

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
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 MONTHLY MEETING HELD 23rd. FEBRUARY 1983

PRESENT 23..... Apologies 8.

The President welcomed all to the meeting with a special welcome to new members visitors and including Peter Hazelgrove our guest speaker for the night.

MINUTES:- That the minutes be taken as read was moved by Mr. Tom Archer and seconded by Mr. E. Walker. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:-

Inward was received from.

1. Madge and Tom Schiffman outing thanks.
2. Peter Hazelgrove re the Sundown camp and meeting programme.
3. Richmond Valley Nats. re Easter Camp.
4. National Parks Toowoomba re Cunninghams route at Girraween.
5. Fund for animals raffle and information.
6. Wild Life Safaris re tours.
7. Wild Life Preservation re S.W. Tasmania.
8. Tasmania Wilderness Society.
9. A.C.F. (2).
10. Twelve Press Statements, National Parks and Wildlife.
11. Y.M.C.A. re Community Centre funding.
12. Australian Senate Democratic Party re S.W. Tasmania.
13. National Park News re camping.
14. Queensland Nats. Magazine No. 132 September 1983.
15. Richmond Valley Nats Newsletter Oct. Nov. Dec.
16. Two National Parks Magazines Jan 1983 Vol. 53 No. 1. Dec. 1982 Vol. 52. No. 8.
17. Contact Vol. 21 no. 4 December 1982.
18. Darling Downs Nats. December 1982 Vol. 5 No. 3.
19. Down Under November 1982 Vol. 21 No. 2.

OUTWARD WAS SENT TO :-

1. 4QS. re meetings and outings
2. Peter Hazelgrove, re February meeting and Campout in March.
3. Stanthorpe Jaycees re Australia celebrations.
4. Millie Marsden re Australia Day decoration.
5. Mr. and Mrs. Dick Rickard thanks re February outing.

MOTION:-

Moved by Mr. Lyle Thompson and seconded by Mrs. Jean Harslett that the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed..... Carried

FINANCE:- Statement for Meeting 23rd. Feb. 1983.

November 25th. 1982 Bank Balance...

\$141.98.

Receipts

November 25th 1982. Sub..... \$5.00

" " Rent Donation \$2.00

" " Room Collection \$5.54.

December 5th. 1982 Sub..... \$8.00

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FINANCIAL REPORT CONT:-

BANK BALANCE 25.11.1982..... \$141.98.

Receipts Cont:-

December 8th.1982 Subs.....	\$8.00	
January 27th. 1983..Subs....	\$5.00	
February 9th. 1983..Sub....	\$5.00	Total 38.54.
		\$180.52

Payments:-

November 25th 1982 Room rent ..	\$6.00	
November 25th 1982 Nov.Mag		
Duplication..	\$5.00	
November 25th.1982 Nov.Magazine		
Postage.....	\$7.82.	Total..18.82

January/February Bank Balance...\$161.70 \$161.70

1983 Bank Statement Balance.. \$166.70

O/S.cheque Rover Scouts No.12699 5.00 (less)\$161.70Accounts for payment:-

January Magazine Duplication....	\$5.00
February " " " " " " " " " "	\$5.00
February Room Rent	\$6.00
January Magazine Postage	
(Dot Archer)	\$7.50.
February Magazine Postage	
(Janet Hockings)	\$7.67/

Moved Dot Archer that the credit Balance \$161.70 be received and the above accounts be passed for payment seconded by Colin Hockings and carried.

OUTING REPORT:-Jean Harslett reported on another interesting outing to Boston Cliffs, this time near the Maryland River. Historic Points of interest were noted near Liston and Wylie Creek by our leaders for the day Irma and Dick Rickard. Note was made of the unusual rock formations near the Maryland River Bridge. Near Boston Cliffs were spectacular cliffs around the Maryland River which wound itself through the 600-800 foot gorge. No answer for certain was found for what were seen swimming in the river below us. Owing to the dry time there was very little bird life, but a macrazamia provided interest.

NEXT OUTING.

This will be to the Sundown National Park (Glenlyon end) on March 19th and 20th 1983

NEXT GUEST SPEAKER

Jack and May Bennie of Dalby will speak on their recent visit to Cape York Peninsular at the Q.C.W/A. Rooms Wednesday 23rd March 1983 at 8pm.

Joan Stevenson Hon. Sec.

SPECIMENS. The macrozamia from the outing complete with .
was displayed by Dore Mc.Cosker. Specimen had long leaves
tending to grow in a spiral. The plant is poisonous to stock
After treatment of the seeds, they can be eaten.

Business The Club was asked to give its views on the Community
Centre need. President John to write to the Border Post.
Richmond Valley Nats. campout at Easter in the Billyrimba Creeek
area. As no members will be attending, we could not advise a
site.

Mr. Jack Mc. Beth has offered his area as a suitable half day
outing area and would be happy to lead.

After discussion the Club has agreed to sponsor a section
at the next Stanthorpe Show for the Best Native Bloom. Moved
by Millie Marsden and seconded by Dot Archer ..Carried.

There being no further business the meeting closed at
9pm. after which Mr. Peter Haselgrove showed slides and spoke
on the new Sundown National Park area, where the Club will hold
its campout next month. As the area is extremely dry at the
moment it will be necessary to take your own water, supplies.

BOSTON CLIFFS OUTING FEB. 20th. 1983 by JEAN HARSLETT

Quite a respectable number turned up for the first outing
of 1983. Leaders Irma and Dick Rickard met us at Liston, where
we changed into fewer cars. The Rickard's gave us a brief run-
-down on the history of the history of the area and we proceeded
to our first stop at Wylie Creek where we heard of its gayer and
busier days, and the sites of well known landmarks were seen, and
the remains of orchard and gardens of pioneers could be noted
amongst the native flora. Cullendore Gap route of the coach road
was observed and a further stop was made at the top of Maryland
Hill, to view the geological nature of the country, and another at
a point just across the bridge at the river. Dick pointed out the
old road signs of which could still be seen, cut into the side of
the hill, and the remains further up-stream of piers of a lower
bridge. Though most of us had a picnic there before, all had to
admit they were unaware of the old road, so it will be an added
interest to us in the future. This emphasises the benefit and
added pleasure of having new leaders and those local to a spec-
-ific area. The Rickards did of course do a splendid job in this
way and gave us a really splendid day. The old well known swim-
-ming hole near this last stop has filled with sand, and looking
up to the well known bridge so high above us, it was hard to
believe that water of the floods of several years ago actually
rose to the height of the bridge bearings. This probably made
us fully realise the impact of this flood. Dick was able to show
us the lasting changes that power of water wrought, also being a
good and observant bushman many other things, such as the mark
of the sandpapping of gravel high on a few oaks which managed
to stand. Close to 'Windaroo' Dick selected some good shade for a
cup of tea. They were a handsome group of trees made up of Euc.
bridgesiana in flower, attracting the larger of the honeyeater
clan, and several smooth-barked apples Angophora costata syn.
lanceolata.

BOSTON CLIFFS OUTING CONT.

Bark peeled off the trees revealed smooth beautifully russet coloured boles. Its quite large fruits distinguish it from its close relatives the gum. We had also noted earlier another tree similar to the gum, but belonging to the coastal ranges namely the Brush Box (*Tristania*). Two species of mistletoe were observed here, one showing secondary parasitism or parasite growing upon parasite, as one member aptly remarked, "poetic justice". The second one *Nothothixis subaureus* is very aptly named too, as its under leaf colouring is truly of gold or auriferous. Literally thousands of "Soldier Beetles" were seen, no doubt the common name stems from its metallic green colouring with neat trims of yellow and red, being "uniform" like in colour and pattern. Despite the fact they have been described as occurring in incalculable numbers, strangely little is known of their life history. This underlines just how little we do know yet and the need to maintain various habitats, for future study.

We finally reached "Boston Cliffs" where lunch was had. Remains of "Boston Cliffs" homestead established by Mr. and Mrs. S.J. Bonner are still apparent, some shrubs and fruit trees, survive, with one small shed partly maintained, which has a clever group of items arranged to catch and strain some fresh water for drinking. A horse-drawn scoop rests in dignified retirement. After lunch and an inspection of a termites nest on a tree, very neatly holed in the middle (was it a kingfisher's home?) most of us walked to the cliff edge, some riding in Rickard's 4.W. Drive. The walk was through gently undulating ridges, with fine timber, which proved the rainfall was much greater than the present dry aspect suggested. The pungent aroma of 'wild sage' (*Plectranthus*) filled the air as we brushed by it, the characters of odd 'Blackboy' plants stood about and more smooth barked *Angophoras* lit the landscape with its rich orange colouring, which extended to the very tips of the trees, and were etched in gold against a soft grey cloud pattern, and provided an exciting colour combination. The knoll adjacent to the cliffs was clothed with some small trees, but dense forest of an *Acacia* species unknown. The bark must be a characteristic for a quick recognition, narrow parallel strips which lift in a curl at the bottom. The limbs of the old trees provided beautiful lines of design silhouetted against the cliff edge skyline.

A fine specimen of *Macrozamia* with a female fruit in gay shades of yellow orange and dark green provided interest. Reference to Selwyn Everest's "Poisonous Plants of Australia" suggests its *Macrozamia pauli-guilielmi* sub species *plurinervis*, with closely ~~sub-species~~ allied sub. species *flexuosa* very hard to distinguish, and habitat maybe overlapping. This plant is toxic to stock, but not an 'ogre'. In November when young shoots could be eaten is the danger period or after fires when new shoots show very green and attract a 'munch'. Tests show that very young shoots are quite toxic, but 2 kg would need to be eaten, while in 11 days time when leaves older 6 to 8 kgs would have to be eaten. By May the plants were even less toxic and 70kgs were fed in 100.

BOSTON CLIFFS OUTING CONT.

days produced no symptoms.

Arrival at the cliff face produced a vista which I'm sure excited us all and many sat on rock pillars for quite a time, to enjoy and soak in the scene. The Maryland River carved a course through rough rocky way, in a direct line in front of us, hundreds of feet below, when suddenly it met another cliff at rightangles. Thousands of years of "argument" with this wall which must be singularly hard rock, had not produced defeat, and the river had spread out into a very long still and sleepy waterhole to meditate, then make the decision to take a very sharp and long "U" bend around the cliff and hill, almost completely surrounding it, to proceed on its way to join the Clarence River. Way below with the aid of binoculars duck were watched then the small rings on the surface with elongated bodies seen through the clear water. Thought was given to it being platypus feeding. Other 'critters' were seen from a considerable distance which were probably water dragons and one a water rat.

It was a day of pleasant fellowship and some new places for us to explore and warm thanks are extended to our friends who accepted leadership for the day and provided many facts and interesting yarns. Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Dick Rickard.

PROGRAMME by PETER HASELGROVE

Ranger Mr. Peter Haselgrove gave us a very interesting programme on the western end of Sundown National Park, substantiated by some good and descriptive slides, as a prelude to our next campout. Those of us who participate in the Club campouts are even keener now. So dedicated is Peter to this area that we almost think of him as "Mr. Sundown". He has been making a special effort to understand and explore the geology of the area, which is a special feature of this terrain. He has also with his personal love increased the knowledge of the bird distribution in that area. Mapping and discovering the local and original names from earliest pastoral and mining days have all been in a days work for Peter, and we are singularly fortunate to have an officer of his calibre and enthusiasm and dedication to be in on the ground floor of establishing this park. These sentiments came through in Peter's presentation to us and we look forward to a weekend down there. In advance we thank you for preparations we know you are making for us.

NEXT OUTING

CAMPOUT TO SUNDOWN NATIONAL PARK with MR. PETER HASELGROVE

DATE:- 19th and 20th. MARCH 1983

TRAVEL Go under your own steam to Western end of Sundown National Park. eg. via Texas/Glenlyon road and well down you will see the turn off clearly sign boarded. If you turn up at

Mingoola, you've gone too jolly far!! It is hoped that people would be there by 10.30 am, and camp set up ready for an early lunch and then a walk or whatever Peter has planned for us. Friday nighters please contact Sec. Joan 811009.

NEXT PROGRAMME Jack and May Bennie Cape York and they are joining us at the campout..great.