeches (Nothofagus moorei) were enjoyed on the Wiangaree Campout. Here we saw them in their northern-most habitat. Their 'coppice' character from one root area, add to the feeling of great antiquity, and the original base height of the tree, and the present level of the earth paints a very

THE YEAR OF THE TREE CONT.

interesting picture of natural erosion. It is claimed they are so ancient, that no longer can the seed germinate, in the very changed climate of to-day. However younger trees do develop around the old roots in 'coppice' fashion.

Gazing at these old forest giants, seeing young people playing and dancing through, through their wonderful roots, or watching the keen photographer searching its labyrinth of galleries, gave me time to meditate, and recall to mind that old thought that, "THOUSANDS OF YEARS ARE REQUIRED TO MAKE SOIL" which man can destroy in minutes with massive machinery.

Jean Harslett.

NEXT OUTING DATE: Sunday 25th JULY 1982.

VENUE: Donnybrook Summit.

TIME Weeroona Park 9am. or Wallangarra

Rest Area 9.30 am. (Wallangarra Rest area is on the right as you come into Wallangarra just past the Police Residence. Brian will be there.)

LEADER: BRIAN Mc.DONAGH..Telephone 841284.

Joining Brian Mc.Donagh to-day, a sunny, clear winter day on a pre-outing trip, I can say there is a good trip in store for the Nats on Sunday 25th. July.

The road into the valley and property takes you through a pleasant valley, lived in for 140 years, and passing close to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Don Ferguson, who live in a 100 year old home, of pit-sawn timber construction, and later you will see what remains of the 'pit' where the timber was cut. Three generations of Ferguson's have lived on the area.

The ascent to Mount Donnybrook 4,357 ft. and 200ft. higher than Mount Norman and 170 ft. than Bald Rock is a steady to stiffish pull through open forest along a little animal track, with none of the traumas of the Pinnacle. (nowhere open or with steep drops) Cars can be taken, leaving only the 1,500 yard climb.) Pick up a light willowy part green stringybark stick in the little ringbarked forest you pass through as you commence the climb, and I think you'll be grateful for that suggestion.

Interesting flora and geology can be seen on the way wallabies, kangaroos and foxes, and an excellent view are gained from the top, and you will be higher than you've ever been in these parts. Lunch & water to be carried, stout shoes (its trap-rock). A nice spring before you climb, provided dipping & drinking for many small birds. Roll along and make the last outing for the year a success. Brian has a good knowledge of the area.

Since the Bulletin went to print, we have learnt with sadness and concern that President John's father passed away whilst Mr. and Mrs. O'Donnell were on vacation at Norfolk Island, and that John and Jill (who lives at Macedon Victoria) have made a hasty trip to Norfolk Island.

The Members of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club convey their thoughts and deepest sympathy to Mrs. O'Donnell, John and Jill.

Mr. O'Donnell who was managing director of the well known Brisbane firm of O'Donnell and Griffin, purchased "Mountain Park" Dalveen from Mr. Keith Mackay in 1965. and he and John have continued to be associated with it to present times. Mr. C.S. O'Donnell was also a Changi prisoner-of-war.

Though, not quite so well known to us, their son John has endeared himself to the members of this Club, with his sincerity of purpose and with thoughts very inspiring to an association such as ours.

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THANKS

Being the last Bulletin for the year, I'd like to sincerely thank those who have been most closely associated with me. Joan Stevenson has helped tremendously by the prompt delivery of the minutes, which arrived like clockwork immediately after each meeting, the best ever for efficiency. Ian Jackson for duplicating, Janet Hockings for compiling the pages, wrapping & posting, and Dot Archer for doing one Bulletin while I was away, & the stencil for the inside cover. To those leaders who furnished reports & John O'Donnell, for extra material when needed. Thanks!

Jean Harslett Ed.

" GRANITE WILDERNESS!...A Short Review...."

To-day I've had the privilege of seeing & holding one of the first 2 copies, yet, available of Errol Walker's new book 'GRANITE WILDERNESS'. We are proud that Stanthorpe has another publication to its credit, and one of this quality.

'Granite Wilderness' is attractively presented with 72 pages of detailed information, which include about 90 coloured pictures of the National Parks, which spill across the Border Ranges in this part of S.E. Queensland.

The letterpress contains a balance of down to earth facts & the more aesthetic thoughts of the author, on a variety of aspects

Only those who become deeply involved inspecifically, local publications, fully appreciate what it involves. The time, effort, dedication of the whole family, personal finance, and call upon friends. There is little return for these except, thankfully, great personal satisfaction, & the paying of respect to an area or ideal, in which you have great faith, and also seeing your own efforts in print. This is, however, a very rewarding ambition to achieve.

It would be topical to say in this, 'Year of the Tree' that Errol & Annette (who has to share willingly the problems of publication) ~~that they~~ stand as "Tall Poplars" in our district for their contribution & I hope that 'Granite Wilderness' is purchased & enjoyed by many & they receive the support they deserve.

Jean Harslett..11.7.82.

In the production of this book I wish to acknowledge that my efforts would have been somewhat less without the knowledge & fellowship found in the Nat's club.

Over the years I have discovered a world of nature which has reinforced my values in appreciation for our Granite Belt. The publication of 'Granite Wilderness' has evolved from the efforts of not one person but the guidance & encouragement of many to whom I shall ever owe a debt of gratitude.

Because I feel we are all shareholders in our Granite Wilderness I wish to make a special prepublication offer to Nat's Club members & friends. The public launching date is expected to be Saturday 24.7.82. in the Stanthorpe Plaza.

Please contact me personally before the above date for your copy or copies of 'GRANITE WILDERNESS'.

Errol Walker.....Ph.(076) 812008.