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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

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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.

MINUTES OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB MEETING HELD AT
THE C.W.A. ROOMS ON WEDNESDAY, 26th JUNE, 1985 at 8pm.

Present 9Apologies 12

Vice-President John O'Donnell welcomed all to the meeting.

MINUTES - That the minutes be taken as read was moved by G.O'Donnell
sec. T.Archer. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

INWARD was received from

1. Helen Horton re return of magazines.
2. D.D.I.A.E. re back nos. from 138 to date of magazines still
required.
3. N.P.A. News Vol 55 No4 June
4. Urimbirra Vol19 No4/5 April/May
5. D.Downs Nats Newsletter No372 June
6. D.Downs Naturalist Vol18 No1 June
7. N.Parks & Wildlife Dept. 10 Press Statements
8. Aust Senate (Democrats) re radio active waste
9. Govt. White Paper - Tax Reform
10. Govt. in Focus Vol2 Nos 5/6 Apr/may
11. Bullecourt Boulder Bounders re outing June 29/30. Oct 13 invit
to Papsch...

OUTWARD was sent to

1. Helen Horton - Thanks for being guest speaker
2. 4QS re outing/meeting notices

That the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed
was moved by G.Greenup sec. D.McCosker. Carried.

FINANCIAL

May, 1985 Credit Balance Forward	79.47
plus .40c tax appearing twice on Club Monthly statements March & April	.40

79.87

Receipts

May 22 Room Rent Collection	4.00	
Bring & Buy Stall	2.40	
June 3 Bank Interest	4.46	90.73

Payments

May 22 May Mag. Postage	13.00	
Back Page Paper	7.55	
May Mag. Duplication	7.00	
May Room Rent	6.00	
May 1 Fed. Tax	.20	
June 3 Fed. Tax	.40	34.15

June Credit Balance

\$ 56.58

oved that a credit of \$56.58 be received and
accounts for Mag. Regist \$36, Rent \$6, Duplication \$7, Postage \$13 be
used for payment. Sec D.Lightfoot. Carried.

MINUTES CONT.OUTING REPORT

Tom Archer reported 16 on the outing to the Sphinx & Turtle Rock including a family of 5 from Grantham. Detour was made to climb Castle Rock with good views on a perfect day. The enormity of the Sphinx was observed. Party climbed a lower section of Turtle Rock. Flowers noticed were the blue daisy, odd boronia while the Banksia collina was in sheltered areas. Early colours of wattle were seen.

NEXT OUTING

Rob McCosker will lead an outing to Devil's Elbow on July 21st.

NEXT MEETING

This will be the Annual/General meeting with Slides to be shown to "Remember Last Year". Please bring a plate for supper.

SPECIMENS

G.Greenup brought a marsupial mouse while D.McCosker had a specimen of the blue daisy (*Olearia* sp).

BUSINESS

The Meeting agreed that Colin Hockings proceed with photocopying of covers for magazine. Donation to be made later to cover costs - 4c per sheet.

Joan Stevenson reported on Arts Council meeting for the festival of local arts to be held at the Civic Centre on November 2 & 3.

Meeting considered it a doubtful time of year to hold it and

Secretary to write and give meeting opinion.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm after which, members showed slides of different areas.

Joan Stevenson. Hon.Sec.

Tree pear Control at "Riversdale".

Graeme Greenup reported on tree pear control at "Riversdale" near Glenlyon Dam. Domesticated goats, run on the property as part of a mohair venture, started on the pear by gnawing at the trunks and side cladodes of each plant. Eventually the plant crashed to the ground and the goats continued eating cladodes. When all the top growth had been consumed, the goats would start digging into the ground for roots! About 70 acres of infestation has been razed this way.

ORIENTEERING at Paeschendale on October 13th.

If anyone is interested, contact Christine Gregg (861147)
Plant List from Mt. Moffatt (cont'd).

Acksonia scoparia, *Hardenbergia violacea*(F), *Wahengergia*(f), *Hakea*, *Isatoma axillarius*(F), *Hibbertia*(F), *Leptospermum flavescens*, *Dampiera*, *Viola betonicifolia*(F), *Phebalium notii*, *Petalostigma pubescens*, *Macrozamia*(fruiting).

REMEMBER LAST YEAR slides.

Here is a list of 1984/85 outings -

1984

AUG Funkers Gap Creek

SEPT Redrock

OCT Family Day at Mountain Park

NOV Hockings at Kyoomba

DEC Breakup at Harsletts

1985

FEB Jack Deutschers - Mt Tully

MAR Bluff River

APR Lookout Mt

MAY Washed out

JUNE Castle Rock & Sphinx/Turtle Rock

REMINDER! Next Outing - 21st July at Devils Elbow.
Meet at Weeroona Park at 9am.

Leader will be Rob McCosker.

Please bring a packed lunch.

Wandering with Winnie and Walter in the Wild Wood.

"Warm Weather, Walter! Welcome warm weather! We were wishing winter would wane, weren't we?"

"We were well wearied with waiting," whispered Walter, wearily. Wan, white, woe-begone was Walter, wayward, wilful, worn with weakness, wasted, waxing weaker whenever winter's wild, withering winds were wailing. Wholly without waywardness was Winifred, Walter's wise, womanly watcher, who, with winsome, wooing way, was well-beloved.

"We won't wait, Walter; while weather's warm, we'll wander where woodlands wave, won't we?"

Walter's wonted wretchedness wholly waned. "Why, Winnie, we'll walk where we went when we were with Willie; we'll weave wildflower wreaths, watch woodmen working, woodlice, worms wriggling, windmills whirling, watermills wheeling; we will win wild whortleberries, witness wheat winnowed."

Wisbeach woods were wild with wildflowers; warm westerly winds whispered where willows were waving; wood-pigeons, wrens, woodpeckers, were warbling wild woodnotes. Where Wisbeach watermill's waters, which were wholly waveless, widened, were water-lillies, waxen white. Winifred wove wreaths with woodbine, whitehorn, wallflowers, whilst Walter whittled wooden wedges with willow wands. Wholly without warning, wild wet winds woke within Wisbeach woods, whistling where Winifred wandered with Walter; weeping willows were wailing weirdly; waging war with wind-tossed waters. Winifred's wary watchfulness waked.

"Walter, we won't wait."

England, 1890

TRIP TO MT. MOFFATT SECTION OF CARNARVON NATIONAL PARK.

While the scheduled outing for Club members was to Girraween Park, six members set out to visit the Mt. Moffatt section of the Carnarvon National Park with Jaymay Tours. Tour started from Dalby and the pelicans were busy on Lake Broadwater as we passed through the gate to begin the 1336 kilometer return trip. First stop was Dalby where we picked up the last two passengers, Malcolm and Marj. Wilson, making our total list eleven passengers and two drivers. We lunched at Roma and overnights at Injune, interesting things we observed on the way the rural activities, an old coal mine site at Warra, the Cactoblastus Memorial Hall at Boonarga and bottle trees. Marjorie was delighted to see an old friend "Tina" in Roma. Rural occupations noted were cotton (recently harvested), grain growing and the numerous huge silos, cattle grazing, Roma meatworks in full operation and sheep grazing north of Roma. The winery at Roma and a few citrus orchards created interest too.

Frank celebrated his birthday in the company of a number of ex Stanthorpians, Malcolm experienced his first slippery slide and the C.W.A. building wondered what had hit it as the eleven passengers and two drivers settled down for the night. Air beds and sleeping bags filled all floor space. Note- one does not say that thirteen people were on the trip, hence we refer to eleven passengers and two drivers. We left Injune before 9am the following morning and passed several massive sawmills before leaving civilisation and the bitumen behind us. Injune to Mt. Moffatt stretch was 163k. Many wallabies and great numbers of kangaroos were seen as we travelled towards Womblebank, a very old homestead at the junction of the Mitchell-Mt. Moffatt road. Bustards and emus were seen on this section of the trip. Kevin Vidler, manager of Womblebank, gave us quite a lot of information on this area and a neighbour, Mick Sellers entertained with historic detail, including that of a convict built dam on nearby Westgrove. On then to the shelter shed on the Mitchell road where lunch was enjoyed. We arrived at Largonelly Rock Holes at 3.15pm and set up a camp with seven tents, a showerroom, two toilets, kitchen and dining area. The next six days were spent exploring this sand stone area, which bears signs of the aboriginal habitation for well over 20,000 years, the land being used by the people of the Nuri and Bidjara. First known white visitation was by Sir Thomas Mitchell in June 1846 when he explored in the Chesterton Range area on the western side of the park. The south western side was looked at more closely in June 1847 when Edmund Kennedy's expedition passed through the area on its way to search for the supposed inland sea.

We visited Mt. Moffatt homestead from where the park is now managed and saw the massive old cattle yards from the grazing heydays. The air strip, adjacent to the homestead, was used while we were there when the Ranger was flown to Roma hospital following an accident. The park is very extensive and each day we drove to places of interest. The Chimneys, Cathedral Rock, Marlong Arch, Lot's wife and the high areas (about the 4,000 feet) from where we obtained marvellous views. Mt. Moffatt's attractions centre round the aboriginal art and the sandstone mountains and spectacular outcrops. Lot's Wife is a solitary

Mt. Moffatt (cont'd)

wethered outcrop, The Chimneys were several colourful outcrops atop a small mountain, Marlong Arch is just keeping two pieces of the mountain together, while the Rotary and Top Lookout afford wonderful views of the surrounding country. The place is both a photographer's delight and nightmare, as there are so many attractions urging the shutter to be clicked "just once more".

During the journey to Kenniff's Cave we stopped to look at Kenniff's Lookout and all agreed that everything would be able to be seen for many miles around from that superb vantage point. The next stop was at Cremation Rock where the brothers were reported to have destroyed the evidence of the murders of Constable George Doyle and station manager Christian Bahlke. This brought the horse stealing and cattle duffing activities of the Kenniff brothers to an inglorious end in 1902. Kenniff's Cave is an extensive site of aboriginal stencil art(I feel this beautiful cave should have an Aboriginal name and not that of the "wild colonial boys"). This is a true cave, not an overhang of rock as are most of the sites of aboriginal art. The entrance is guarded by macrozamia, elkhorns and hare's foot fern and the cave is large and has a wonderful array of aboriginal stencils of their everyday tools and activities. We were told that aboriginal habitation extends to 3.28m below the existing floor level. Art sites were also seen at the Tombs, Cathedral Rock, Marlong Arch, Kookaburra Cave and near the Homestead. Petroglyphs were numerous in the Marlong Arch surrounds. From Peawaddy Gorge, reached by a long trek in the 4WD, we were able to see Battleship Spur of Cammeron Gorge fame far to the east.

The weather pattern for the whole trip was of very cold nights, frosty mornings and glorious sunny days. Close to camp, one of the rock holes was frozen over every morning, once again giving rise to great photographic activity. One deep waterhole at the base of the Tombs was iced over at 1pm and at 4pm had thawed slightly, but great sheets of ice were still clearly visible. During our week there the man in charge, Russell Watson, told us that there were only ten other people in the park (there are several camping areas) so we were pleased to have made the visit while the park is still considered "remote".

Bird List: Bronze Wing Pidgeon, Magpie Lark, Crested Pidgeon, Spotted Pardalote, Wee Bill, Pale Headed Rosella, Grey Crowned Babbler, Squatter Pidgeon, white Cockatoo, Kookaburra, Spur winged Plover, Pied Butcherbird, Wedged Tailed Eagle, Currawong, Boo Book Owl, Barn Owl, Magpie, Blackheaded Pardalote, Black Shouldered Kite, white Eared Honeyeater, Black Luck, Lewin Honeyeater, Jacky Winter, Spiny Cheeked Honeyeater, Pheasant Cougal, white Naped Honeyeater, Striated Thornbill, Grey Butcherbird, Mistletoe Bird, Wren, Rainbow Lorikeet, Noisy Miner, Apostle Bird, White Throated Tree Creeper, Brown Quail.

Plant list as seen by observer M. Marsden. *Acacia neriifolia*, *conferta*, *macradenia*, *podalyriifolia*, *fimbriata*(B), *ulicifolia*(F), *bancroftii*. *Calytri longifolia*, *Brunonia australis*, *Kanthorrhoea*, *Baronia bipinnata*(F), *Melichrus*, *Hovea*, *Xylomelum pyriforme*(woody pear), *Lysicarpus angustifolius*(Tom Russell Mahogany), *Astrotricha pterocarpa*, *Dianella*(s), *Bossiaea carinalis*, *Grevillea floribunda*, *Actinotus helianthi*, *Dodonaea*(2), *Pimelea*(F), *Baronia rosamarinfolia*(F), *Pultenaea*(2) *Lomandras leucocephala* and *longifolia*, *Petropile*(cone bush) *Helichrysum*, *Ficus*, Maiden Hair Fern, *Persoonia*, Elk Horn, Hares Foot, see Page 3

