

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

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

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1983 - 1984

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|--------------------------|--|
| 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. |
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| FAUNA OFFICER | Brian McDonagh |
| GEOLOGY OFFICER | Maurice Passmore |
| YOUTH OFFICER | Errol Walker |
| BUSHWALKING OFFICER | Ray Marsden |
| <u>COMMITTEE</u> | Colin Hockings David Pfrunder Tom Archer Ailsa Wilkinson Lyle Thompson Roy Werner |
| <u>AUDITOR</u> | 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.

MINUTES OF THE STANTHORPE AND DISTRICT FIELD NATURALIST CLUB
MEETING HELD Q.C.W.A. ROOMS WEDNESDAY 23rd. May 1984 8pm.

Present 24..... Apologies 3.

The President welcomed all to the meeting with a special mention of Guest Speakers Perry and Thelma Rayner. and also local visitors.

MINUTES. That the minutes be taken as read was moved by Tom Archer and seconded by Ray Marsden..... Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

INWARD: -1. Aust. Post re magazine postage.
 2. Symposium on Stradbroke Island.
 3. Total Environment Centre. Professional Environs Course.
 4. Queensland Recreational Council Club details.
 5 Peregrine Expeditions Tour info.
 6. N.P.A. News.. Vol 54 No. 30 May.
 7. Contact... Vol. 12 May/June No. 2.
 8 Darling Downs Naturalist No 360 May.
 9. Richmond Valley Newsletter.
 10. 6 Press Statements National Park & Wildlife

OUTWARD was sent to:-

1. Qld Recreation Council re Club details.
2. Mr. M. Aspinall Thanks for entry and venue.
3. Neta Noakes Club Condolences.

MOTION 4. 4QS Outing and meeting notice.

That the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed was moved by Errol Walker seconded by Don Lightfoot Carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| April 25th 1984 Cr. Balance Forward.. | 70.20 |
| Receipts | |
| April 25.5.84..... | <u>4.50</u> |
| | 74.70 |

Payments

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| April 25th 84. April Room Rent | 6.00 |
| April Mag Postage | 11.00 |
| April Mag Duplication. | 5.00 |
| Federal Tax... | <u>2.60</u> |
| | 22.60 |

May 23rd 1984 Cr. Balance..... 52.10

Dot Archer moved that the credit balance of \$52.10 be received and that the accounts for Room Rent \$6; Mag Postage \$11.00; and Duplication of Mag. \$5 be passed for payment, seconded by Rob. Harslett.... Carried.

OUTING REPORT Brian Mc. Donagh reported that 22 adults and 11 children attended the outing to Nundubbermerre, Nine Mile Rocks or "Plum Pudding Rock." Access was made by following the boundary fence and walking was made easier by the number of animal tracks. Wildflowers were sparse but special mention should be made of the Zieria fraseri. Bladderworts were looked at closely. Birds were not very active, nor was the snake disturbed while sunning itself.

MINUTES OF THE STANTHORPE AND DISTRICT FIELD NATS CLUB CONT.OUTING REPORT CONT:-

From the rock topped mountain excellent views of almost 360° were possible and the eastern hills encased in rain urged us to move down and be on our way.

NEXT OUTING TOM ARCHER is to check out the "Half Moon" area of Liston/Rivertree area.

STOP PRESS ON THE NEXT OUTING.

Tom Archer has been advised that we would not be "half luna" but "fully luna" to consider taking our cars into this area or even partly there so the alternative is to Mount Ferguson in the Amiens area. Jean Harslett will be leader. The climb to this highest point in this western section of the district is moderate. Members will meet at the usual time at Weeroona Park or proceed direct to Bob and Jean Harslett's home, where there will be a cup of tea ready for you after which we will walk, then return to the cars for lunch, and then enjoy some other unusual formations.

Weeroona 9.30am...Harslett's 10am., and its a suitable outing for all comers.

NEXT PROGRAMME Gabrielle Brown agreed to speak on Herbs and talk will be entitled, "Herbs for Health and Enjoyment".

SPECIMENS Tom Archer brought 3 samples of Banksia collina and an un-named Banksia, no one ventured to name the latter.

BUSINESS

The meeting agreed that a letter be written to the National Parks and Wildlife, thanking them for their action in erecting an amenities block at the Sundown National Park at the western end. This originally came as a recommendation from our club. Moved by Joan Stevenson and seconded by Jean Harslett..Carried.

Prize money of \$1 was paid to the Show Society for the "Best Native Bloom" in the Horticulture Class for the 1985 Show.

Peter Ingall read a rather delightful letter of thanks from M.Mordin who was present on the Girraween Through Walk.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 835pm.

Members were then treated with a programme of excellence by Terry and thelma Rayner. Expert photography of many areas of Western Australia, and the wild floweres growing there (complete with technical names) gave those present a very intimate picture of what can be seen in those remote areas. We thank you Terry and Thelma for giving of your very valuable time and the delightsof your programme.

Joan Stevenson
Hon. Secretary.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA IN PICTURES...RELATED BY TERRY & THELMA
RAYNER

Terry and Thelma Rayner made a very special effort, at the height of wheat planting, to come over and give us a programme, and return to Dalby the same night. Our members, despite a very popular concert across the street at the Civic Centre, made a splendid effort of attendance too, showing their appreciation of Terry and Thelma's generous effort, all of which was most pleasing to the Club executive.

Terry opened by explaining they would only touch on a few parts of Western Australia. Queenslanders feel they have an enormous state to traverse, but in fact its only two thirds of the size of Western Australia.

The method of screening using dual projectors and screens was a new technique to some of our members, and it showed several things. Namely the individual approach of the two personalities to the scene and to photography. Terry and Thelma's photographs show enthusiasm for separate facets of nature. It also showed quite dramatically how different focal length lens used at precisely the same time and place gave quite varied results and special effects. Also popped up on one screen would be some special plant showing its individual habitat, and on the other screen a 'beaut' close-up with infinite detail of the plant and flower itself. Or perhaps an historical building with a detail of special significance of its construction on the other screen. On one occasion Terry said of a bird of prey "I think its a Fork Tailed Kite", from the audience came the comment, "If it would fly I'd tell you" and sure enough the next picture up was the bird in flight and the query answered.

Terry made a comment which dramatically describes our waterless Continent, in describing their travel. "At Willemannia in N.S.W. we crossed the Murray-Darling river system, on a bridge with water beneath it. The next bridge with water beneath it was near Adelaide, Spencer's Gulf, and salty. Then across a continent through Kalgoorlie, way north-west up W.A. coast to the Murchison River until another bridge was crossed with water beneath it" Just look at a map and your map and your mind will boggle at the distance.

Along the Great Australian Gulf area we saw wonderful pictures of rugged headlines, which constitute "the longest unbroken

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TERRY AND THELM'A PROGRAMME CONT.

line of cliffs in the world" Also depicted were the unique caves of the Nullarbor Plains, and long will remain in my mind's eye, the sheer beauty of design, pattern and colour of the Eucla Sands, the screens were filled with white and contrasting rich golden sands of never ending pattern, leaving you to ponder on the winds and forces of nature which created such beauty, and one old gum tree which stood sentinel over time.

Quaint designs of water catchment roofs, Kalgoorlie streets designed wide enough for camel teams. paper daisies mile upon mile in shades of white pink and yellow, just one tiny part of Western Australia's 7,000 strong varieties of wildflowers. We shared many beautifully taken W.A. wild flowers as seen in a good rain-fall season... even the cape weed pest was beautiful!!

Then the Gorge Country, Witternoon in particular.. thirty-four dramatic gorges, many very distinctive in character were shown to us in a variety of moods, bringing back wonderful memories for those of us lucky enough to have been there, and whetting the appetite of those who have not.

Iron production, massive machinery, trains 1½ miles long were shown, mingled with cheerful little lizards to mention but a few.

Just to make final indelible imprints on our minds there were pictures of Rainbow Valley or the spectacular Red Bluff sunset. I wasn't asleep during the Pinnacles or other areas, but perhaps I'd better not try to describe any more of a memorable programme.

Brian Mc. Donagh moved a vote of thanks, amongst others things said, mentioned that anyone of us would be proud to own some of those slides', and it was carried by warm acclamation.

Jean Harslett.

NINE MILE ROCKS or PLUM PUDDING MOUNTAIN

The above formation is quite a prominent feature from the "Bendee" - "Springdale" road, as it was from the ridges above Jones Creek on a previous outing. Brian's spontaneous suggestion a year ago, as we looked across at it, was carried out at the last outing. It was with a difference because none of us had been there before, except for our leader Brian and his daughter Judith on a pre-outing jaunt the week before. Therefore it was an interesting challenge for everyone, with the excitement of the unknown, in what we might see.

Brian has kindly furnished a report of the outing which follows. Thank you : Brian. Editor.

REPORT ON THE OUTING TO NINE MILE ROCK on 20.5.1984.

By. BRIAN Mc. DONAGH.

After a most unpromising start (eather-wise) 33 people (22 adults and 11 children) set off to investigate Nine Mile Rock or "Plum Pudding Rock" which we admired from across the valley on an outing led by Jack Mc. Beth last winter. This time however, we approached from the opposite direction, commencing from a more similiar elevation.

There were a few new faces in the party, and we hope they enjoyed the day.

NINE MILE ROCK REPORT BY BRIAN MC.DONAGH CONT:-

The usual "smoko" was eaten at the hut on Geoff Mc.Donagh's property. Then we set off over a little stream, and then followed an old dog-proof fence supposed to have been erected in 1914, and showing its age - plenty of kangaroo-sized - kid sized holes in the netting and posts rotted, but still servicable for cattle.

The Club often collects flowers for identification, makes bird lists and so on, but on this outing barbed wire was of interest to several of our members, engendered by the age of the fence.

We reached the top after an easy scramble, the biggest problem apart from years and lack of condition, was the dense dodder making life very hard for anything larger than a fox-terrier! An excellent view to the west over trap-rock country was some what spoiled by a very thin haze. On the pre-outing, the week before much more was seen with the naked eye than could be seen with glasses on this day.

Several options to return to the cars were offered, but advised against, so we travelled back the way we came.

What did we see and learn. The only wildlife seen was one small black snake, a large shedded snake skin and many geckos under the exfoliated slabs of rock. A lot many birds were seen, but quite a flock of Red Wattle birds were very interested in us at lunch time.

The geology of the area is rather interesting, being phase 4 of the Stanthorpe granites, very fine grained, with more quartz than is present in the granites we are more familiar with. One of the children, Judith who actually went searching a little more fully, found a "floater" with one side of dog-tooth quartz, also much larger than usual biotite crystals and some wolfram. We could not find where the "floater came from, (so fortunes are not made) Just to the west of this area the granite finishes and the traprock commences, shown on the map as a fault.

The major flora of the area consists of Stringybarks, New England Blackbutt, black cypress pine, with cabbage gum on the shallow areas. plenty of undergrowth, "dead finish" (rosemary) leucopogons, and tea-tree.

As far as wildflowers go, we found an interesting overlap of flowering. Some of the summer flowering plants were still trying, Lobelias and Olearia. A few winter flowering plants were found, Cryptandra and leucopogon, while the warm conditions had induced Boronia granitica, and Eriostemon myoporoides to think it was spring. Good to see the Zieria fraseri located again (last year, it was identified.)

Two other plants of interest found was the odd mistletoe, which has the odd characteristic of growing on mistletoe, and very occasionally on the host plant. This particular one has a brilliantly golden and hairy underleaf and is Notothixos subaureus, which literally means golden underneath, and describes it perfectly. The other was the carnivorous bladderwort Utricularia, which grows in wet soils. We managed to have a good look at the minute bladder which traps small insects.

Brian Mc.Donagh.

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BLADDERWORTS

On our May outing Brian did give a verbal description of the function of the bladders of the bladderworts, and I believe its worth repeating. The family Utricularia means a bladder, their common names include bladderworts and "Fairy Aprons" and I think the children would agree to that see. They are also called "Plants of Prey", because they catch insects and Brian showed us the trap, and what an amazing device it is. With a sensitive door which pops open ever so easily. But even more clever the little trap can pump water from the inside out, making a vacuum inside and when the door springs open in flood the water and the tiny insect is caught in the rush of the tide, just like you can be caught in a rift, and it can not stop itself going inside. As soon as it is dispatched the trap can be set in the same way, ready to catch another. People looking at them very carefully have seen as many as 14 insects caught by one trap or plant.

BANKSIA COLLINAS

Three lovely specimens of Banksia collina were brought along to the meeting by Tom Archer, showing a big range in colour. The first with very dark (black) stamens and often giving rise to its common name "The Hairpin Banksia" and indeed they look uncommonly like the old fashioned hairpin. To add to confusion this title is sometimes given to B. spinulosa too. Usually the mountain forms or those growing at height tend to have these darker stamens.

The second specimen was quite a rich golden colour, and the third was a pale honey colour, and they made an interesting comparison. All I think had been grown by Tom, who has had considerable success with raising some natives.

Don't forget the CUPING SUNDAY 24th, June

Venue Mount Ferguson Amiens.

Weerona Park 9.30 am or 10am at Bob Harslett's and a cup of tea will be ready for you on arrival.

Leader Jean Harslett Tel 833585.

NEXT MEETING Wed. 27th June at Q.C.W.A. Rooms 8pm.

GUEST SPEAKER Gabrielle Brown titled "Herbs for Health and Enjoyment". Gabrielle is well versed on this subject and I'm sure will come up with something worth while.

Yours in Nats.

Jean Harslett

1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

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1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of contacts. The names are written in a cursive script, and the addresses are listed below them. The list includes names such as "John A. Smith", "Mrs. J. B. Jones", and "Mr. C. D. Brown".

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