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THE  
**GRANITE BELT  
NATURALIST**



**Monthly Newsletter of the  
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club**



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

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

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1984 - 1985

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| PRESIDENT                | JEAN HARSLETT B.E.M.<br>(833 585)   |
| VICE-PRESIDENTS          | JOHN O'DONNELL<br>ROBIN McCOSKER  |
| SECRETARY                | JOAN STEVENSON (811 009)  |
| TREASURER                | DOT ARCHER (811 754)  |
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| <u>COMMITTEE</u>         | TOM ARCHER<br>COLIN HOCKINGS<br>LYLE THOMPSON<br>DON LIGHTFOOT<br>FRANK WILKINSON |
| AUDITOR                  | MRS. JOAN FERRIS  |

MEETINGS 4th WEDNESDAY of each month at the C.W.A. ROOMS at 8 p.m.

OUTINGS The SUNDAY PRECEDING the 4th WEDNESDAY of the Month.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Single - \$6.00

Family - \$10.00

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 STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB HELD AT THE  
Q.C.W.A. ROOMS ON WEDNESDAY 22nd.AUGUST 1984 AT 8pm.

Present 24.....Apologies 9

The President welcomed all to the meeting.

MINUTES - That the minutes be taken as read was moved by R.McCosker,  
seconded by J.O'Donnell and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

INWARD was received from -

1. Ena McCulloch ..Sub.
2. Rover Scouts re increase to \$7 for duplicating
3. Aust. Conserv. Fdnt. Appeal for funds for Daintree
4. Terry and Thelma Rayner - Thanks for car subsidy, willingness  
to give another programme
5. Richmond Valley Newsletter - August
6. D.Downs Nats. Newsletter - No.363 August
7. Govt in Focus - Vol 1. No. 6 July
8. Parliament of Aust(Senate) - July
9. Endeavour Foundation - re Floral carpet Nov.15/16

OUTWARD was sent to -

1. Joan Ferris - Thanks for audit
2. Doug McKenzie - Thanks for leading to Lookout Mtn.
3. 4QS - re outing meeting notices

That the inward be received and the outward endorsed was moved by  
D.Lightfoot, seconded by L.Thompson and carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUGUST 22nd.1984

Credit Balance - July, 1984

12.39

Receipts

|         |                       |        |        |
|---------|-----------------------|--------|--------|
| July 25 | Subscriptions         | 121.00 |        |
|         | Room Rent Collections | 18.81  |        |
| Aug. 1  | Subscriptions         | 15.00  |        |
| 7       | Subscriptions         | 31.00  |        |
|         | Room Rent Donations   | 12.50  |        |
| Aug.14  | Subscription          | 10.00  |        |
| Aug.18  | Subscription          | 6.00   |        |
| Aug.19  | Subscriptions         | 12.00  |        |
|         |                       |        | 226.31 |
|         |                       |        | 238.70 |

Expences

|         |                       |       |       |
|---------|-----------------------|-------|-------|
| July 25 | Room Rent July        | 6.00  |       |
|         | Mag. Postage July     | 11.00 |       |
|         | Mag. Duplication July | 5.00  |       |
|         | Duplicating Paper     | 50.00 |       |
|         | Fed. Tax              | 50    |       |
|         |                       |       | 72.50 |

Aug.22, 1984 Credit Balance

\$166.20

MOTION D.Archer moved and P.Langdon seconded, carried, that credit of  
\$166.20 be received and accounts for Room Rent - \$6, Dup. \$7,  
Postage - \$11, Wrappers - \$31.50, Mag. Registration - \$30 be  
passed for payment.

OUTING REPORT

About 40 attended for the walk down Funkers Gap Creek. Many  
interesting specimens were found including two nests which were



OUTING REPORT CONT.

possibly made by ringtail possums. Good rock areas were seen and lunch was taken at Sims Falls. Tin panning was tried and some colour found. Small specimens of molybdenum were also found. Main flower of interest was a zieria.

NEXT OUTING

With wildflowers at their best at Jolly's Falls - a special outing for Sunday, August 26th at 2pm was planned. For September 23rd, a day trip to Redrock will take place with Errol Walker as leader.

NEXT MEETING

The Guest Speaker will be Mrs. Nancy Aiken with "Local Birds" as her topic.

SPECIMENS. Sample of tin, molybdenum and quartz crystal from Funkers Gap Creek outing.

BUSINESS. To date information on car stickers is from Action Graphics with price of \$89.52 for 50 (incl. tax), 125mm/75mm, 2 col. Further inquiries to be made from S.G.A.P. Proposed outings and speakers for the coming year were read. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm after which Tom Archer gave a most informative, illustrated talk of the Victorian Grampians and their surrounding areas. This was followed by Ray and Millie Marsden giving a slide showing of their Victorian trip. Thanks Tom, Ray and Millie.

Joan Stevenson (Hon. Sec.)

Good trading was done at the Bring and Buy.

REPORT ON FUNKERS GAP CREEK OUTING by TOM ARCHER

About 34 of us began our hike down Funkers Gap Creek from Giacosa's property at about 10.30am. Further down we gathered some more to make a total of about 40, nearly half of which were children.

Funkers Gap derived its name from a story told about some travellers in the very early days who were going south from the Darling Downs. They decided to spend the night in this pleasant gap beside a clear stream. To warm themselves they perhaps had a few too many rums, for later on they thought they were surrounded by aboriginals with firesticks. The men were in a real funk but the light turned out to be fireflies.

While the route is mostly downhill it is very rough underfoot with tussocks of sword grass. We also had to push our way through and under dense stands of Brisbane wattle, young cypress pines and *Bursaria spinosa*, the name says enough.

Two interesting nests were seen along the way. One was about three metres up in a ti-tree, quite large and made of sticks and bark. Presumably it belonged to a ringtailed 'possum. The second was found on the ground, about the size and shape of a large soccer ball and was cunningly constructed of woven dead bracken fronds, leaving a single entrance. No one could come up with a convincing suggestion as to who the owner might have been. Before dinner we went looking for a molybdenite mine. It was just a



REPORT ON FUNKERS GAP CREEK OUTING by TOM ARCHER (cont)

small show worked during the depression, but we were unable to find it because as we found out later, we were looking in the wrong place. Molybdenite is a sulphide of molybdenum. It is leaden in colour with a strong metallic lustre and the crystals occur in flakes somewhat like mica. It is found in isolated areas about the district in granite rock.

We enjoyed dinner beside a quiet pool below Sim's waterfall which provided a restfull musical background. After dinner the kids climbed over and under every rock in sight and fortunately there were no mishaps.

After dinner we moved <sup>down</sup> the left branch, as the right is rather precipitous and covered with blackberries. After a couple of hundred metres we came to two creeks which join the main stream from the east and actually rise just to the west of Applethorpe. During the tin mining days, both these streams were extensively mined. Here we panned some of the older gravels for tin and with some success. No fortunes were made but I think everyone who tried found some colours. This tin ore is cassiterite crystals with a specific gravity of 6.5 which is 3 times as heavy as the sand and that is why it settles to the bottom of the dish. Cassiterite is an oxide of tin coloured by iron, most of the crystals are black but some are red or yellow and hence the name "ruby" tin. When smeltered it yields about 75% pure metal. A few nice quartz crystals were also found.

After our tin mining we proceeded further downstream through Tom Spiller's property and over Denzer's Flat which is quite close to where the old Caves Boarding House stood, through Funkers Gap, past Thunderbolt's Cave and out onto Caves Road.

Tom Archer.

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REPORT ON THE OUTING TO JOLLY'S FALLS by JOAN STEVENSON

A special outing was made to Jolly's Falls as a report of a good showing of wildflowers had been made to the Club. It was very encouraging when over 20 of our members gathered to take advantage of the display.

First stop was made at the Falls where the water was cascading over and swirling round the water worn rocks. These gouged holes were the source of interest for those able to cross the stream. Along the track several varieties of wattle were seen with several showing their yellow brilliance among the green bush. The prickly moses seemed ashamed to be in the same area and was tucked away from easy sight. To add to the yellow theme, the Phobalium put out its fluffy flower heads. Living up to its name the Bossiaca was asserting its right to have a prominent place in this native garden, while the Dillwynia chose a lesser area but was ready to follow with its slightly later blossom. The Dodonea was preparing to burst its swelling buds.

The ever present bushes of Pimlea, Leucopogon, Cryptandra and Olearia were showing their white beauty while waiting for later blooming Actinotus to join them. Pink was the predominant colour on the higher part and one could not help but stop and take in the spectacle of the Boronia in full bloom. Further colour of the deep mauve blue was made by the Mirbelia which helped add the finishing touch of colour to the scene.

REPORT ON THE OUTING TO JOLLY'S FALLS by JOAN STEVENSON (cont)

Nature does not give its all at the one time and this display will be followed by many other varieties which will prolong the wildflower season for our continued enjoyment.

For those not so interested in flowers, the temptations provided by the water flowing across the flat rocks into the Duck Pond, meant that the first message of Spring invited the young and carefree to rid themselves of shoes and socks and enter the sparkling water. This feeling of freedom extended through the whole party and a very happy and contented group made their way homeward.

WORM PARASITES OF GREY KANGAROOS by JOHN O'DONNELL

Graham Greenup lent me an article on these little known native fauna. Thirty-one different types of nematode worms, plus 6 different tapeworms were found in the intestines of the hapless 'roos. One species of worm was found in the knee region! In addition, 9 types of lice and ticks were identified.

One 'roo contained 270,000 worms, but didn't have a serious health problem (before it was shot). Spare a thought for these animalcules bouncing along each day, the internal ones wondering what it is all about, the outer ones hanging on for dear life!

STOP PRESS !!

NEXT OUTING - Redrock area. Jean has offered to lead as Errol may be unavailable. Jean's walk will be less strenuous and oriented towards bird watching. The birds are now in full swing with nesting and this could well be a good warmup for Nancy Aiken's talk on Wednesday, 26th September. 8pm.  
Meet at Weeroona Park at 9am. Sunday, 23rd September, '84.

Quotations<sup>s</sup> - "There is no sin punished more implacably by Nature than the sin of resistance to change."  
Anne Lindberg

"Men are disturbed not by things that happen, but by their opinion of things that happen."  
Philip Roth

"The more you depend on forces outside yourself, the more you are dominated by them."  
Harold Sherman



SALUTATIONS ! !

The President and Members join in wishing John and Gabrielle a very happy and contented life together. They were married on Saturday September 8th. at a family occasion - in the pretty grounds of their home "Mountain Park" Dalveen.

John and Gabrielle's thoughts and actions are very much "in tune" and we feel sure they will find much contentment in life, and we all wish you well. However they are also different enough in thought to compliment each other, and I'm sure will make a contribution through their sincere interest in conservation and those things in nature in which there is such a great need for respect.

They have contributed a lot to our club, and we hope to have their continued support. John is our immediated Past President which responsibility he held for several years, Gabrielle a Committee Member and currently they are joint Bulletin Editors, for our society.

Salutations and salaams!! from all the Club Members.

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BEETLE NOTES

On a couple of occasions member Tom Dunn has spoken of a jewel-like beetle he has found in grape posts in his vineyard. These handsome, iridescent golden-green beetles belong to the "Stag Beetle family-Lucanidae and this chap is more offically called *Lamprima latreillei*.

They form a group of beetles of strikingly metallic colours - indeed the largest found in North Queensland scrub is cited as being one of the most beautiful beetles in the world. The males are furnished with prominent mandibles, from which arises the common name of 'Stag Beetles', and the females are usually a good deal smaller, which is the reverse to many other species of beetles.

These beetles in their immature stages live and feed on rotting wood, mostly logs in heavy forests or in rain forest, and assist in the breaking down process. So it is of particular interest that Tom has found these over a period of years in old posts in a vineyard of long standing which he now owns. Where the vineyard trellis posts are getting too old and Tom has been replacing them, he has found larvae in various stages, and some times fully developed beetles apparently awaiting the correct conditions to emerge into the hard old world.

The salient points in these observations are that the beetles are breeding in standing posts in a vineyard, which in itself is unusual...it also suggests that vineyard sprays are not overdone, and finally as this last specimen was found fully mature, quite active, yet content in its little casing, and in usual circumstances not abroad for several months yet.

Tom is an observant, chap and we thank you for these notes and sharing your observations.....

Jean Harslett.



