

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

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

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1982 - 1983

PRESIDENT	John O'Donnell
VICE-PRESIDENTS	Robin McCosker Frank Wilkinson
SECRETARY	Joan Stevenson
TREASURER	Det 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 8 P.M.

OUTINGS - Each SUNDAY PRECEDING the FOURTH WEDNESDAY of the
Month.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Single - \$5.00

Family - \$8.00

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.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY JULY 27th, 1982
AT THE C.W.A. ROOMS - 8 P.M.

Present 25

Apologies 11.

The President welcomed all to the meeting.

MINUTES - The minutes of the previous annual meeting held on the 22nd July, 1981 were read. These were confirmed by L.Thompson and seconded by D. McCosker. CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE - Inward: Letter from Jean Harslett thanking members for their cooperation with the newsletter and wishing the club a good year.
Outward: Letter to Mrs. Joan Ferris for auditing the books.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT for the year ending 30th June, 1982.

Bank Balance Cr. June 30th, 1981

56.31

RECEIPTS

Subscriptions	230.00	
Rent Money collected	67.40	
Donations	8.00	
P.O.Box Rental 1981	8.00) from Camera Club
" " 1982	9.00	
Bank Interest	<u>3.22</u>	

325.62

\$ 381.93PAYMENTS

Rent	60.00	
Petty Cash	10.00	
P.O. Box Rent	<u>18.00</u>	88.00

Magazine Expenses

Duplicating	55.00	
Postage	63.68	
Backing Sheets	12.00	
Duplicating paper	82.50	
Rubber Stamp	4.25	
Stencils	14.50	
Magazine wrappers	<u>49.94</u>	<u>282.67</u>

\$370.67

CREDIT BALANCE

11.26
\$381.93

Bank statement balance \$22.26

Less O.S. Cheques

126882 5.00

126883 6.00 11.00

Final Balance \$11.26

Moved by Mrs. D. Archer that the financial statement showing a credit balance of \$11.26 be received. Seconded R. Thompson CARRIED.

Annual Meeting Minutes continued:-PRESIDENTS REPORT - John O'Donnell.

I think you will all agree with me that the Nats Club has enjoyed another successful year - with interesting walks, campouts, speakers and discussions.

I suppose we all wish that we could remember a greater proportion of what we've seen and heard through the year, and thank goodness we have a permanent record of the details of Club events. I think special thanks are due to those concerned with the typing, editing, production and distribution of the Newsletter.

I would also like to thank front line people - our Secretary, Treasurer, Outing Leaders and speakers and the people who work behind the scenes - the Committee - all ensuring that events run smoothly.

It is also pleasing to see younger people on the walks (except when throwing rocks or frightening birds!) - it gives hope that they may grow up with a deeply ingrained respect for what's left of our environment, and that some of them may even assist with the long task of restoration.

I would like to conclude this report by mentioning my personal gain during my term here. You've all been very patient and understanding and for this I thank you most sincerely.

John then moved that his report be received. In seconding the report Robin McCosker thanked John for his leadership. CARRIED.

Election of

Officers etc: Nominations for office bearers and Committee are as follows-

President	- John O'Donnell	nom. by M. Marsden	Accepted
Vice-Pres.	Sr. Robin McCosker	nom. by D. Archer	"
	Jr. Graham Greenup	" " B. McDonagh	declined.
	Colin Hockings	" " D. Archer	"
	Frank Wilkinson	" " R. Marsden	accepted
Secretary	- Joan Stevenson	" " R. McCosker	"
Treasurer	- Dot Archer	" " M. Marsden	"
Newsletter			
Editor	- Jean Harslett	" " Dot Archer	accepted
Sub-Committee	- Janet Hockings	" " T. Archer	"
	Ian Jackson	" " T. Archer	"
Publicity	- Joan Stevenson	" " G. Greenup	"
Librarian	- Millie Marsden	" " Dot Archer	"
Flora Officer	- Dore McCosker	" " J. Stevenson	"
Fauna	" - Brian McDonagh	" " T. Archer	"
Geology	" - Maurice Passmore	" " T. Archer	"
Youth	" - Errol Walker	" " R. McCosker	"
Bushwalking			
Officer	- Ray Marsden	" " T. Archer	"
Committee	- Colin Hockings	" " B. McDonagh	"
	David Pfrunder	" " B. McDonagh	"
	Tom Archer	" " B. McDonagh	"
	Ailsa Wilkinson	" " B. McDonagh	"
	Lyle Thompson	" " B. McDonagh	"
	Jean Harslett	" " B. McDonagh	"

Annual Meeting Minutes continued:-

Auditor: Mrs. Joan Ferris Nom. by D. Archer Accepted

BUSINESS: D. Ardher moved and J. Stevenson Sec. that a letter of thanks be sent to Mrs. Joan Ferris for auditing the books and a request to audit the 1983 books. CARRIED.

Subscriptions - Owing to the high cost of Magazine materials and postage the subscription for 1982/1983 will be \$8.00 for a family and \$5.00 for single membership.

Moved by J. Stevenson and sec. by T. Archer CARRIED.

COMMITTEE MEETING - A meeting of the new executive will be held at the home of Dot and Tom Archer on Monday August 2nd at 7.30 p.m. to plan the activities for the following year.

There being no further business the annual meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.
Joan Stevenson, Sec.

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GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - held on Wed. July 28th, 1982.

Present - 25

Apologies - It was moved by M. Marsden and Sec. by C. Hockings that 11 apologies as per the attendance book be received. CARRIED.

Minutes - That the minutes be taken as read was moved by R. McCosker & sec. by D. Archer. CARRIED.

Correspondence - Inward - 1. BiCentennial Auth.- thanks for our letter
2. " " - Types of Response to plans.
3. Senate-DonChiff -re environment & Parliament
4. Brookvale Park-re Heritage Festival Aug.28/
Sept.3.

5. Press Statements - 11 in all

6. Magazines - N.P.A. Vol 52 No. 5 Aug.

Contact " X No. 2 June/July

Outward - was sent to -

1. John Tomasonia - Re Aust. visit

2. 4 QS

Moved by Leon McCosker & Sec. Ray Marsden that the inward be received and the outward endorsed. CARRIED.

Business from Correspondence - A letter to be forwarded to Brookvale Park informing of possibility of sending flowers for the Festival. No guarantees.

Financial Statement - Statement as per annual meeting was taken and payment of accounts for: Rover Scouts \$5. Postage \$7.50 Regis. Post of Magazine -\$20. Rent \$6. was moved by D. Archer and sec. by L. Thompson. CARRIED.

Outing Report - Brian McDonagh recounted on a most successful outing to Mt. Donneybrook. A good attendance and beautiful day helped progress to the summit to be rewarded by extended views. The descent proved more difficult than the climb but time was made to enjoy the abundance of big trees stringy barks/ gums.

General Meeting Minutes continued: Outing Report by Brian McDonagh

& messmates. Evidence of the lopping of small trees by the black cockatoos was seen. Following recent rain the ground orchids should make a fine carpet. This area is the highest point and distant views included Mt. Barney, Tenterfield, Wallangarra, Mole River valley and parts of Sundown & Sailor Jack.

Leader Brian stressed the need for all to keep together on outings similar to this one - SAFETY MUST BE OBSERVED.

The rare sighting of the wary collared Sparrow Hawk was made.

Next Outing - Subject to satisfactory investigation it is proposed to walk from Sanaterium Mountain to Finneys Falls. This will be on Aug. 22nd.

Guest Speakers - Mr. & Mrs. Wally McKenzie are to be asked to speak on their trip to Lakefield National Park. Meeting Night - Aug. 25th.

Specimens - Graham Greenup brought a greater glider possum that had the misfortune to tangle with a barbed wire fence.
Also some Galls that were found on a white gum.

Business - A letter of thanks is to be written to Mr. Don Ferguson, Tarban for allowing access to his property last Sunday. Also a letter to be written to Jack & May Bennie for their programme at the last meeting.

Moved by M. Marsden Sec. T. Archer. CARRIED.

Re S.G.A.P. - no promises to send flowers for their show on Sept. 11th/12.

Committee is to look into formulating rules for outings and publish through the Magazine.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.25p.m. after which slides to "Remember Last Year" were shown. Joan Stevenson, Sec.

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OUTING REPORT OF VISIT TO MT. DONNYBROOK Sunday, July 25th, 1982.

An outing of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club was held under the leadership of Brian McDonagh and took members to the summit of Mt. Donnybrook. Such a roll up of members was not expected but perhaps the beautiful sunny day and the challenge of the climb enticed them out. Thirty adults and thirteen children attended the outing and it was interesting to note that three separate families had three generations present. This club really caters for the family outing, the youngest member was 11 mths old and the other side of the range was 70 years plus.

The outing took members south of Wallangarra to the Tarban Road then some 6 kilometres to the Ferguson property. This property has been in the Ferguson family for over 140 years and features a homestead made from pit sawn timber. This house is over 100 years old and the timber was sawn on the property.

The Nats moved further through the property and halted to see the pit where the timber for the houses was sawn, and a spring of beautifully clear water; on then to the base of Donnybrook mountain where the cars were left. The climb was fairly steep and somewhat further than was anticipated but every member made it to the top to read the inscription on the cairn "Central Mapping Authority Geodic Station Donnybrook".

Outing Report to Mt. Donnybrook continued -

Mt. Donnybrook is the highest mountain in the area being 4357 feet high. This is 200 feet higher than Mt. Norman and 170 feet higher than Bald Rock. From the summit magnificent views were obtained for a distance of 60 miles, from Texas, Ashford, Inverell areas in the West and South to Girraween in the north east and also of the township of Wallangarra nestling far below. Other landmarks identified were Mt. Lindsay and Mt. Barney in the far distance, Sailor Jack, Bald Rock, South Bald Rock Slip Rock and Mt. Norman in the closer area. Most of the walkers went the extra 300 yards to the Border fence and many large ant beds were seen close by.

The descent was down a different spur from the ascent and proved to be much steeper. The small loose trap rock made it very difficult to remain upright. Many tree ferns were seen in the gullies and showed signs of being in the throes of a cold, dry winter. While waiting at the cars for the last of the walkers to straggle in, a lyre bird was heard in the forest going through his repertoire.

Club members registered their thanks to Mr. McDonagh for leading the outing to such a wonderful forest area and to the owners for granting permission to enter the property.

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From the "How far can you see" Department

On the summit of Donnybrook there was a discussion over the distant peaks visible to the North East. There was no mistaking the mighty Barney and this gave a clue to the identification of the mountain to the left which had a flat top except for a pimple on the left hand side. I think it is Mt. Clunie rather than Mt. Maroon which has a double top. Compass bearings were taken for Barney (36°) and a peak to the right was called Lindesay or Warning (41°). Converting the readings to grid and using a protractor & ruler on a map there is no doubt that the peak is Mt. Lindesay (113 km distant). Mt. Warning would have been 15° further to the East and a lot further away. In July 1980 we saw the summit of Mt. Warning from Bald Rock a distance of 128 km.

Bird Observers Department

Over morning tea on the ascent of Donnybrook we heard a monotonous squeak, which could have been a raptor of some sort. Ian Cowie eventually located the bird, a collared sparrowhawk. These prettily marked birds are very wary and with good reason for they live on other birds of various sizes and ages. The behaviour of this bird - calling and flying from tree to tree eventually going in a complete circle, suggested that it was defending its nest.

two reports by John O'Donnell

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NEXT OUTING - AUGUST 22nd - BUSHWALK FROM SANITARIUM THROUGH TO FINNEY'S FALLS - Leaving Weeroona Park at 10 a.m. - full report (preouting) is on next page - our leader is Ray Marsden .

PREOUTING REPORT - "Bushwalk from Sanitarium through to Finney's Falls"
Sunday, August 22nd - leader Ray Marsden
Departure time from Weeroona
Park - 10 a.m.

In order to give variety to our outings the August outing will not be climbing a mountain but a journey of some two to three kilometers ??? mainly along the Quart Pot Creek. It is not all easy walking, as the undergrowth in places is quite thick. On the credit side we will view the site of the Stanthorpe Sanitarium and see the results of mining in Stanthorpe's early days. It is planned to leave Weeroona Park at 10 A.M. taking some cars to be left at Finney's Falls and we will proceed to the Pistol Club Gateway on Sugarloaf Road from where the walk will begin.

Please carry lunch and water. While we will be beside the creek it is NOT running at present and we will not be wishing to drink from it.

A Lunch spot has been chosen with our young members in mind, so there will be scope for exploring, with rock, sand and water.

Please wear boots or strong shoes and we will observe 'bushwalking etiquette'.

Ray Marsden.

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BUSHWALKING ETIQUETTE

1. The leader should be just that THE LEADER and he should not lose sight of the back marker. Some leaders may prefer to nominate a member who will bring up the rear. When travelling by car NATS should not lose sight of the car following them.
2. Always leave gates and slip rails as you find them. Get through not over fences. If impossible to climp through, climb over at a post.
3. In the bush, walk several paces behind the one in front of you. It is the business of the second to avoid the springing twigs, not of the first to hold them back.
4. Stones must not be deliberately dislodged or rolled over cliff faces. Other walkers may be below.
5. Don't drink water if there is any doubt about it. Boil it first.
6. Carry out your rubbish. If you can carry it in, you can carry it out.
7. Don't take unnecessary risks; you may endanger other people as well as yourself.
8. Be conservation minded at all times - preserve all flora & fauna.

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- ON A SAD NOTE - Our Club has lost a friend and outing leader with the recent sudden passing away of Cec Curr of Ballendean. Cec will be greatly missed by all club members and we extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Carmen and their family.

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NEXT MEETING - August 25th - Guest Speakers - Mr. & Mrs. Wally McKenzie who will take us to Lakefield National Park.

Yours in Nats - Dot Archer.