

Jan '83

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
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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 MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24th. NOVEMBER 1982.

The President welcomed all to the meeting, with a special welcome to Mrs. Ena Mc.Culloch, Mr. and Mrs. Wally Mc.Kenzie, Misses Louisa Stefanon, Judy Jones. Ena, Wally and Betty are Queensland Nats. Members.

Attendance:- 30 present at the meeting

Apologies:- 11.

MINUTES:- That the minutes be taken as read was moved by L. Thompson and seconded A. Wilkinson.... Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:- Inward was received from:-

1. Desley re sub. (Desley McDonagh)
2. Dept of Nat. Parks re Cairns at Girraween.
3. The Stanthorpe Swimming Pool re charges for Groups etc.
4. Stanthorpe Rotoact re competitions.
5. Conondale Road and Range Committee re rainforest destruction.
6. Five Press Statements (Calendar for sale..funds)
ex. Nat. Parks & Wildlife.
7. Australian Senate re Tasmanian Wilderness.
8. Funds for Animals.
- 9 Mags. Newsletter Vol 2.No.6 ; Down Under Vol.20 No.4. Vol21 No.1.

Outward was sent to:-

1. Madge and Tom Schiffmann thanks for campout venue.
2. 4 QS for meeting and outing notices.
3. Desley Mc. Donagh re sub.

Moved by Frank Wilkinson and seconded by Rob Mc. Cosker that the inward correspondence be received and the outward be adopted.
Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

OCTOBER 6th. 1982..... Bank Balance \$127.53

Receipts

October 28th. Subs.....	\$38.00	
October 28th. Room Rent Col.	\$5.00	
November 6th. Sub	\$8.00 \$51.00

\$178.53.

Payments

October 27th 1982 Oct. Room Rent..	\$6.00
October " " " Oct. Mag. Dup..	\$5.00
October " " " Oct. Mag. Postage	\$7.65
October Stencils and correct- -ing fluid.....	\$17.90.
	\$36.55

November 25th. 1982.... Bank Balance..... \$141.98.

Treasurer Dot Archer moved that this report be received and the following accounts be passed for payment, seconded by Fran Cowie Carried.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELDON WEDNESDAY 24th. NOVEMBER 1982.FINANCIAL REPORT Cont:-

Accounts Passed for payment. Stanthorpe Q.C.W.A. November Room Rent \$6.00; Stanthorpe Rover Scouts November Mag. Duplication \$5.00 Janet Hockings for November Postage on the Magazine \$ 7.82.

OUTING REPORT:- A successful outing was held to Boonoo Boonoo Falls with 21 members attending. History of the area and a good display of wildflowers highlighted the day.

NEXT OUTING

This will be the Christmas Break-up and will be held at the Presidents home, "Mountain Park" Dalveen. John has generously offered to provide prime "Mountain Park" lamb for the BBQ. and his special lemon drink of fresh fruit, and the members are to bring salads and sweets. This will be held on Sunday 5th. December at 5pm.

1983 OUTING AND MEETING: This is still under discussion and members will be notified through the magazine and by radio. Watch for outing and meeting news.

SPECIMENS:- Brian Mc. Donagh brought an unusual exhibit in the form of the working end of a weather balloon, complete with batteries and instruments etc. which was found in the Donnybrook area. Flower specimens from Boonoo Boonoo for display and identification by Dore Mc. Cosker and a spiders nest in the shape of a ball, and of very delicate weaving was found and brought by Tim Murray. Unfortunately no-one was able to tell her what it was.

President John commented on some unusual bird sightings on his property. A Regent Bower Bird (female) which stayed around for quite a period, then was found dead presumably because of the lack of its usual diet. He also recorded a Little Brown Cuckoo and some Plum-headed Finches and enquired if these had been recorded locally. Jean Harslett reported seeing a male Lyrebird within 3 kms. of the Stanthorpe P.O. on the Sugarloaf Road. She feared foul play and wondered if someone had endeavoured to bring it to town to show off and that they got "cold" feet before getting there. An interesting note came from Brian Mc. Donagh who told of a pair of Turquoise Parrots nesting down a hollow post in his trellised grape vines, and marvelled at the size of the hole they were getting into.

BUSINESS Trees to be planted at Storm King Dam, are not ready yet. They are still too small for droughty conditions, and are being cared for and nurtured in Tom Archers Nursery.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm and the programme was presented, "Canada" through the eyes and camera of Mrs. Jean Harslett was enjoyed by all present. From the tiniest of Alpine plants to the loftiest crags of the Rockies, the quietness of the mountains to the "quietness" of the city park,

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24th. NOVEMBER 1982. Cont.

or the dominance of the lofty pine to to a minature poplar, Jean shared these and more with us, to make it a memorable evening. Thanks Jean.

Joan Stevenson Hon. Sec.

BOONOO BOONNOO OUTING A REPORT BY LEADER TOM ARCHER 21:11:82.

Boonoo Boonnnoo was originally a small township and a Cobb and Co. stop or staging post, on the Mount Lindsay Highway which then, was the main north south road link.

In its gold mining days the village was made up of a shop, a school, an hotel, various residences and a cemetery. Now there is only one visible house left to mark the spot. However scattered groups of exotic trees suggest previous residence.

Further down the road towards Tenterfield where the terrain drops more steeply through a narrow valley is "Thunderbolt's Hideout" and higher up is "Thunderbolt's Lookout" names which recall Thunderbolt's (Fred Ward) bushranging days, when valuable loads even including gold passed this way. The "Hideout" is quite an interesting rock formation.

Nearby the present road is a slab of concrete and below have been constructed some wartime tank obstructions. These were made during the early days of World War II as part of the "Brisbane Line". It was hoped that if the Japs invaded the North-East of Australia they could be stopped just north of Brisbane. McArthur had other ideas and was out to stop them where ever they happened to be and he certainly wasn't going to wait for their marches through the bush.

About this period the Cunningham Gap Road, the Heifer Creek Road and the extension of bitumen surface of the Stanthorpe to Wallangarra via Devil's Elbow were put through. Thus the Mount Lindsay Highway after years of being the most used thoroughfare retired to being just a road.

Our first stop was to look for, and be successful, a patch of Purple Diuris. In fact the main feature of the outing were the wild flowers, which were remarkably good. All the messmates on the hilltops were in flower, too, and gave a faint suggestion of a powdering of snow on a very hot day.

Our next stop was at Morgan's Gully where a cut has been made through the rock to enable the old creek bed above to be sluiced out. Gold was the goal and with what success seems unknown. However though it appears that there was little fortune here, times appear to have changed when he moved north into Queensland and discovered Mount Morgan which also bears his name. It seems this gully rests peacefully on, whilst his mountain namesake has seen incredible change. Above this rock cut are a couple of old boilers from a portable steam engine. In the near future the road is going to be moved uphill to avoid two bad

BOONOO BOONOO OUTING REPORT BY TOM ARCHER CONT.

creek crossings and will pass beside these boilers and will then cross the creek by bridge.

The cool stream running within its banks and under the ferns was very pleasant and nearby pink boronia and yellow and brown pea flowers were providing an excellent display. The next stop was for lunch, at a popular picnic spot on the River, where we enjoyed the sight of a cool expanse of water and some of the kids enjoyed the swimming. Near a small stream, close by was a small but beautiful patch of pink Grevillea, and a large flowered white heath.

Our last stop was at Boonoo Boonoo Falls but by that time the bottom of the falls was too far below the top, and we were content to admire the falls from above. This time some of the adults went swimming as well as the children, but it must have been on the cool side, because even the children said so ! Here the local "Hollybush" *Oxylobium illicifolium* was in full bloom, and very nice too. Driving home there was promise of a storm, but no luck.

Tom Archer.

BOONOO BOONOO OUTING FLOWERS by DORE Mc.COSKER. 21:11:1982.

Blackbutts - *Eucalyptus pilularis* = were blooming along the roadsides and on the hills in their thousands.

With the approach of Summer small flowers are more evident in the grass - various daisies, the dainty blue lily, *Dianella laevis*, two species of *Goodenia*, *Wallenbergia*, the cousin of the violets, *Hybanthus filiformis*, some mauve doubletails - *Diuris punctatum* and some dainty *Hibbertia*. Pink Trigger plants - *Stylidium grammifolium*, kept the 'littlies' busy popping the 'triggers'.

The scarlet flowers of the prostrate *Grevillea trinervis* contrasted with the fluffy white of *Pimelea*.

At Morgan's Gully just a few belated blooms clung to the *Kunzea capitata* bushes, and two *Leptospermums* and two yellow *Callistemons*, namely *C. sieberii* and *C. pallidus* were seen on the rocks but the lovely shadings of colour of massed calyxes on the *Calythrix tetragona* were a lovelier sight.

Boronia in full bloom is always a delight and the low growing species in this area is especially showy. Here too were the yellow pea flowers of *Dillwynia* and *Pultenaea*, the cyclamen coloured *Comesperma ericinum* and also in these parts the closely related *C. retusum* distinguishable from the former by erect character and flat leaves and growing in the swamps of 3,000-5,000 ft. The white *Conospermum*, golden everlastings, *Helichrysum* and the prickly holly leafed pea - *Oxylobium illicifolium* were plentiful hereabouts.

The steep banks of the trench-like watercourse provided just the right climate for many ferns, mainly *Gleichenia dicarpa* (the Umbrella fern) with a few of its close relative *Sticherus flabellatus* and some Fish back ferns - *Blechnum* sp. -

Here also was a plant new to me in this area - *Bauera rubioides*

BOONOO BOONOO OUTING FLOWERS BY DORE Mc.COSKER 21:11:82CONT.

trying to outshine the Boronias. Also just as colourful was *Tetradlea thymifolia* (black-eyed Susan) Amongst the rocks at the road were flannel flowers - *Actinotis helianthi* and *Prostanthera nivea*, with its white flowers which appear to float like snow flakes. Also present was *Stypandra grandis* and clumps of dense greenery so much used in gardensnow - *Homoranthus*.

Finally to remind us of the campout last month, Madge Schiffmann brought along the flower of the cucumber orchid, for us to photograph plant of which we had seen at Demon Creek, which were not in bloom in October.

Dore Mc.Cosker.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY HELD AT MOUNTAIN PARK 5:12:1982

A very well attended Christmas Party, the roll-up was excellent despite the Garden Club Christmas Party and the Legacy Dinner held concurrently, which of necessity takes some of our members. Held at 'Mountain Park' the home of our President who with his mother Mrs. O'Donnell made a special effort to entertain us all. John provided tender home grown lamb for our B.B.Q. and his own special lemon drink a great quantity to pander to our tastes, he had patiently squeezed. Members provided the salads and the sweets, which for variety, good looks and delicious flavour would do justice to any table. A perfect evening - very clear atmosphere after the welcome storms, with Orion really looking over us in Christmas spirit, and a constellation familiar to all of us whether born in the Northern or Southern hemispheres. We gathered for a relaxing good yarn and good fellowship the small children exploring the garden and making friends with the lamb (for a "Small one") and others playing with balloons an activity enjoyed by all small people at this time of the year. Lyell Thompson Peter Langdon and John presided over the cooking of the chops. Later when it got cooler we moved inside where Mrs. O'Donnell had provided a Christmas atmosphere with a tree and gay little Noel decorations, and John and Robin had taped suitable background music as had the Wilkinsons to give our ever willing pianist Dot a break this year.

Ena McCulloch turned up on her return to Brisbane from Armidale and we were delighted to have her with us. President John and his mother Mrs. O'Donnell conveyed Christmas greetings to all the Members and their families, and thoughts of good will and good fortune for the coming year.

Jean Harslett.

SPECIMEN IDENTIFIED

Sometime ago Joan Stevenson brought along to the specimen table a very prickly character for identification. No one knew what it was and it wasn't the sort of chap anyone wanted to make friends with. Joan has now had it identified for our interest, and it bears the good title of "Prickly Foot" (*Eryngium vesiculosum*) and has

JANUARY 1983.SPECIMEN IDENTIFIED Cont:

as a first cousin of another "hairy" sounding character "Blue Devil" ! They are a fine clan you can see and no doubt not a welcome visitor at the Stevenson's property. It enjoys low lying, heavier soils of open grasslands and little is known of the habits of this one, though members of the family are susceptible to 24D. Thank you Joan for following this up and getting it identified.

JANUARY As always planned there is no meeting.

OUTING PLANS FOR JANUARY

Tentative plans were made at our last meeting for a possible Camp-out with Ray and Millie Marsden, and possibly for Toowoomba Members. However they do not normally have an outing in

Jan. and our own members are very involved with the Show Ball Australia Day Celebrations and our Annual Show preparations plus several away on holidays that it has been decided to make this outing at a more convenient time for all concerned. Ray and Millie had planned a pre-outing but with a wedding in the family, will be happy to be relieved on this occasion. Thus as is our usual plan ..NO JANUARY OUTING

President John and the Executive wish each and every one of you for 1983. a VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR. It has started well with gentle rain soaking in nicely, which will help all those things which the Nats. derive so much enjoyment from.

Not a "Nats." story but a "Nuts" story to help fill the page.... Just heard Liz Taylor won the award for the "Best Housekeeper of the Year"...she has kept them all from each marriage 88