

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

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

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1982 - 1983

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<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 MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27th, 1983.

Present 14. Apologies - 8.

The President welcomed all to the meeting.

Minutes - That the minutes be taken as read was moved by T. Archer and seconded by R. Marsden. CARRIED.

Corresp. Inward was received from:-

1. Minister for Tourism, Nat. Parks etc. re Sundown Toilets.
2. Q'ld. Recreation Council - Warwick Area.
3. Press-Statements - 6
4. N.P.A. News - Vol. 53 No. 3 Apr.83
5. Darling Downs Naturalist - No.348 Apr.83
6. Contact Vol.11 No.1
7. Fund for Animals - Vol.3 No.1 March 83..
8. Peregrine Expeditions Tour Catalogue83.
9. Bird Observers Club - Roadside Survey

Outward was sent to -

1. Peter Haselgrove - Thanks for Sundown Camp.
2. Jack & May Bennie - Thanks for March Guest Speakers.
3. Director of Nat. Parks & Wildlife - re Sundown Toilets.
4. Minister for Tourism, Nat. Parks etc. re Sundown Toilets.
- 4 Q S - Outing and Meeting notice.

Moved by R. McCosker and Seconded by D. Archer and carried that the inward be received and the outward endorsed.

Financial  
Statement

March 23, 1983 Bank Balance 143.53

RECEIPTS

March 23	Room Rent Collection	2.60	
April 12	Camera Club share of		
	P.O.Box Rental	9.00	
			<u>11.60</u>

\$155.13

PAYMENTS

March 23	Room Rent	6.00	
	Mag. Duplication March	5.00	
	Mag. Postage March	9.81	
	P.O. Box Rental	18.00	
			<u>38.81</u>

April 27, 1983 Bank Balance \$116.32

Moved by Dr Archer and seconded by M. Passmore and Carried that credit balance of \$116.32 be received and accounts for Room Rent \$6.00, however \$6.00 and Postage \$6.03 Lees Newsagency \$6.60 be passed for payment.

Outing Re-  
port

Robin McCosker reported on the outing to near Bernie Hicklings Property at Bald Mountain. This area is in the National Park - Girraween and Mr. Hickling led the party to the top of the Rock capped Mountain. Magnificent views of the South Side

Minutes continued:- Outing report -

Good stands of wildflowers give promise of a picturesque spring. Mr. Hickling gave the history of the early settlers of the area and took us to a cave where they think Thunderbolt left his gun.

NEXT OUT-  
ING

John O'Donnell will lead the next outing to Kelvin Falls - Elbow Valley on Sunday May 22nd. Start from Weeroona at 9a.m. Carry Lunch.

Next Guest  
Speaker

Maurice Passmore will speak on the "Composition of Soils" on Wednesday, May 25th.

Specimens

Specimens from the outing were a very rare Baronia and a yellow seeded Pittosporum. Brian McDonagh reported on two Grapevine Moths having a liking for Polystyrene.

Business

President reported trees are growing well at Storm King Dam.

Brian McDonagh will be taking a party to Donneybrook and anyone wanting to join the party are to contact him. Date in about three weeks.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50p.m. after which Bill Goebel gave his talk of trials and triumphs in finding Alan Cunningham's trek through Girraween in 1827. He told of tracing the route by reading the diaries and applying his compass readings. Swamps, rocks and May rains were major obstacles enroute.

The history of the area when it was part of Ballandean Station were also given. The changes of industry from sheep to cattle and sheep then fruit. A sawmill in 1885 was operated as a pit saw. In 1850's the Pyramid Valley was known as Nicholl's Run.

Thank you Bill for a most interesting talk with slides.

Joan Stevenson  
Hon. Secretary.

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DONNYBROOK - If you are interested in joining a party with Brian McDonagh - he can be contacted by phoning 841 284.

HOMEWARD BOUND

The finest day must reach its close at last  
When, tired, we trudge the homeward path once more,  
Thinking of all the joy of hours past,  
Another memory for our treasure store.



OUTING REPORT - BALD MOUNTAIN AREA - by Rob McCosker.

April 24th, 1983.

Although the weather looked threatening for yet another Nats. Outing (perhaps we should hold them every weekend) the fifteen members attending enjoyed a pleasant day despite the occasional drizzle. We arrived at Bernie Hickling's property a little before 10 a.m. and after a cuppa, set off across Fletchers' neighbouring paddock to the rocky hills which form the southern border of the Girraween National Park. The climb to the top was interesting with the variety of native plants showing promise of spectacular spring blossom if sufficient rain is received. Of course the drizzle we were having had made the moss and lichen covered rocks quite slippery and there were several anxious moments for all.

We paused near the top, where Bernie pointed out the Saxby and Reids' properties which, with the Fletchers' were settled when the Railway was extended to Wallangarra from Brisbane in the early 1880's. Bernie also demonstrated the perfect echo from the adjacent hillside, and while we were enjoying the pleasant surroundings, with a view to Mt. Donnybrook, someone decided it was a good spot for lunch. Nearby I found a feather which I feel sure was from a Lyre Bird, as they can frequently be heard in the area. Many years ago I was fortunate to watch a Lyrebird briefly, while bushwalking with a friend on a hill a little further to the east. We had been attracted to it by its repertoire of bird calls such as parrots and currawongs and the sounds of the nearby farm including a squeaking windmill and woodchopping.

After lunch our path took us through some tremendous caverns and rock formations, which are so typical of the Girraween Park, and then down into the gully to the east. A short distance down the dry gully, with its lush vegetation, we inspected Thunderbolts' camp on a ledge above the watercourse, beneath the overhand of an enormous boulder. Bernie told us of the rifle and magazine which his father had found there and handed over to the Police. He believes the rifle is now installed in the Museum at Uralla.

The most notable plant for the day was a Pittosporum with willowy branches bowing gracefully under the weight of raindrops and masses of bright orange seedpods. Another interesting plant found was a Boronia in bloom, with small leaves and pink-white flowers which were also uncharacteristically small for a Boronia. Unfortunately I have been unable to obtain the species of either of these plants.

The outing was concluded after a leisurely walk back to the cars for another cuppa and some of Bernie's delicious grapes.

A special thanks to Bernie for his leadership and I hope we can arrange another outing to the area particularly at wildflower time.

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VARIETY

The trees today look different

To the way they were last week,

And who knows what tomorrow will yield to those who

For Nature never lets things stay

seek?

But mounts a new show every day!

ILLUSTRATED TALK ON ALAN CUNNINGHAM'S ROUTE IN GIRRAWEEEN AREA

Our speaker on April 27th was Bill Goebel, well known to us all who with the help of maps, records and slides showed us Alan Cunningham's route in 1827 through what we know now as Girraween National Park.

Bill, with the late Merv. Fletcher, in 1972 started to locate and follow where Alan Cunningham had journeyed those many years ago. Using Cunningham's diaries and compass readings they were able to follow the exact track through parts of Girraween which showed that rocks, swamps and mountains prevented Cunningham from going south and a possible shorter way - having to back track and travel further west a disappointing necessity. Bill showed us how he could have gone a slightly different way and likely would have been successful.

With slides Bill showed the areas Cunningham had gone through -- told us also the history of the area when it was part of the Ballandean Station and tracing the changes of industry from sheep to cattle and sheep and then fruit.

Our heartfelt thanks to Bill for bringing to us so graphically this famous man's journey in an area known to us and telling us the history of that area as well as showing us the beginning of Girraween history on slides. A most enjoyable programme Bill, and we look forward to having you lead us on an outing over this area.

Dot Archer, Ed.Pro Tem.

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NEXT OUTING - Date May 22nd, 1983 - to Kelvin Falls - Elbow Valley Area - Leader John O'Donell.

John, due to the rain that we have had, was unable to do a preouting trip in time for the magazine. He will be going on one this weekend. John has asked me to pass on to you the following information -

Meet at Weeroona Park at 9 a.m. Travel to Dalveen and turn onto the 'Old Warwick Road' - meet the leader, John, at Mountain Park turnoff about 9.30 a.m. We will park the cars at the bottom of Perrott's Gap which is about another 20 minutes drive. The walk to Kelvin Falls will probably be a circuit - about 3 miles - some along the bottom of a gorge. Bring a packed lunch.

Thank you John, and we will look forward to seeing all members at this outing - Sunday, May 22nd.

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NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY, MAY 25th, 1983 at C.W.A. Rooms at 8 p.m. Guest Speaker will be Maurice Passmore who will talk to us about 'Soil Composition'.

NEWS FLASH - Congratulations to Janet and Colin Hockings on the birth of their 2nd son Peter - a future bushwalker mate for his brother Robert.



