

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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BUSHWALKING OFFICER	Ray Marsden
<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.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22nd. FEBRUARY 1984.

PRESENT. 19. APOLOGIES 3.

The President welcomed all to the meeting with a special welcome to Betty and Wally Mc.Kenzie, our Guest Speakers from Brisbane and also welcome to six Exchange Agriculture Students from Europe.

MINUTES. That the minutes be taken as read was moved by Dot Archer and seconded by Janet Mc.Kenzie ... Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

INWARD. 1. Richmond Valley Nats, re July outing, inability to come.
2. Richmond Valley Nats Newsletter .Feb.
3. Qld. Nats Club Newsletter No 157 Feb/Mar 1984.
4. National Parks and Wildlife with 3 Press Releases.

OUTWARD.

1. 4QS re outing and meeting.

Moved by Jean Harslett and seconded by Roy Werner the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed.. Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

Jan. 25th, 1984	Cr. Balance Forward	145.05.
<u>Receipts.</u>	Room rent Collection.....	2.25
		<u>147.90</u>

Payments

Jan 25th, 1984	January Magazine Postage.	8.50
Jan 25th 1984	" " Duplication	5.00
Jan. 25th, 1984	Room Rent"	6.00
		<u>19.50</u>

Feb. 22 1984	Actual book balance	=127.80
Outstanding Cheques	245039 \$8.50	
	2 245040 \$5.00	
		<u>13.50</u>

Feb. 22nd, 1984	Bank Balance	\$141.30.
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Accounts passed for payment

Room rent 6.00

Mag. Duplication 5.00

Mag. Postage 8.50

Duplication Paper (to carry on ewith) 11.20.

Moved by Dot Archer that the above accounts be passed for payment and the financial report be received, seconded by G. Brown. Carried.

Outing Report Millie Marsden reported on the campout to Crow's Nest Nat. Park at which twelve camped for full term and nine attended for the day only. Walks were made to all the vantage points, with 3 swamp wallabies being seen. Bird list exceeded 25. Possums entertained the campers at night.

NEXT OUTING.

This will be a through walk from the northern side of Girraween to the Rangers Office at the Park. Leader Mr. Errol Walker, 25th. March.
NEXT MEETING Jean Harslett offered a tape of "LYRE BIRD MIMIC-RIES", recorded at Girraween by Mr. Syd Curtis, with a request to identify birds mimiced.

MARCH 1984.

SPECIMENS Some plant specimens from the Campout, for identification, most of which stumped the enthusiasts.

Mr Wally Mc.Kenzie asked members to collect, if seen a few specimens of the very large brown sand cockroaches, found locally, usually along the roads after rain. Send them to Mr. Geoff Monteith at the Queensland Museum.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm.

PROGRAMME

We were very pleased to have Betty and Wally Mc.Kenzie show us and tell us of their trip from N.W. Australia down the west coast to Albany. Their knowledge of plant life and in fact nature in general was very evident. It allowed them to meet local people who were only too willing to share the local knowledge with others of similar interests. We all shared in these "special" places and things seen, and we thank them for opening the door to us.

Joan Stevenson

Hon. Secretary.

FIELD OUTING 25.3 1984..... Leader ERROL WALKER Phone 812008.

EUKEY - GIRRAWEEEN THROUGH WALK.

This outing will be an attempt to retrace the steps we made a few years ago in atrocious weather conditions.

Once again I have permission from Mr. Syd Muller of Eukey to use his property for access to the northern boundary of Girraween National Park.

We shall walk the high ridge which runs south-west from Mr. Mullers property terminating at the "Slip Rocks".

On a clear day the views are wonderful, but the most dramatic one is from The Slip Rocks down on to the Pyramids.

Water and lunch should be carried, and of course good rubber soled footwear is essential.

Because of the necessary co-ordination of vehicles and people for the through walk and subsequent return to the cars, nomination for the walk is desirable.

Will all intending walkers please contact me on or before the 22nd March. I shall need to know the number of people intending to come and their vehicle seating capacity.

We shall meet at the Eukey Hall at 8am, and the estimated time to return to Stanthorpe is 5pm.

For those not familiar with the area I shall describe the walk as moderately energetic, with no walking trails to follow.

Errol Walker... Leader.

For those who went on the one with "atrocious weather" we have lasting memories of mountains and moods and a few special pictures to prove it. Its a fascinating and little known part of "Girraween, may as many of you who enjoy a good long walk take advantage of this opportunity. Editor.

REPORT ON PROGRAMME ON WEST AUSTRALIA PRESENTED BY MR. MRS.
WALLY MCKENZIE FOR FEBRUARY 1984

A Wally and Betty Mc.Kenzie programme means one of tremendous interest for the naturalist, photography with artistry and the revealing of secrets of nature, which many of us overlook in the haste of going from "A" to "B". Their programme featured a section of their journey around Australia, points from N.W. Australia to the S.W. near Albany.

There were countless points of interest and inspiration, some of which must have found a chord of interest in the mind of every person present, a programme for all. Amongst visitors were six International Agricultural Exchangees, one from Britain with an honours degree in science, with a special interest in botany, a German lass also a botanist of special skills, two from Denmark and one from Holland, and over a cup of coffee later, they enthused about a special window on Australia opened to them. It is a pity that for several reasons our own members were down, they missed a good programme.

Pictures ranged from unique recording of little known aboriginal Rock Drawings, some of which would appear by research to be of an extremely early people. Plants, birds, spiders, a great number of which Wally collected and was able to provide good records for the Museum, an odd "endearing" Devil, interspersed with geological treasures were depicted. Formations at Hamelin Pool estimated to be 2,000 million years old (thought if I put that all in numerals, you might not believe it !!!) and those fascinating golden pillars of the Nambung National Park, the colouring and weathering of the Broome area or wonder of Kalbarri Nat. Park, or Marble Bar were but a few of the special features.

Plants depicted ranged from Banksia coccinea, a gem of colour combination of scarlet and dove grey, vivid blue yet clear blue of Lechenaultia, orchids, verticordia, the unique "Qualup Bells" the largest of the Pimeleas but a most unlikely looking family member, Hakea victoria, a royal looking member of the family the foliage of which turns golden yellow surrounding the rather modest flower and the only native plant of W.A. which has variegated foliage, to the shy and hard to find ground pitcher plants. Its hoped for their well-being that insects find them more readily than clumsy humans.

Jean Harslett.

NEW DIMENSIONS FOR THE NATURALISTS by JOHN O'DONNELL

At some time most of us have experienced hunches or flashes of inspiration, seen an apparition of a person who has recently died, or have had the feeling that an event was imminent. These feelings or visions may be imagination, or occult phenomena.

Basically, the West has lost touch with the supernatural, occult or psychic world, reports of it are either tinged with sensationalism, incredulity or as the work of the Devil - black magic, ghosts or table rapping. The occult world does include these things, but they are only a small part of it. Imagine someone saying that they never go

NEW DIMENSIONS FOR THE NATURALISTS Cont.

never go near plants because they may be pricked or stung - the occult world is just as important as the plant world and is no more dangerous.

Clairvoyant people know that each of us has many bodies, the physical body is at the centre, surrounded by four others forming a cocoon shape several feet in diameter and about ten feet high. The etheric body is concerned with health the astral with our desires and emotions, the lower mental with concrete thoughts and the higher mental (or causal) with abstract thoughts. Clairvoyants see the various bodies as different colours and forms - finding it difficult to describe the purity and beauty of the play of colours of advanced souls.

Plants possess an etheric and the beginnings of an astral body. Animals possess these two and perhaps a lower mental body. It is important to appreciate the presence of these invisible bodies, for they are the key to exchanges of non-physical energy and information.

One such energy is called prana. Large trees, such as Eucalypts, give off this energy, and a person may absorb it, via the etheric body, resulting in an increase in vitality. People with "green fingers" have a plentiful supply of prana. The excess can be absorbed by small or sick plants promoting growth or health.

Thus turning in to nature is an extra sensory experience and therefore quite beyond the understanding of the conventional scientist. Next month I will develop this theme a little more,

John O'Donnell,

Thank you John for a most original and thought stimulating contribution. Editor.

A certain member has been recently overheard uttering unpleasant remarks concerning his beloved magpies and peewees which are at present feasting on lawn grubs. And what is the problem you may well ask - simply that with the demise of the grubs, the kikuyu appears to the one who does the mowing, to be growing at the rate of an inch an hour !
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(Thank you to another thoughtful member for this light touch . Ed.)

I was pleased to note that the editor of the National Park Newsletter, saw the value of Ailsa Wilkinsons article "Wake Up, or Bake Up" featured in our last bulletin and saw fit to reproduce it in theirs. This gets the message to a much wider field of readers, and I'm sure is encouraging to Ailsa who is dedicated and most sincere in her effort to help others from unnecessary discomfort. We are glad our Bulletin is read and used in a wider field. Ed.

The report on the Crow's Nest Camp-out is being prepared by joint leader Millie Marsden, and she is very thoughtfully not only writing it, but also cutting the stencil, special thanks from my right index finger !

My index finger(along with the rest of me) and, I am sure, every member of the Stanthorpe Club, would like to say congratulations to Jean. Jean received the Citizen of the Year Award from the Stanthorpe Shire Council on Australia Day 1984. This Award was very well deserved as we all know that Jean and her husband have served this community in ever so many ways over a long period of time. In this club, Jean is able to impart interesting information on so many facets of nature and she has a delightful way of sharing her knowledge with others. Her interest in history is well recorded and hardly ever is an outing not enlivened by some snippet of history from Jean. We are grateful for her tremendous enthusiasm and for the way she gives so much time to help other people. Well done, Jean

REPORT OF CAMP OUT TO CROW'S NEST FALLS

Twelve campers from Jandowae, Dalby, Beenleigh and Stanthorpe took advantage of the organised trip and nine others joined for day activities. The Crow's Nest Falls National Park is mostly granite and in the surrounding areas, it is capped with volcanic basalt rocks and soils. There is some sandstone, sedimentary rock and soil. The feature of the park is the granite boulder strewn gorge, which has been carved out by the waters of the Crow's Nest Creek. The gorge contains the Cascades, Swimming Hole, Crow's Nest Falls and the Valley of the Diamonds(so called because of the sunlit waters of the creek sparkling like diamonds).

Members took full advantage of the graded walking tracks, and despite inclement weather, every vantage point was seen as well as things of interest along the way. A green tree snake sunning? itself in the weak sunlight was a source of interest for a time. The swamp wallabies were a delight and we marvelled at their agility on the steep rocky walls of the gorge. Dusk descended and so did the possums, they were very friendly and at one stage there were eight vieing for attention. Favoutie was "Mum" who was very quick, with the added load of her young one clinging to her back. Foodstuffs had to be well concealed and even then, the possums were scampering over our beds during the night hours. A large goanna strolled in to camp when he realised we were packing up- no doubt he was well versed in the procedure- he would have been bitterly disappointed in the Field Nats' campsite as all we left were our foot-prints.

Butcher birds gave many a recital in the camp area and the magpies were so tame they took food from the extended hand. Kookaburras served as an alarm clock very early in the mornings and the raucous calls of their young certainly prevented further sleep. Bird list; Magpie and young, Pied Butcher Bird, Grey Butcher Bird, Pale Headed Rosella, Crow, Currawong, Frog Mouth, Pheasant Coucal, Noisy Friar, Leaden Fly Catcher, Kookaburra with young, Pee Wee, Wagtail, Lewen Honey Eater, Scaly Thrush, Bar Shouldered Dove, Common Bronze Wing Pidgeon, Noisy Miner, Buff Rumped Thornbill, Rainbow Lorikeet, Red Backed Wren, Blue Faced Honey Eater, Sacred Kingfisher, Little Cuckoo Shrike, Stipred Honey Eater, Singing Honey Eater, White Throated Tree Creeper, Black Faced Cuckoo Strike.

It was handy to have some of the trees in the vicinity named, we were then able to compare the varieties with the local trees. Some were very colourful, having just shed their bark, Rusty Gum(*Angophora bastata*) and the smooth barked apple(*Angophora lanceolata*) were a wonderful warm orange shade. The black kurrajong and the gum top Iron Bark caused a lot of interest and the swamp mahogany was admired. One neatly shaped tree beside the walking track was not named and we all would have liked to know what it was. The bark was mottled in a beautiful pattern and the leaves were round and glossy.

Several different kinds of wild flowers were seen and indentified, one however, declined to be indentified- I hope the Chinchilla Nats. who visited the area during the following weekend had more success than we did. Acacias were showing lots of bud and the spring should see some wonderful flowerings.

Once again the weekend started off to be wet, however the rain was not a worry to us at camp, though we did start one of our walks on Sunday in the rain. Due to the weather conditions, no one in the party was tempted to swim, the children did a bit of paddling in the stream near camp.

One comment made was that it is surprising how some people can get a driver's licence. Reason- a group of people in the National Park complete with two Corgis(No! it was not that Group) so how can they get a driver's licence if they cannot read. When it was pointed out to the lady that dogs were not allowed in the park she said that she worked seven days a week and she and her dogs were entitled to some relaxation in the park. Question - was this the eighth day in her week?

Once again members had such a wonderful time that they have expressed the wish to return at some future time to explore the area of the gorges of the adjacent Cressbrook and Perseverance Creeks.

It is hard to have some of the trees in the vicinity named. We were
able to compare the varieties with the local trees. Some were very
beautiful, having lost their bark. Many had (phloem) eaten
and the wood was (saprophytic) were a wonderful
variety. The black (mosses) and the (mosses) were
very different and the (mosses) was different. One (moss) was
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