THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB

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

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1983 - 1984

PRESIDENT	John O'Donnell (852 344)
VICE-PRESIDENTS	Frank Wilkinson Robin McCosker
SECRETARY	Joan Stevenson (811 009)
TREASURER	Dot Archer (811 754)
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Jean Harslett B.E.M.
NEWSLETTER SUB-COMMITTEE	Janet Hockings Ian Jackson
PUBLICITY	Joan Stevenson
LIBRARIAN	Milly Marsden
FLORA OFFICER	Dore McCosker
FAUNA OFFICER	Brian McDonagh
GEOLOGY OFFICER	Maurice Passmore
YOUTH OFFICER	Errol Walker
BUSHWALKING OFFICER	Ray Marsden
COMMITTEE	Colin Hockings David Pfrunder Tom Archer Ailsa Wilkinson Lyle Thompson Roy Werner
AUDITOR	Mrs. Joan Ferris

MEETINGS 4th Wednesday of each month at the 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.

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB.

Minutes of the meeting held at the C.W.A. Wednesday 27th. JULY 1983... The Annual Meeting... at 8pm.

Present 22..... Apologies 8.

The President welcomed all to the meeting, with a special welcome to new member Roy Werner.

MINUTES. That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting be taken as read was moved by Tom Archer and seconded by Brian Mc.Donagh.... Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE Outward was sent to Mrs.Joan Ferris thanking her for auditing the financial books. Moved by F.Wilkinson & seconded by R.Marsden.... Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT Dot Archer moved that the balance sheet for 1982-1983 showing a credit balance of $59.89 be received & seconded by Ailsa Wilkinson... Carried. (Detail.Gen.Meeting)

PRESIDENTS REPORT President John O'Donnell spoke of the good fellowship enjoyed by the club in both field and meeting places. He said how each year we learn more of our surroundings and through this knowledge we are aware of the conservation, needed to enjoy and preserve nature in the future. He thanked all for the smooth running of the club.

This report was seconded by Dot Archer who thanked John for his leadership..... Applause.

ELECTION of OFFICERS Mr. Frank Wilkinson took the chair for the election of office bearers, for the incoming year.

President:	John O'Donnell	nom.by Jean Harslett ...	Accepted
Vice Presidents	Frank Wilkinson	nom.by Tom Archer..	Accepted.
	Robin Mc.Cosker	" " Tom Archer..	" "
Secretary:	Joan Stevenson	" " Frank Wilkinson	"
Treasurer:	Dot Archer	" " Frank Wilkinson	"
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	Jean Harslett	" " Joan Stevenson	"
NEWSLETTER SUB.COMMITTEE:	Janet Hockings	nom.J.Harslett	"
	Ian Jackson	nom. J.Harslett	"
PUBLICITY	Joan Stevenson	nom.by Frank Wilkinson....	Accepted.
LIBIARIAN	Millie Marsden	" " Tom Archer	" "
FLORA	Dore Mc.Cosker	" " Ailsa Wilkinson	" "
FAUNA	Brian Mc.Donagh	" " Dot Archer	" "
GEOLOGY	Maurice Passmore	" " Tom Archer	" "
YOUTH	Errol Walker	" " Jean Harslett	" "
BUSH WALKING	Ray Marsden.	" " Tom Archer	" "

COMMITTEE: Colin Hockings; David Pfrunder; Tom Archer; Ailsa Wilkinson Lyle Thompson; Roy Werner nom by Millie Marsden Accepted.

Auditor Mrs.J.Ferris nom.by.Dot Archer... Accepted.

BUSINESS

It was agreed that the subscription stay as at present; Single $5 and Family $8.

A special meeting to arrange programmes for the year will be held at Frank and Ailsa Wilkinsons home on Monday Aug 1st.

at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Joan Stevenson Hon.Sec.

GENERAL MEETING

Minutes That the minutes be taken as read was moved by B.McDonagh and seconded by Tom Archer.... Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE Inward was received from:-

1. D.Halloran.. Sub.
2. M.S.Moulds.. Sub.
3. Li.Deagin.. Sub.
4. Roy Pirie re pied butcher bird.
5. Aust.Post re magazine set up & cover.
6. Warwick Daily news re Programme activity.
7. 8 Press releases from Dept.Tourism,Nat.Parks
8. 4.Press releases Aust.Senate.(Democrats)
9. Newsletter Richmond Valley Nats..July.
10. National Parks Assoc.Magazine.July Vol.53 No.5.
11. Darling Downs Naturalist.July No.351. &June No.6.No.1.
13. Down Under Vol.22, No.1.
14. Contact July Vol11.No.2.
15. Urimbirra 23 copues 1981-82.

Outward was sent to:-

1. 4QS. re meeting.and outing.
2. Roy Pirie re Pied Butcher Bird.
3. Janet Hockings re Aust.Post requirements.
4. Jack Mc.Beth re thanks for outing.

Moved by D.Mc.Cosker seconded by Don Lightfoot and carried that the inward be received and the outward endorsed.

FINANCIAL(As should have been in Annual Meeting)

For year ending 30th.June 1983.

Receipts		Expenditure	
Cr. Balance	11.26	Rent for room	60.00
Subscriptions	329.00	Rent for P.O.box	18.00
Donations to Rental	59.80	Postage Magazine	85.08
Camera Club/share rental	9.00	Postage Registration	40.00
Bank Interest	3.24	Duplication Magazine	55.00
		Magazine Covers	69.33
		Magazine Back Pages	6.60
		Correcting Fluid	2.95
		Stencils	14.95
		Government Tax on Bank	50.
	412.30.		$352.41.

CREDIT BALANCE $59.89.

BANK RECONCILATION STAEMENT

Balance as shown on Bank Statement		$73.81.
Cheque not presented 018	$6.00	
020	$7.92...Total.	13.92
Credit Balance.		$59.89.

I have examined the receipts,deposit book,cheque books,and other documents presented to me and found everything to be

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FINANCIAL REPORT CONT.
correct. May I take this opportunity to wish you a very successful coming year.

Hon.Auditor J.Ferris.

Report moved by Dot Archer who also moved that the following accounts be passed for payment, C.W.A.Room Rent $6.00 Janet Hockings for Bulletin postage,8.04.,Rover Scouts for magazine Duplication 5.00,Lees Newsagency stencils 15.30 seconded T.Archer.... Carried.

OUTING REPORT J.O'Donnell reported on the outing to "Mount Hutton" and nearby areas under the leadership of Mr.Jack Mc.Beth. Interest was to the fore all day with tree types, rocks,scenery competing for attention.

NEXT OUTING.
Mr.Bill Goebel will lead this outing to Girraween, where he will follow part of the track that Alan Cunningham took when in this area. This will be held on Sunday August 14th.one week earlier than usual. Cars will meet at Girraween car park at 9.30 am. and a carry lunch will be necessary.

NEXT MEETING This will be arranged at a special meeting to be held on Monday 1st,August 1983 to plan the years activities.

SPECIMENS Brian Mc.Donagh brought a specimen of Euc. Deanii, for us to compare with that seen on the outing.
Millie Marsden brought wildflowers from Dalcouth.These inclu-ded Hakea,Blue Daisy (Olearia ramosissima)with a range of colour from palest blue to the deepest we had ever seen) Cryptandra,Mirbelia.Ac.adunca and Ac.ulicifolia.

GENERAL BUSINESS.
Brian Mc.Donagh has offered to take anyone interested to Donnybrook on Sunday 28th.Aug.Ring Brian (841284) if you are interested.
The meeting closed at 9.25 after which slides to recall our activities for the year were shown.
Supper and general chatting were enjoyed by all present

Joan Stevenson Hon.Sec.

STOP PRESS
From the meeting of last night it was decided that the programme ~~from~~= for the August meeting ,will be"Roaming in England Scotland and Denmark" illustrated in slides by Jean Harslett.

NEXT OUTING Please note one week earlier 14th.Aug.1983
LEADER Mr. Bill GOEBEL
VENUE Girraween National Park, where Bill will show us part of the route taken by ALLAN CUNNINGMAM in 1827. Bill Goebel and the late Mervyn Fletcher,have spent countless hours on this project,with the aid of copies of old diaries maps, readings,and surveyors (of to-day) have traced this very carefully. We will also see a number of plants which that great botanist/explorer saw for and recorded for the first time on that expedition.Thanks Bill for sharing this research with us..... Bring a carry lunch.

REPORT ON THE OUTING TO "MOUNT HUTTON",LED BY MR.JACK McBETH ON 24th.JULY 1983..... by JEAN HARSLETT.

The party met at Jack Mc.Beth's,"Mount Hutton"property,and and with one or two new faces and the old faithfuls we added up to 29,strong.Welcome to new member Roy Werner,and we hope he enjoyed the day.It was good to have the company of Carmen Curr and her grand daughter again,and congratulations to our youngest of the day (only 9 weeks and 6 days to be precise) It is always most rewarding to see a family enjoying the out--ing and seeing little ones indoctrinated in the joys of open air fun, even if you did provide the only mishap, a cut tyre, bad luck.

Before setting off we viewed a nearby tree,the only gum of its kind,of which Jack knew in the home paddocks. The'Nats. 'botanists' donned sage expressions and came up with the pro--found 'info' that it was probably a hybrid !

We drove along the"old" Jibbinbar Road,which once saw lum--bering trucks,in the 1920's, loaded with arsenic pyrites,en--route to the Jennings treatment plant,to be made into "pent--oxide" for the eradication ofthat scourge of the time,prickly pear.

We entered "Rockview" the property of the Whitforts.The paddock of "Rockview" by name and later the property name was named after the point of our next inspection. The Whitfort's invited us to look at their native plants in the garden (while the tyre was being fixed) this being daughter Robyn's special interest.They then guided us through their property to apoint within easy walking distance of a large isolated bare rock so typical of our granite outcrops.

Darlyn noticed some lush 'well fed' sundews,and of course Kerry knew that animals like the ones we had been seeing, sheep,cattle horses and goats,eat plants,but it was a surprise to hear that some plants eat animals -little ones of course - It was good to see Kerry's interest as she heard how the sundews catch insects with sticky parts,and just as we have digestive juices in our bodies,to sort out what is good for us,so have these plants and they need insects to make them grow strong, just like Mummy makes you eat your vegetables.

We climbed the large rocky area,like a lot of "Brown's cows",depending on what diverted our interest.Finally Jack our leader,had us all on top,with a good view of the surround--ing country to all points of the compass.He described the lanscape laid below us,which he knows like the back of his hand,sprinkled it with historical tit-bits, and thumbnail sketches of some of the early settlers , salted with Jack's gentle and kindly humour. After a cool stay on top - a brisk southerly blowing - we desc ended a few feet into a huge rock depression and sat in a large circle,soaking up the sun,and as someone humerously said,'draw up a rock'. At our feet tiny

OUTING REPORT CONT.
rich pink foliaged succlents struggled for survival. Jack was also able to tell us that the paddock we passed further back, three hectares,with a very secure and high fence,was erected for a deer farm project.

We returned to the cars via a ridge to see an interesting big boulder,sitting on a fine edge of balance. Brother Deagan made a quick but very effective pencil sketch of it,giving an insight to his skill with a pencil.

Here too was an unusal Zieria,richer pink flowers than is usual and much more hairy leaves. This was seen some years ago when we visited Geoff.Mc.Donagh's property not far away, as the crow flies, and still it is not defined in species.

Peter found a good example of the leafless climbing orchid (Galeola cassythoides). It was protected from fire by rocks. Such a strange plant it always creates interest.It is devoid of green colouring,being leafless,has strange aerial roots, which are thick and flattened,and with suckers attach themselves to a rock or tree. It looks more like heavy fencing wire,than plant,and had thick little clusters of buds,promise of flowers to come.

Jack told us about the old "Mount Hutton gold mine a"duffer from all accounts. Mrs.Gleeson of Stanthorpe Store provided the gelignite and some finance,but lost her money.Tales are told that in later times when it was illegal to shoot possum that the pelts were saved and the caecases tossed down the old shaft to hide the evidence.

Evidence of the extremely hot bush fires earlier this year was very evident,and Eucalypts displaded their tenacity. Several "blackboys" very blackened by fire. Two twisted ones almost human,in shape,suggested that despite their difficult--ies,they still kept their sense of humour. Others with a fuz of stiff bright green of new shoots were good subjects for the camera.

Looking at their harsh black remains,these plants look remotely unlike the lily family.(what could be further from the quotation of "lily white". Strange yet beautiful plants when they send up their long spikes of flowers so rich in honey,there is"always something doing",butterflies,birds, bees,wasps and ants all interested visitors. Drying oils substitutes for turpentine may be extracted from the base of t the plants,and used in varnishes and paints. It has been said,"With a blackboy plant you can feed yourself,scent your--self or blow yourself up = as the spirit moves".

We moved on had lunch,then were shown a huge old fallen messmate tree. Jack told us its upper limbs were lopped in the 1920's by a chap aged 70 years, quite a feat. He was a retired sailor,and no doubt needed the nerve gained by climbing the rigs to carry out this feat. However it remains a mystery why he really did the job.The tree though dead for many years has only recently fallen.

We walked down Jones Creek,once hand mined for tin,quite

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OUTING REPORT CONT.

freely. Numerous small dams very recently built had us all puzzled, and reasons for their erection varied from a theory that goats did'nt like getting their feet wet crossing the streams, to perhapes small reserves of water, to wash tin when the present water level dropped, to allow the crevices to be inspected. We walked along the fence, repaired since the fires with some unusal methods of straining. A fence complete with electric insulators was approached with much caution, but was not "alive". A curious shaped rock was our aim, and from that we came back over a very large flat rock area, usually one of nat--ures gardens, but not yet recovered. Perhapes accentuated by the surrounding bareness, the vivid green cushions of moss wer arresting. They were so vivid a green, that even those not Irish amongst us felt "turned on".

Finally we went on to Beavers property, where we climbed up on a granite hill to see good channells and caves in granite boulders. The 'roos in the far distance turned out through the binoculars to be a couple of shooters with rifles ! Tiny pink and white orchids, Caladenia carnea and the lovely rich blue cousins Caladenia caerula (just as richly blue as the name suggests appeared on the junction of granite andtrap rock. Tongue orchids, and Bulbophyllum orchids graced the caves. We passed through a fence built a hundred years ago and the posts iron bark weathering well, and were still firmly standing in the ground testimony to Ted Bent who built it.

As we returned we enjoyed the handsome "Bendee" wattle (Acacia cultriformis) Most of us saw country ~~site~~ quite new to us, Jack provided us with plenty of information, and this brought a good day to a close.

Jean Harslett

NATURE NOTE

Members the Langdons took their Readers Digest Bird Book with them to a weeks camp at Girraween recently. We have had a lot of rain. A snail found shelter up along the back of the book where it could not be seen. It decided to sup on the glue holding the spine ,"to see what that would do". The answer, it died, and the pages fell out!

May the new Nats. year be fruitful in interest and pleasure. Please if you have anything for the bulletin, no matter how small, or any suggestions on what format you would like it to take, please speak up. Its your magazine and so have it as you want.

Yours in Nats.

Jean Editor.

BIRD NOTE

A pair of Southern Fig birds were seen inspecting a cotoniaster shrub, rich in berries, viewed at very close range, through the Post Office window, but the berries att--raction was only short lived as, I, suppect was their stay in the area. Should add the Amiens Post Office window.