

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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<u>COMMITTEE</u>	Colin Hockings David Pfrunder Tom Archer Ailsa Wilkinson Lyle Thompson Roy Werner Gabriele Brown
AUDITOR	Mrs. Joan Ferris

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 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.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYBODY FROM

THE EXECUTIVE.NEXT OUTING The main purpose of this bulletin is to acquaint

you with the happenings for this month. On Sunday 22nd Jan. an outing is planned to Acacia Plateau. Departure from Weeroona Park Stanthorpe will be at 9am. This will have to be on time. Others may prefer to meet us at Legume at 10am. Here our N.S.W. friends may meet us, Secretary Joan has not yet heard from them. From here we will proceed to Acacia Plateau along the road off the Lindsay Highway. There is gravel surface, but what we do on the Plateau will be dictated by rainfall close to the time of our visit. The Forestry Department in Warwick and at Urbenville have both been contacted and given us their blessing. Lunch will be taken near the vehicles. Leader will be Jean Harslett.. Phone 833585, if there are any queries.

NEXT MEETING PROGRAMME Is in the hands of Joan Stevenson and Dore Mc.Cosker and we look forward to what they have in store for us. Its a surprise!
Venue C.W.A. Rooms 25th Jan 1984. at 8pm.

Back to the routine lay-out with the minutes, having finally located them amongst the Christmas Cards!! So I'm all cool calm and collected again.

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD AT THE C.W.A. 23rd. NOVEMBER 1983

Present 28

Apologies 3.

The President welcomed all to the meeting with mention of the pleasure of having four visitors to the meeting.

MINUTES: That the minutes be taken as read was moved by R.Marsden and seconded by M. Bennie and carried.

Correspondence

INWARD: 1.D.D.I.A.E .re grasses of Western Qld. Roberts & Silcock (\$19.95)
2. Richmond Valley Newsletter Nov.
3. National Park and Wild life Press Statements (5)
4. Qld Nats Club, Qld Naturalist 1983 Vol 24 No.1-4.
Marjory Hawken Memorial number.
5. Fund for Animals Vol.3 No3. Nov 1983.

OUTWARD .was sent to:-

1. 4QS re outing and meeting.
2. Honeyeater form re survey

That the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed was moved by J.Harslett seconded by L.Thompson
Carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Oct 26th 1983 Credit Balance..... \$179.40

Receipts

Oct.26th 83 .Mag copies sold \$1.00
Oct.26th.83 Room Rent Col. \$ 1.40 total 2.40
\$ 181.80

Payments:

Oct 26th 83 Oct Room Rent \$6.00
" " Oct Mag.Dup. \$5.00
" " Oct Mag. Postage \$6.67..\$17.67

November credit Balance. 23.11.83..... \$164.13

Treasurer Dot Archer moved that her report be received and the following accounts be passed for payment, Nov. Room Rent \$6.00; Nov. Mag Dup. \$5.00 and Nov Mag Postage \$8.08. and International Colour Productions for paper \$9.00.

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		17.67
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Outing Report J. Harslett reported on the Severn River Falls Camp-out. Good attendance (17) and several for 3 days. Hard place to find but well rewarded once there. Rain delayed walks which were confined to mostly the higher areas, as the rain made river rocks very slippery. Spectacular rock formations, both colour and waterworn, along river and windworn on heights. Bird list of over 70 species. Crinum lilies in flower at the campsite. Goats sighted on the hills.

NEXT OUTING This will be on Jan 22nd. 1984 with J. Harslett leading us to Acacia Plateau. Reminder of the Camp-out to Crow's Nest Feb 18th-19th.

NEXT MEETING: This will be Jan 25th. with Dore Mc. Cosker and Joan Stevenson talking of "Round Cunnamulla".

SPECIMENS: Brian Mc. Donagh and his daughter had grass specimens from near the house, and white and lavender colour forms of "blue-bells". Dore Mc. Cosker brought a Dendrobium orchid and John O'Donnell found a brush tailed possum that had been hit by a car.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Letter to be written to Lawrie Jeffrey thanking him for leading the outing to the Severn River Falls.

Trees planted at Storm King Dam are all growing.

A letter to be written to Richmond Valley Nats inviting them to join us at Acacia Plateau, and meet at Legume 10am.

Contact to be made with Peter Hazelgrove at Sundown Nat. Park offering some club assistance to erect the amenities block there, moved by M. Marsden sec. by J. Harslett, carried.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm after which we were given a talk and slide presentation of the Blackdown Tableland by the Marsden and Wilkinsons. All were impressed by the abundance of flora there and the beauty of the water and surroundings. Thank you for taking us to an area we are yet to visit.

Joan Stevenson Hon. Sec.

REPORT ON SEVERN RIVER CAMPOUT

Stanthorpe Nats were joined by two Dalby-ites and one from Toowoomba, a family group of our own members introduced to the ways of camping in Australian bush, and altogether a happy occasion.

A little rain, which did not hamper us much, except to make some a little nervous on river rocks which became quite slippery. Lawrie Jeffrey our leader and Helen Neal, with Joan close behind did a good job of exploration and we looked forward to Helen showing us the way next morning, but again a quick shower rather put a halt to that activity. Lawrie had to dash off out west, but while with us did his usual excellent leadership job, and we are grateful to him for introducing us to yet another interesting place. The plant life was interesting, the river cliffs great, and the bird life splendid. Between the Bennie's and myself, with a little help from all, a surprising list for the short period was made, of 83 species seen.

Bird List, Severn River Falls 19th-20th Nov. 1983.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Ibis | 35. Currawong |
| 2. White Necked Heron. | 36. Crow |
| 3. White Faced Heron. | 37. Chough |
| 4. Wood Duck | 38. Kookaburra Kookaburra |
| 5. Black Duck | 39. Starling |
| 6. Nankeen Night Herons. | 40. Apostle Birds |
| 7. White Plumed Honeyeater. | 41. Grey Thrush |
| 8. Brown Honeyeater | 42. Little Quail (family) |
| 9. Noisy Miner. | 43. Brown Quail |
| 10. Silvereye | 44. Dusky Woodswallow (feeding young) |
| 11. Brown Headed Honeyeater (May Bennie) | 45. Brown Songlark |
| 12. Firetailed Finch | 46. Pipit |
| 13. Doublebar Finch | 47. Rufous Songlark |
| 14. Bee-eater | 48. Crested Shrike Tit (May Bennie) |
| 15. Crested Pigeon | 49. Tawny Frogmouth. |
| 16. Pigeons (Domestic) | 50. Golden headed Cisticola " " |
| 17. Peaceful Dove, | 51. Speckled Warbler. |
| 18. Bar Shouldered Dove | 52. Grey Warbler (song similar to white throated) |
| 19. Bronze Wing Pigeon. | 53. Yellow thornbill (eggs nest) |
| 20. Little Bronze Cuckoo (car casualty) | 54. Rairy Martin |
| 21. Pallid Cuckoo | 55. Welcome Swallow |
| 22. Fantailed Cuckoo | 56. Swift |
| 23. Channel Billed Cuckoo | 57. Brown Treecreeper |
| 24. Red Rump Parrot | 58. White throated Treecreeper. |
| 25. Quarrion. | 59. Rufous whistler |
| 26. Galah. | 60. Brown Flycatcher |
| 27. White cockatoo | 61. Yellow Robin (feeding young) |
| 28. Pale headed Rosella | 62. Grey shafted Fantail |
| 29. King Parrot | 63. Willie Wagtail |
| 30. Rainbow Lorikeet (Flowering Gum) | 64. Leaden Flycatcher. |
| 31. Little Lorikeet | 65. Nankeen Kestrel |
| 32. Turquoise Parrots | 66. Little Eagle |
| 33. Magpie | 67. Blue Jay. |
| 34. Peewit | |

BIRD LIST CONT.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 68. Olive Backed Oriel | 76. White winged triller (several) |
| 69. Sacred Kingfisher | 77. Brown Thornbill |
| 70 Grey Crowner Babbler (nesting) | 78. Emus (8 adjacent property) |
| 71 Dollar Bird. | 79 Noisy Friar. |
| 72. Blue Wren | 80. Spotted Pardalote |
| 73. Reed Warbler | 81 Little Thornbill |
| 74. Pied Butcherbird | 82 Plover. |
| 75 White Eared Honeyeater | (May Bennie and Jean Harslett) |

WAKE UP OR BAKE UP. by Ailsa Wilkinson.

Once again I appeal to the members of the Stanthorpe Nats. Club to assist me in my campaign to help minimise the high incidence of skin cancer in Queensland and especially in our district. Because of the altitude we are 14% more at risk than on the coast, from the ultra violet rays of the sun, which are the main cause of skin cancer.

I ask members to set a good example by always wearing a shady hat, protective clothing, and ofcourse sunscreen.

Clippings sent to me, taken from the Sydney Sunday Sun read, "although Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world, in some of our Primary schools, moves are underway to cut down its frequency, and after going out of vogue, hats are starting to re-surface" (Pity its not in vogue in all schools)

"In parts of America and Europe the fear of skin cancer is so great that suntans have gone out of fashion"

Some Primary Schools in this district have the rule "No hats no play" I hope this rule will be in every school in the new school year.

Maybe even the High School students will observe the wrinkles and leathery skin, moles, spotted skin and the premature ageing on the faces of many adults, who for many years have ignored the warnings of the Health Department and the Cancer Foundation. Maybe they will be mature enough to make the rule of "No hat no play", accepted in our High Schools.

I would like to thank our Editor for publishing this article and to thank all members who have supported me in my campaign.

Ailsa Wilkinson.

Another cutting sent along with these notes has the telling title "Mothers don't barbecue your babies!"

Quote, "Recently a mother wrote asking about sunscreen for her baby. Not long before a friend had lost her son aged 32, from cancer, originally caused by overexposure to the sun. I sent a donation to the Anti-Cancer Council and thought readers would be interested in their reply. "You will be interested to know the promotion raised over \$25,000 towards the summer Slip, Slop, Slap Campaign. We are very hopeful that this total programme will be the means of saving the next generation, now small children, from the disfigurement, discomfort and potential danger of skin cancers, which may take up to 20 years to develop.... We hope we have persuaded young mothers not to barbecue their babies"

"HATS ARE MAKING A FURTIVE COMEBACK... More in Primary Schools than High Schools... a sad statistic.... ITS NO LONGER 'UNCOOL' TO HAVE A HAT."