

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
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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

OUTINGS - Each SUNDAY PRECEDING the FOURTH WEDNESDAY of the  
at 8 P.M.  
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.

SEPTEMBER, 1982MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD 25th August, 1982.Present 14Apologies 14

The President welcomed all to the meeting.

Minutes That the minutes be taken as read was moved by J. Hockings & seconded by M. Prentice. CARRIED.

Correspondence - Inward was received from -

1. Richmond Valley Nats re Campouts
2. Tasmania Wilderness Soc. - Re Tmba Meeting Sept. 4.
3. John James - re September meeting - Guest Speaker
4. Warwick National Fitness re contact.
5. 3 Press Statements - National Parks & Wildlife Service
6. Aust. Wild - re news magazine
7. Newsletter - Aust. Conservation Foundation Vol. 14 No. 5
- Fund for Animals Vol 2 No. 5
- Q'ld Nats No. 130 Aug/Sept.
8. Magazines - Q'ld Nats Journal Vol 23 No. 5/6
- Contact Vol X No. 3

Outward was sent to -

1. Richmond Valley Nats - re campouts
2. John James re Sept. meeting.
3. 4QS re outing and meeting.

Moved by L. Thompson, seconded by D. McCosker that the inward be received and the outward endorsed. CARRIED.

Financial -

July 1, 1982 Bank Balance

\$11.26

Receipts

July, 1982	Membership Subs.	141.00	
	Room Rent Collection	5.70	
	Room Rent Yearly donations	12.00	
			<u>158.70</u>

\$169.96

Payments

July, 1982	Mag. Postal Reg.	20.00
	Mag. Postage July	7.50
	Room Rent July	6.00
	Mag. Duplication	5.00
		<u>38.50</u>

August 25th, 1982 Bank Balance

\$131.46

It was moved by Mrs. D. Archer that this report be received and the following accounts passed for payment

August Postage Mag. \$7.50, Mag. Duplication \$5.00,  
Room Rent \$6.00, Magazine cover Acct. \$69.33. Seconded by  
M. Marsden and CARRIED.

MINUTES OF AUGUST MEETING CONTINUED:-

Outing Report - Ray Marsden gave a brief report of the outing from the Sanitarium through to Finneys Falls. After a look at the site of the now dismantled Sanitarium the party moved down to the Quart Pot Creek and followed it to Finneys Falls. Most noticeable was the effect of the heavy frosts and/or dry weather on the wattles and cypresses which showed up by their colours of very effective autumn tones. Some sections were very lush and the finding of an unknown shrub was made. Evidence of the work of early tin miners - possibly Chinese - was the digging of trenches parallel with the creek and the rock piled along the edges. In all a good outing.

Next Outing This outing is still to be finalised but will be either of - Acacia Plateau or Boonoo Boonoo Falls.

(SEE NOTICE RE OUTING AS IT IS NEITHER OF THESE. Ed.)

Guest Speaker - Mr. John James from National Parks & Wildlife at the Hermitage, Warwick, will be the speaker with his subject of the Services new Rural Native Conservation programme.

Specimens. A member at the Summit sent a report of having two mountain ducks on her dam. They were there for two weeks.

Business - \*With the dry weather still with us it does not seem likely that any wildflowers will be available for either Brookvale Park or S.G.A.P.

\*The Border Post made contact with the club to see if it could be possible to mark Allan Cunningham's route through Girraween in some way. A local resident suggests cairns be placed along the route. They would like the Club to contact Bill Goebel and ask his feelings on the matter and to see if he would lead a club outing to study the botany on at least some of the section and relate it to what vegetation Cunningham found.

\*The club is very proud to have Errol Walker as a member and congratulate him on the publication of "The Granite Wilderness" To have the Granite Belt portrayed in such a pleasant and pictorial way is great publicity for an area we all love and share and the credit goes to Errol for the excellent way it has been done.

\*The tree planting to be done at Storm King Dam is underway in that the area has been inspected and choice of trees is being made. If possible some move may be made by mid September.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9 p.m. after which Mr. & Mrs. W. McKenzie gave a very interesting talk with slides of the little known area of the new Lakefield National Park near Laura. The area of over 1 million acres means limited inspection but the bird life on the lagoons was plentiful and with vegetation and aboriginal art as a

Minutes of meeting conclude --

bonus - the park will be very popular when it is further developed. Thank you for a most interesting talk.

J. Stevenson, Hon. Sec.

\* \* \* \* \*

NEXT OUTING -  
September  
19th, 1982.

is to be in the form of a WORKING BEE at Storm King dam. with Bird Watching on the Dam afterwards. Meet at Weeroona Park at 9.30 a.m. - bring SHOVELS, CROWBARS etc. also LUNCH and Binoculars for Bird Watching.

NEXT MEETING

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF NIGHT - TUESDAY, September 21st.

John James from National Parks & Wildlife Service based at Warwick is our speaker for this night and he will be speaking on : Rural Nature Conservation.

John is going to talk and show slides on a new project of the Service. It involves the integration of fauna and flora conservation with rural enterprises such as grazing, for the mutual benefit of nature and the human community.

Ecological destruction has always followed civilized man like a shadow. This project will document the experience of landholders trying to reduce further degradation and thus it is both interesting and very important.

Meeting will start at 8 p.m. followed by our guest speaker.

\* \* \* \* \*

OUTING REPORT - From the Old Sanitarium site through to Finney's Falls.

August outing was organised by the bush walking officer, Ray Marsden, and took us, on foot, from the old Sanitarium site through to Finney's Falls. Fifteen adults and six children took part in the outing. The first part of the outing was along the road prepared and built with stone walling by the patients at the San. When the site of the San. was reached a halt was made to inspect what remains of the complex. It is sad to note that there is surprising little left of this part of Stanthorpe's history. It was in 1911 that Dr. Helen Shaw developed the sanitarium for the care of people with chest complaints in the belief that the cold bracing climate was of value. After the World War I the Government took over the area and developed it into a large complex for returned men with T.B. and such afflictions. The sanitarium had a capacity of one hundred patients and Dr. Eustace Russell was the Superintendent and the resident was Dr. Steele. Treatment included plenty of fresh air and the buildings were designed for this, many with canvas roll up walls. Patients who were well enough worked in the gardens, some of this work is still visible today. It was later found that the climate in Stanthorpe was no better for the

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS  
DUE NOW

August Outing Report continued: -

treatment of T.B. than Brisbane, so patients were moved to Rosemount and the buildings were offered for sale. Many were removed to Stanthorpe and close centres for housing and the Drill Hall is said to be one of the buildings from this site.

The reservoir tank is still intact and many cement slabs, which once were floors of various wards etc. are all that remain in the area. Several large pines have recently been felled and these would have been planted when the San. was in its prime.

The walking party then moved on to Quart Pot Creek and stops were frequent as people found objects of interest. Many varieties of wild flowers were seen, many in bud but without rain they may not come to full blossom. Even in the creek area many of the shrubs were showing signs of stress both from the excessive cold and the drought conditions.

Another interesting facet of the outing was the evidence of tin mining activities along Quart Pot Creek. These included the channels dug beside the creek to divert the water while the creek bed was mined, many small holes dug to get the tin, and the very large dredge holes with still some of the steel buckets from the dredging chain lying around. Evidence was also seen of the habitation from the tin mining days. One wonders what hardships these miners endured to get the mineral from the rocky earth.

The destination of Finney's Falls was reached at the allotted time of 4 p.m. but the distance travelled was found to be closer to 4 Kms. than the three stated in the pre outing notes. Not a lot of water was coming over the falls but the sound of the softly falling water held a fascination of its own. The young people had a wonderful time exploring this rocky wall and the adults found the wild flowers of interest. It was felt that the dry time has taken its toll on the number of wildflowers in this area. Members enjoyed the day and thanked the leader Ray Marsden for his organisation.

FLORA AND FAUNA SEEN - Leucopogen would have been the most prolific wildflower seen during the walk and many varieties of Acacia were flowering or in bud. One shrub in bloom was not able to be identified by any members and so a piece was pressed and it is hoped that identification will be established.

Another point of interest was the viewing of three possums (?) which had departed this life. The remains were found in close proximity and one wonders what caused the deaths. Another sad pile of head and feathers marked the last resting place of a Kookaburra.

(Many thanks Millie for this interesting report - Ed.)

\* \* \* \* \*

DON'T FORGET THE CHANGED MEETING NIGHT -

TUESDAY - SEPTEMBER 21st NOT WEDNESDAY -

John James from the National Parks & Wildlife Service is our Guest Speaker - so come and bring your friends.

NEXT OUTING - PRE REPORT

DATE September 19th - Working Bee in the morning - Bird Watching on the Dam.

For a change from our usual outings - the next one will be in the form of a Working Bee in the morning preparing planting sites for our 'Tree Project' at Storm King Dam. An area has been chosen for this and it will be necessary for you to bring Shovels, Picks and Crow Bars with you.

Bring a picnic Lunch too so you can join in the fun after lunch - Bird Watching on the Dam - (feathered varieties of course!!!) Binoculars will help to get a closer look at these.

COME ONE, COME ALL AND JOIN US IN AN OUTING WITH A DIFFERENCE.

We are meeting at Weeroona Park at 9.30 A.M. and heading for the Dam from there.

\* \* \* \* \*

TO OUR AUGUST MEETING GUEST SPEAKERS - MR. & MRS. W. MCKENZIE.

Once again we owe the McKenzie's a big thank you for another interesting illustrated talk on yet another of their trips. This time it was to the new Lakefield National Park near Laura.

Due to the size and rugged nature of this area it was impossible for them to cover much of the area in an ordinary car. Fortunately for us they were taken to some of the most interesting parts in a 4-wheel drive so had some very lovely slides to show us which included bird life, which was very plentiful on the lagoons, various vegetation as well as aboriginal art.

As the park becomes more accessible it will prove to be I'm sure a very popular spot.

Wal was keen to catch a special fish - hope he has better luck if he goes there again.

Many thanks to you both - and happy travelling in the future.

\* \* \* \* \*

THOUGHT FOR THIS MONTH -

WE CAN'T ALWAYS DO WHAT WE LIKE - - - -

BUT WE CAN ALWAYS TRY TO LIKE WHAT WE DO.

\* \* \* \* \*

SEE YOU ALL ON THE OUTING TO STORM KING DAM ON THE 19th -

and AT THE MEETING ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st - Yours in Hats. Dot.A.