

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)
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Youth Officer	Errol Walker
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<u>COMMITTEE</u>	Colin Hockings David Pfrunder Tom Archer Ailsa Wilkinson Lyle Thompson Roy Werner Gabriele Brown
AUDITOR	Mrs. Joan Ferris
<u>MEETINGS</u>	4th <u>Wednesday</u> of each <u>month</u> at <u>C.W.A. Rooms</u> at <u>8 P.M.</u>
<u>OUTINGS</u>	Each <u>SUNDAY PRECEDING THE FOURTH WEDNESDAY</u> of the <u>Month</u> .

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Single - \$5.00 Mag. Only Sub \$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.

THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD
NATURALIST CLUB ..HELD AT THE C.W.A.ROOMS 26.10 1983 at 8pm.

ATTENDANCE : Present 18..... Apologies 5.

The President welcomed all to the meeting, including Frank Wilkinson (2) who was Guest Speaker.

MINUTES: That the minutes be taken as read was moved by Frank Wilkinson and seconded by Peter Langdon... Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Inward was received from:

1. Mr.L.Jeffrey with directios re Texas outing and camp-out.
2. National Parks and Wildlife re Sundown toilet blocks to be erected
3. Uni. of N.S.W. re Courses on Enviroment.
4. Bird Observers group (Bendigo Group) with survey on the Regent Honeyeater and inviting help. in its range.
5. Magazine Q.N.C. for Oct/Nov.No.136.
6. Magazine N.P.A. Vol. 53.No7. Oct.
7. Magazine of Richmond Valley Newsletter Oct.
8. Contact Vol.11 No.3.
9. Down Under . Sept.Vol.22.No3 and October Vol22 No.4.
10. Press releases (6) National Parks and Wildlife.
11. Senate Democrats. Enviromental Policy.

OUTWARD: Was sent to:

1. Mr.L.Jeffrey re Nov.Campout Texas.
2. Apple and Grape Festival decline support.
3. Q.N.P. Wildlife re Press Releases.
4. John Dark thanks for use property for Oct.Outing.
5. 4QS Outing and meeting notice.

Moved by Brian Mc.Donagh and seconded by Jean Harslett that the inward correspondence be received and the outeard endorsed.Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

Dot Archer moved that a credit of \$179.40 be received and the following accounts be passed for payment.

Rent..... \$6.00

Magazine Duplication .. \$5.00

Magazine Postage \$ 6.67.

Seconded by Millie Marsden..... Carried.

OUTING REPORT Frank Wilkinson gave a report on the outing to John Dark's property at Willson's Downfall, which was attended by 14 adults. A wqlk down one gully found King orchids, and Pretty Faced Wallabies and masses of clematis, and a taste of wild raspberries. While the afternoon walk took us through a rain forest area. The height of the Hibbertia and the profusion of bloom was outstanding. Orchids in trees, staghorns, tree ferns and moss covered rocks highlighted the second walk. Also enjoyed was the Holly leafed gold pea, which was Oxylobium ilicifolium.

NEXT OUTING

This will be a "campout" to the Severn River Falls with Lawrie Jeffrey of Texas as leader and will be on 19th. and 20th. November. Would intending campers please contact the Secretary before

NEXT OUTING CONTINUED.

Before FRIDAY 18th. November (Secretary Joan Stevenson Phone 811609.

so that a check can be made with those needing directions, or those going direct, so that no-one is missed, and to make it easier for the Leader Mr. Lawrie Jeffrey to advise of latest road details.

The road is a little difficult to find. Lawrie will not be able to leave Texas until 12.30 on Saturday to guide us and will have to return to Chemist shop duties that night, so will not camp there but will arrive again early on Sunday to join.

NEXT MEETING. Following a recent visit to the Blackdown Tabledown area, the Marsdens and the Wilkinson's will give us a programme.

SPECIMENS Some specimens were brought from the outing and they included two species of Hibbertia, which were in such fine display. Also the prickly, holly-leaved pea, *Oxylobium illicifolium*, and the name refers to its holly like leaf, and it belongs to the tableland areas of S.E. Qld and northern N.S.W.

Ailsa Wilkinson brought 19 varieties of wild flowers from a trip to Jolly's Falls. They included that tall erect terminal flowering pea from Jolly's Falls area, which tricks a few by being a *Marbelia* (*M. confertiflora*) it has suffered with a mis-applied name for a good while. It is found at Jolly's Falls The Summit where it is most frequently found and has subsequently been noted at Boonoo Boonoo (first noted there in 1905) Gibraltar Range 1961, Girraween 1971 only by Ryan. Specimens were sent down for identification from Jolly's Falls Oct 1956 by Ken Shea, and collected by Les Pedley at same place in Oct. 1963.

Report of outstanding height of flannel flowers at Glen Aplin by Millie Marsden.

Brian Mc. Donagh commented on a display by a yellow robin with nest.

Also on a leafless orchid (*Galeola cassythoides*), plants of which are excelling themselves with bloom this fine year for wildflowers, after such a wet winter. These have been reported as very special from other parts of the district too. Brian also displayed various colour shades of *Dampiera*, purple pink and white being recorded.

BUSINESS

Notice that the Christmas Break-up will be at "Mountain Park" at Dalveen. Meet about 5pm. Meat will be provided, but members to supply drinks and salad trimmings.

The January Outing will be to Acacia Plateau leader will be Jean Harslett.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm. Visiting Frank Wilkinson (cousin of our own Frank Wilkinson) presented the programme on New Zealand. The programme title was the same the Frank being the only difference. It was thought a good opportunity to see his pictures and we will look forward to Stanthorpe Frank's pictures on another occasion. The slides showed us yet another side of what is seen by different people of the same place, but a very beautiful place which is easy to enjoy again and again. Joan Stevenson. Hon. Sec.

REPORT ON THE OUTING TO MR. and MRS. JOHN DARK'S PROPERTY
SUNDAY OCTOBER 23rd. 1983... BY FRANK WILKINSON.

Our outing on Sunday 23rd October was to John Dark's property along the Liston - Tenterfield road. Sixteen came along including two juniors, one being very junior indeed. Crossing the creek near John's house we continued on to a certain fenceline and headed Nth. through a gate, and wandered along an indistinct track and eventually came to a flattish place from which we had a magnificent view looking to the east. Here we had a "cuppa" and leaving the cars made our way down hill through the trees to a small creek which we followed up for a kilometre or more - well more really! Seven or eight wallabies were sighted and we later approached quite close a young one, whose mother had hopped away a minute or so beforehand.

Raspberries and stinging nettles were in abundance, not many ripe raspberries, though. Bird's Nest ferns, Elkhorns, and King Orchids etc. were sighted. Brian has a list of the flowers seen etc. I think and John has a bird list too. Following up the creek we had a rather steep climb when we left it, to make our way to the cars, where a leisurely lunch was partaken.

Later we returned (per cars) to the aforementioned fence and drove South into the trees, backtracing a short distance we drove around them and on as far as possible. Walking along we came to a track, which we followed for some distance. Along it we saw some everlasting

bushes, or rather everlasting daisies, some bushes were quite large. Down we went into the rainforest and eventually came to another small creek. This one was a real beauty. It ran through, over and under a jumble of moss covered rocks, the rocks were not particularly big or slippery and the moss was half an inch or more thick, and made them quite green. Each couple of metres we encountered a miniature waterfall. Here was an abundance of bird's nest ferns and lianas, and everyone really enjoyed this clamber. The light wasn't conducive to photography so I don't think anyone took any pictures.

Back on the track we arrived back at the cars, with just barely time to have a drink of water, and down came the rain, quite heavy too. (It was recalled at the meeting that last time we visited this area, we had a similar weather pattern, a perfect day, but rain falling within moments of reaching the protection of the cars, you are an expert in timing Frank! Ed.) We waited for about 20 minutes or more, then decided to move off. No trouble was experienced on the wet grass, and by the time we had reached the road again the rain had gone.

Frank Wilkinson (Leader)

REPORT ON THE WILDLIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY SEMINAR AT DALBY.
BY JOHN O'DONNELL

This two day seminar was held to enable a cross-section of the community to meet and listen to talks on population levels, farming practices, flora and fauna decline, soil erosion etc. with a

REPORT ON THE WILDLIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY SEMINAR AT DALBY
BY JOHN O'DONNELL CONT.

view to finding areas of agreement which could be developed to integrate farming and grazing with wildlife and soil conservation. Stewart James (who addressed the Nats. last year on Rural Nature Conservation) was one of the speakers. He has real feeling for the land, good to hear amongst all the materialists.

I felt it was a skip forward, showing the gradual change in attitude, that has been occurring for several years. From the workshops came many ideas for helping this gentler attitude to spread, more education, more soil conservation officers, tax incentives to leave trees standing, discussion groups for catchment area planning and penalties for gross misuse of the land. I thought that if we didn't really love the land, then regulations, incentives and penalties wouldn't make much difference, but this idea wasn't popular.

John O'Donnell "Mountain Park "

Last month John O'Donnell reported the demise of the family cat, and he wondered if there would be a bird report this month!! Sure enough true to promise here it is.

BIRD LIFE AT "MOUNTAIN PARK." DALVEEN

Rapid rise in numbers and variety noted following the death of overfed, short clawed cat (trimmed). Most of the birds are very welcome, such as the wrens in the vegetable garden, but there are some problem children- like bower birds, koels and currawongs and friar birds, in the loquat tree, crested pigeons in the fowl run! It is lovely to see spotted and striated pardalotes at close quarters, and dear little double barred finches working their way round the garden.

John O'Donnell

CHRISTMAS PARTY .. STOP PRESS

"Mountain Park" Dalveen Sunday 5th. December at 5pm. We will supply hogget chops, barbaques, wood, tables, refrigerator space. You bring yourselves, side salads, liquid refreshments, chairs, crockery and cutlery .. please.

CAMPOUT STOP PRESS.

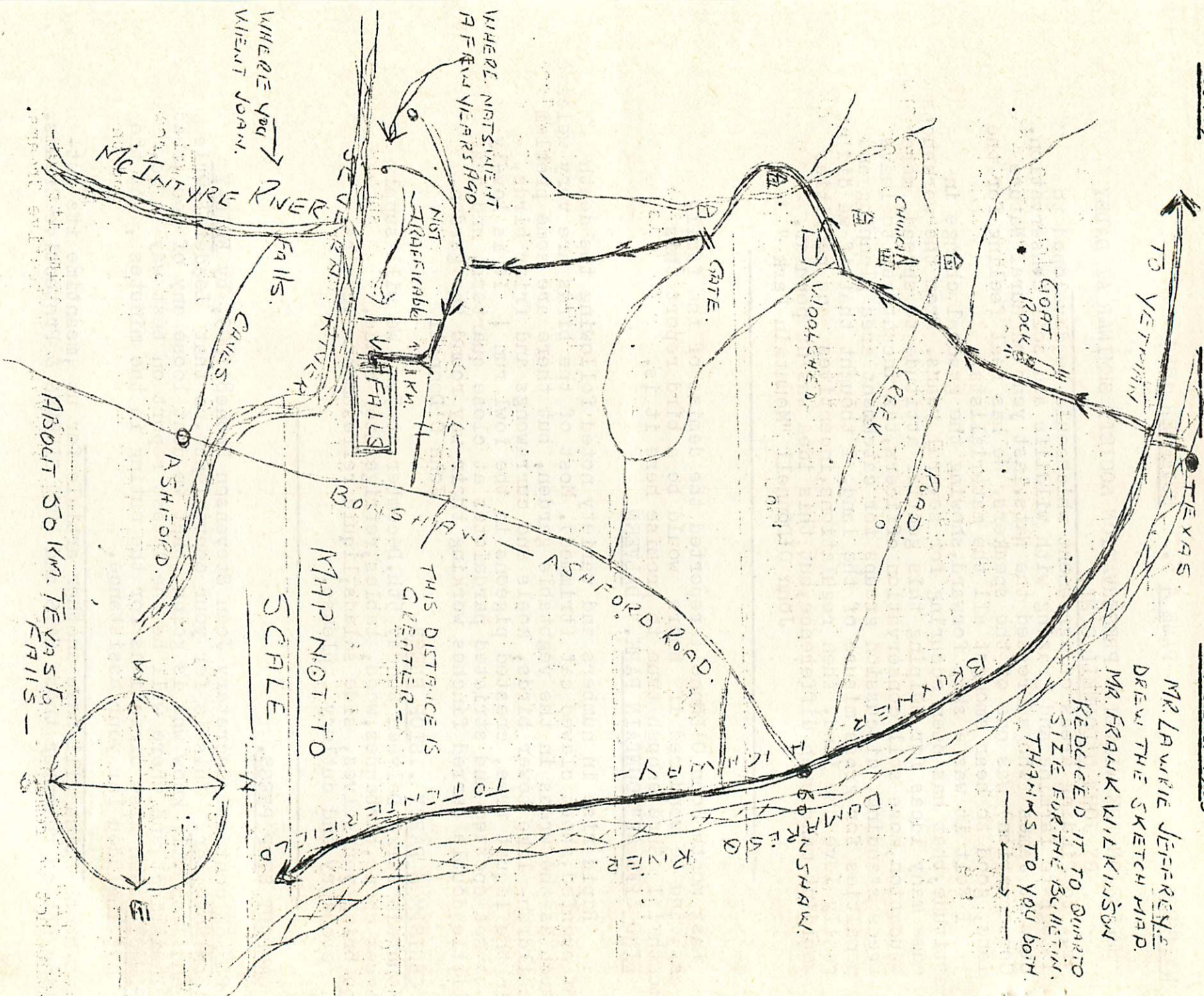
PLEASE contact Secretary Joan Stevenson Phone 811009, by FRIDAY 18th November. This is for your convenience, so that Leader Lawrie and Joan will know who is going, that we don't lose any of you, road indistinct, and there will be the latest report on best way to go. PLEASE see also directions for the outing in the minutes, and the map included for your assistance.

Next Month Ailsa will have another article for us, meantime its getting hot so remember those HATS and LONG SLEEVES & Protective Creams.

NOVEMBER 1983

MR. LAWRIE JEFFREY
DREW THE SKETCH MAP.
MR. FRANK WILKINSON

REDUCED IT TO QUARTO
SIZE FOR THE BULLETIN.
THANKS TO YOU BOTH.



Where were you on that historic morning when Australia won the America's Cup? The Marsdens, along with twelve other lucky people were breakfasting on the banks of the Dawson River at Taroom on the return journey from the Blackdown Tableland. Excitement was rife among the party both for Alan Bond and his crew and because of the wonderful ten days at Blackdown.

The sandstone tableland is roughly west of Rockhampton and rises 500 metres above the hot dry plains and lies just south of the Tropic of Capricorn. Closest townships being Duaringa and Dingo. After leaving Dingo we proceeded across the plain approx. 20 kilometres and then climbed steeply up the narrow winding road, the ~~thought~~ always very close "What happens if we meet a downward bound timber jinker?". The Blackdown Tableland is part National Park (since November last year) and part forestry, the principal timber being logged is the Blackdown Stringy Bark, *Eucalyptus spaerocarpa*, though other eucalyptus are also milled. We were told that grazing was never a major industry as the tableland is deficient in phosphorus which results in "brittle bones" to animals grazing the land. The Ranger told us that it is thought that this is also the reason why the aborigines did not spend great lengths in the area, kangaroos and wallabies were not in abundance so the only source of food would have been goannas lizards berries etc. However, we did see aborigine stencils in three different parts of the Park.

Many of the plants, trees and shrubs were noted by Ludwig Leichhardt when, in 1844, he crossed the Expedition Range just to the south. In 1847 he sighted the Tableland to the east as he travelled down the Comet River towards McKenzie River. Many of his specimens led to the naming of plants bearing leichhardtii e.g. *Acacia leichhardtii*.

The main attractions of the area were the abundance and variation of wildflowers, glorious views and the crystal clear water. The water in all streams seemed to be in urgent need to get to the plain country

far below. Consequently, in every stream we saw the water wending its way through, round, under and over the rocks and giving the photographers a never ending source of delightful scenes. In the upper reaches, the water was gently flowing then it was slipping, sliding, rushing, gushing, cascading and finally falling, sometimes ten inches and at others hundreds of feet. We followed Mimosa, Stoney and Rainbow Creeks, each had spectacular small water falls which we were able to climb round and continue our way down stream till we came to the impassable fall. Views from the tops of these were quite breathtaking and many urgent pleas were heard such as "PLEASE don't stand too close to the edge."

Wildflowers were in abundance and we were fortunate to have most of them identified within the group. Some of the more spectacular were the miniature forests of *Comesperma patentifolium*- matchheads, *Hibbertias* of several types, *Leptospermum*, *Callistemon* and *Lomandras* while the orchids were of special interest. We saw the smallest orchid in the world growing on the side of a rock, King Orchids were in profusion, Bearded Orchids, Duck, Donkey Ears, Fairy and the *Galeola cassythoides* seemed to be putting on a special display. I was delighted to see masses of *Grevillea longistyla* and to find the shy *Grevillea singuliflora*. Bird life was not very prolific though our birds did make some exciting sightings.

We have some wonderful memories from the trip, viewing a large waterfall by moonlight, trying to locate frogs from their calls at night in a flat rock creek bed (with the aid of a torch) and feasting our eyes on flowers, ferns, waterfalls while in the company of kindred spirits. Sure, we were just as excited with our trip as we were with Bondie's wonderful victory.