

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	Dot Archer
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Jean Harslett
NEWSLETTER SUB-COMMITTEE	Janet Hockings Ian Jackson
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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

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

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 MONTHLY MEETING HELD TUESDAY SEPT 21st.82.Present 29                      Apologies 8.

The President welcomed all to the meeting especially the visitors

Minutes That the minutes be taken as read was moved by Mr.Tom Archer and seconded by Mrs.J.Davies, Carried

Correspondence. Inward was received from:-

- 1.Lig.Deagin re sub.
- 2.A.Mc.Allister re sub.
- 3.Four Press Statements.
- 4.Magazines..Downs Naturalist Vol5 No.2.N.P.A.  
Vol.52 No.6.Richmond Valley Newsletter  
June ,July, Aug.

Outward was sent to:-

1. Errol Walker re book success.
2. Bill Goebel re Cunningham's trek.
3. 4QS re meetings and dates.

Moved by Mr.Lyle Thompson and seconded by Mrs. Millie Marsden that the inward correspondence be accepted and the outward endorsed.. Carried.

Financial ReportStatement 21st. Sept. 1982.

Bank Balance forward..... \$131.46.

Receipts

Aug.1982 Subs.....\$5.00

Aug. Room rent....\$6.30

(Collection)

Sept. subs.....\$46.00

\$57.30

\$188.76.

Payments.

Aug.25th..Aug.Mag.Postage \$7.50.

Aug.Mag.Duplication... \$5.00

Aug.Room Rent. \$6.00

Bulletin Covers... \$69.33

\$87.83.

Sept 21st.1982 Bank Balance.....

\$100.93.

Moved by Dot Archer that the credit of \$100.93 be received and that the following accounts be passed for payment.

Sept Mag Postage \$7.50; Mag. Duplication \$5.00 and Sept.

Room Rent \$6.00. Seconded by Mr.Graham Greenup and carried.

OUTING REPORT:-Despite the outing being in the form of a 'working-bee' there was a good attendance. All holes were dug and guards made ready for the trees at a later date. After this birds were watched on the dam for a while and then the party moved to nearby properties for quick inspections and more bird watching on Nielsen's Dam.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING CONT.

Next Outings SPECIAL An extra outing ,a wildflower outing will be held to Hutchins Hill on October 17th. (afternoon only)

CAMP-OUT It is proposed that a "campout" will be held to the Emmaville area. For both these outings, please check for further particulars. Emmaville District on October 23rd and 24th. Oct.

NEXT MEETING The Frank Wilkinson's and the Ray Marsden's will take us to the Isla Gorge on Wednesday Oct. 27th.

SPECIMENS Millie Marden brought specimens from the August outing including the unidentified shrub. Joan Stevenson brought wildflower specimens from the wallum area of Evan's Head.

BUSINESS. Mr. Bill Goebel brought a map showing where Allan Cunningham traversed Girraween and the difficulties encountered there. He will explain in greater detail at a future meeting.

Errol Walker thanked the members for their good wishes and congratulations on the success of his book.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm, after which Messrs John and Stuart James gave a most informative talk on "Rural Native Conservation". The ideal is to make nature and production complement each other and in so doing restore areas that have been abused. Handled properly these practices, given time, will benefit the rural scene.

Joan Stevenson, (Hon. Sec.)

A SPRING SPECIAL by JOAN STEVENSON.

A few days spent recently at Evan's Head, which start-off as just being somewhere to go to finish off a holiday. Little did we think that such a massive floral carpet was waiting for us.

Natural curiosity as to what view could be seen from the headland led us to our first glimpse of what seemed so out of character to us, a very fine stand of flannel-flowers on the lee side of the banksias at the top of the hill. A walk into the banksias revealed the dusky coral pea entwined in the bushes, tea-tree in full flower and at ground level the gold of pultanea and white wedding bush.

Breaking through the sheltered area we were met by a blaze of colour. Stunted by the constant sea breezes, but in full splendour were the flowers we had just seen, but also masses of boronias, melalucanahibbertia, eriostemon,  
Cont. on Page 5.

REPORT ON THE SEPTEMBER OUTING by MILLIE MARSDEN

The Stanthorpe Field Naturalists Outing for September was quite different from the usual format, when members were invited to attend a working-bee at Storm King Dam, to be followed by a bird watching afternoon. Fifteen enthusiastic members arrived at the Dam with an assortment of digging tools. The aim was to prepare the holes and the tree guards for the tree planting project. It is envisaged that a group of native trees and shrubs will be planted in the picnic area along the shoreline of the Dam. This will eventually provide beauty and shade in the area, and will be of benefit to those having picnics or watching water sports.

The working-bee was soon under way, and the holes were prepared and the tree guards made, and after rain the trees will be planted and should be off to a good start.

After the completion of the work, members inspected the re-located Amiens Memorial School of Arts at the Fred Rogers National Fitness Camp. It is good to see that the plaque from the hall has been retained and takes pride of place on the wall, it reads "Amiens Memorial School of Arts, Fortuna Adjuvat Fortes". The building has been relined with panelling and looks very spic and span, it is to be used as a recreational area in conjunction with the Camp.

Lunch was enjoyed at the picnic area after which the members got down to the serious business of Bird Watching at Storm King Dam, Nielsen's Dam and toured the nearby Stevenson property.

Millie Marsden.

To accompany Millie's report Mr. Ian Cowie very kindly prepared the following bird lists for the day.

STORM KING DAM(only.)

Little Grebe  
Pied Cormorant.  
Little Pied Cormorant.  
White Ibis.  
Royal Spoonbill.  
Yellow-billed Spoonbill.  
Grey Teal  
Japanese Snipe.  
Spur-winged Plover.  
Pied Stilt.  
Welcome Swallow.  
Fairy Martin.

BOTH STORM KING & NIELSEN'S

Australian Pelican.  
Little Black Cormorant.  
White-faced Heron.  
Large (White) Egret  
Black Swan.  
Black Duck.  
Wood Duck.  
Musk Duck.  
Coot.

NIELSEN'S DAM(only)

White-necked Heron.  
Whistling Kite (?.)

It is noted that a range of waders, water fowl and others were observed near the water of both dams. However The

IAN CORIE'S BIRD NOTES CONT.

Japanese Snipe is an uncommon bird, is a migrant from the Northern hemisphere and is found in eastern Australia between August and April. The bird breeds in Japan and an island in eastern U.S.S.R. The other birds seen are mostly relatively common, semi-nomadic species found over a wide area of Australia in suitable habitats.

Thank you Ian for preparing this list  
Ed.

SPRING SPECIAL by JOAN STEVENSON CONT.

conospermum, acacias, leucopogons and many others unrecognized, flowers and plants. Our appetite was whetted so further investigations were made.

A visit to the Broadwater National Park nearby more than complemented what we had seen on the higher areas. Although the boronias dominated the area we found heath areas where the wildflowers were just as spectacular as the former ones.

This large area is quite accessible and many hours could be spent finding its hidden beauty.

On reflection the feeling of jealousy creeps in as we are so proud of our local spring flowers, but to have a preview in such abundance was breathtaking and exhilarating.

Joan Stevenson.

(Thank you Joan for spontaneously writing this report for us, like a breath of fresh air in our rather drought stricken spring. Ed.)

RURAL NATURE CONSERVATION by JOHN O'DONNELL.

John James of Warwick and the Rev. Stewart James of Kingaroy gave us an interesting outline of this new project of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Initially it will be concerned with the Darling Downs Region = including Inglewood and Stanthorpe Shires. John is project co-ordinator, Stewart is involved with Habitat Resource Mapping.

The first part involves finding a number of landholders, who are interested in combining wild life conservation with a commercial enterprise of some sort. Then the aim is to monitor conservation experiments of these people = recording what they tried, and the results over time. After several years staff of the N.P.W.S. will publish results so that other landholders can be given a range of options available, if they would like to participate.

John also mentioned that while National Parks are

RURAL NATURE CONSERVATION by JOHN O'DONNELL.Cont.

are useful for conservation of various animals and plants they tend to be oasis in deserts of agricultural land. Many animals are nomadic and some birds migratory. There is also the nasty problem of maintaining genetic diversity in a population - difficult when numbers drop to a low level.

The talk was followed by some of Stewart's slides taken in this area, showing common problems such as overcleared slopes leading to gully erosion and salting. An old problem is that isolated trees on sown pasture paddocks, the trees often become unhealthy because of increased insect attack, and excess sunlight on the surrounding soil. High stocking rates associated with these pastures result in low levels of tree regeneration, so the land becomes progressively poorer as wildlife habitat.

There were also slides showing where regeneration has begun eg. the head of a gully which has been fenced off & replanted, another of mine wastes being recolonised. Even in cropland, a small change in management may allow birds such as quail to breed. Large dams and artificial lakes for irrigation increase in number each year. Some landholders have islands constructed - these reduce wave action, and give safe areas for nesting - away from 'nasties' such as foxes and cats. Shelterbelts planted around the edges do give more habitat for wildlife and improve the look of the dam. Near Chinchilla, one landholder is cropping a portion of his land, leaving the rest in its natural state. Treed areas along the roads can be important as habitat, although narrow they may provide a safe corridor through otherwise open agricultural land. Another slide showed regeneration of trees and shrubs on land formally under sown pasture. Wattles and other legumes are recolonising bare slopes & should reduce the problems of erosion, seepage and salting in the drainage lines. About a kilometre of drainage line has been fenced to exclude stock for a few years. Already there is a change in the composition of the grasses. Soft grasses which are virtually extinct in grazed areas have found suitable habitat.

Response by landholders to the project has been encouraging. Although fewer than 5% are involved, it shows that the agribusiness, development and maximum production pundits, have some opposition at last. That this project has even started is of great significance. Since the Sumerian civilisation of Mesopotamia (which failed around 3,000 B.C.; mainly because of silt clogged irrigation ditches and salty water from overgrazed pastures) the general pattern of civilisation has been to exploit and degrade its land, then move on to greener pastures and repeat the process. We have virtually run out of new land to dispoil, the good old days of "treating the land like dirt" may be drawing to a close. The very thought would send many people back to their "stubbies", "telly" or "pokies". The ramifications of

RURAL NATURE CONSERVATION by JOHN O'DONNELL.Cont.

the project are potentially considerable - more expensive food in the short term, greater pressure for population control and different lifestyles, challenges and priorities - maybe even a drift away from urban sprawls and materialism.

John O'Donnell.

Thanks John for this full report on this rather important programme we had for Sept. We are fortunate to have a President who thinks so deeply about a wide variety of the problems, of a Society such as a Field Naturalists Club.

Ed.

=STOP PRESS

THE OCTOBER CAMPOUT TO DEMON CREEK AREA. ..

VENUE Demon Creek, property of Mr. and Mrs. T. Schiffmann.

DATE. October 23rd. and 24th. (Tom and Madge)

LEADER. Mrs. Dore Mc.Cosker.

MEETING PLACE TENTERFIELD PARK on the right hand side of the road as you enter Rouse Street in Tenterfield and near the junction of the old New England Highway with the present highway which is now designated by that name. At corner of Rouse and Nass Streets. When we leave Tenterfield by the Billyrimba Road, Nats. signs will be put up to assist late comers, but it is hoped as the route is a little difficult that we will travel from ~~6 1/2~~ Tenterfield, together. 9am. Tenterfield Please ring Dore Mc.Cosker 8ii787 or Robin Mc.Cosker 835217 if you wish for extra information. Robin and family may go down on the Fri. night.

It will be about a 2 hour drive is east of Tenterfield and on quite a good road, but it is steep. Visits include the waterfalls, creek and hillside walks and a pretty camping spot. Birds and plants. It is also in the region of a well known geological 'fault'

SEE YOU ALL THERE !!!

Its a 2 hour trip from Stanthorpe

PLEASE NOTE TENTERFIELD AT 9am.

Footnote At the discretion of the leader, Dore Mc.Cosker, who found that the previously suggested area for the Camp-out, at Emmaville, was in the grip of severe drought, when she made pre-outing enquiries, it was decided to visit at a more propitious time.

Ed.

CONFIDENTIAL  
JAN 19 1964  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

The project was substantially completed and the final report was submitted to the sponsor on January 15, 1964. The project was conducted in accordance with the terms of the contract and the results are as follows:

John O'Donnell, Jr., was assigned to the project and was responsible for the overall management and coordination of the project. He was assisted by the following personnel:

THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL WERE ASSIGNED TO THE PROJECT:

and that the project was completed in accordance with the terms of the contract. The project was conducted in accordance with the terms of the contract and the results are as follows:

It was found that the project was completed in accordance with the terms of the contract. The project was conducted in accordance with the terms of the contract and the results are as follows:

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