

14 JAN 1986



THE
**GRANITE BELT
NATURALIST**

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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 1985 - 1986

PRESIDENT	JEAN HARSLETT B.E.M. (833 185)
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HON. AUDITOR	

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

Singls - \$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 General Meeting held November, 27th, 1985.

31 present.

President Jean opened the meeting and welcomed all present especially welcoming our visitors - Marcella and Pat McCormack, Kel Dominey, Claude and Mary Walters, Peter Power, Pam Harvey and Merv and Susan Jones and hoped they would enjoy the meeting and program.

Minutes. It was moved by Ray Marsden and seconded by Bob Lacey that the minutes be taken as read in the November Magazine. Carried.

Business from the Minutes.- Jean spoke on the Arts in Action Display on Nov. 1st and 2nd and thanked all who helped. Geoff Walker reported on his attendance at the 'Youth Dinner' as our club representative.

Correspondence. - INWARD 1. letter from McDonagh Family; 2. from Terri Type of N.T.; 3. Q'ld Recreation Council Warwick; 4. three notices from Rainforest Rescue.

Newsletters from - 1. Q'ld Naturalist Journal Vol 25 Nos 5 & 6; 2. Contact Conservation & Bush Rescue Assoc. 3. Darling Downs Naturalist Club No. 377; 4. Chinchilla Field Naturalist Club Vol 19 No. 10.5 Richmond Valley Naturalist Club No. 6; Down Under Vol 24 No.2; Govt. Releases - 6 Press Statements from Hon. P.R. McKechnie M.L.A. re Koalas; Kangaroos; Permanent protection of Island in Mary River; re extension of Carnarvon Nat. Park recreation area; notice that more than 91% of Morton Island is to be Nat. Park; St. Helena Island is now ready for visitors as a major Historic Park.

OUTWARD. 1. letter of Sympathy to Brian McDonagh; letter to Mr & Mrs. Ian Campbell thanking them for allowing the Club to camp on their property at Texas. 3. To Mr. Philip Donges thanking him for his time and information on the Sunday of our Campout. 4. 4QS re Nov. Outing & Meeting notices. 5. Letter to John O'Donnell in Bris General Hospital. Moved by Errol Walker and seconded by Esme Lacey that the Inward Correspondence be received and the outward endorsed. Carried.

<u>Treasurer's Report.</u> - Balance as at 23.10.85	Cr.	\$211.63
Receipts - Subscriptions	26.00	
Room Rent Collect	<u>11.70</u>	<u>37.70</u>
		249.33
<u>Payments</u> - Fed Tax (Aug.Sept. Oct. Nov)	1.40	
C.W.A. Room Rent	6.00	
Rover Scouts (Mag Printing)	7.00	
Mag Postage	<u>13.00</u>	<u>27.70</u>
- Credit Balance as at 27.11.85		\$221.93

Moved Joan Stevenson, and seconded Tom Archer that the report be received and the following accounts passed for payment.

Mag Duplication	7.00	
Room Rent	6.00	
Mag Postage	13.00	Carried.

Outing Report - Ray Marsden took over the leadership of the outing to Sandy Creek in the Leslie Dam Area for Tom Archer who through illness was unable to attend. He reported that in may have been the smallest outing with just 1 car and 5 occupants attending but that didn't dampen the enjoyment of the outing. Brother Lig was found at a higher picnic area and we were very pleased to see him.

Dec Outing. In the form of a Christmas Breakup and was to be held on December 8th. Venue is the home of Rob & Jean Harslett at Mountain View Amiens. Members are to bring a 'sweet'.

No meeting in December.

January '86 Outing. - as the outing to Sandy Creek was held in Nov. members will be notified via magazine & 4QS & Border Post re venue for January 19th outing.

January Meeting will be held on January 22nd the programme will be a trip to Mt. Moffatt National Park by the Marsdens, Lacey and Wilkinsons.

Specimens. A large Case Moth was brought in by Dore McCosker who tells us it takes 12 mths to develop. The female doesn't develop wings or leave the case.

Brian McDonagh had a Prostanthera Lasianthos - which blooms in November. This specimen is growing on a rock and this is the first time it has flowered in 5 years.

As there was no further business - meeting closed at 5 to 9 p.m.

Tom Archer showed a wonderful collection of slides taken on his recent trip to South Africa. All present found it most interesting and informative and asked many questions. Many thanks Tom.

Dot Archer, Hon. Secretary.

THE PRAYER OF A TREE

You who pass by and would raise your hand against me
Harken, ere you harm me

I am the heat of your hearth on cold winter's night
And friendly shade screening you from the summer's sun
And my fruits are refreshing draughts
Quenching your thirst as you journey on.

I am the beam that holds your house, The board of your table,
The bed on which you lie, The timbers that build your boats.

I am the handle of your hoe,
The door of your homestead,
The wood of your cradle, The shell of your last resting place.

I am a gift of God and the friend of man
You who pass by, listen to my prayer
Harm not me.

- given to us by Member Joan Paskin.

Additional information on specimens as supplied by Jean Harslett.

A couple of beautiful sprays of Mint Bush (*Prostanthera lasianthos*) were brought for display by Brian McDonagh and grow on his property quite close to his home at Lyra.

It is a tall shrub, sometimes almost tree size, and very beautiful and profuse in bloom, in late November. The flowers are usually white with a spotted throat but it does have a faint lilac to deeper lilac variations. The lilac is usually like a delicate lilac 'rinse'.

It grows at Girraween and at Mt. Norman and at the latter habitat, is another similar species *Prostanthera prunelloides*. The leaves are a dull green and more dentate and the flowers large and white. The leaves, when crushed, have a peppermint aroma, whilst the *Prostanthera lasianthos* is more like eucalyptus in aroma. *Prostanthera lasianthos* is commonly known in the south as the Victorian Christmas Bush or the Tasmanian Christmas Bush as it flowers just a little later than ours. A very handsome form of this Mint Bush occurs at Point Lookout National Park, east of Armidale. The most common Mint Bush in this district is *Prostanthera nivea*, the flowers are 'snow' white, terminal and nearly stalkless, which no doubt gives rise to its botanical name 'nivea', because they look like snowflakes resting on the bush.

Prostanthera saxicola is hardly noticed with its limp branches and pale mauve flowers and scattered leaves in pairs. However *Prostanthera phyllifolia* is another kettle of fish, with its rich purple flowers and dark throat but it is only seen locally on rocky granite slabs where trickles of moisture run constantly.

The *Westringias* are closely allied, but the flowers have much less conspicuous calyx bracts. *Westringia longilolia* can be confused with *Prostanthera saxicola*, but the flowers are smaller, mauve and the leaves are in fours. *Westringia amabilis* is beautiful, habitat Girraween National Park with a few isolated plants at the foot of Mt. Ferguson at Amiens.

On the recent Texas outing a strange plant was seen and exhibited in the specimens at the next meeting. It is now identified and is a closely related plant to the two above genera. All are in the same plant family of Labiatae. With its erect character and white flowers they were seen near Arcot and it has been identified for us as *Teucrium corymbosum*.

NEXT OUTING.

The end of the 1985 year was to the home of President Jean Harslett and family and this was well attended by members.

Unfortunately inclement weather conditions curtailed outdoor activities and, with this thought in mind, a return trip is planned for January. The outing will be on January 19th and is timed to begin at Harslett's Dam at 10 a.m. Swimming will be available and a surprise program is being arranged, so bring your lunch, swimming togs and have a fun day. Jean and Rob are very generous with their time and the surprise program is sure to be full of interest for all age groups.