

THE
**GRANITE BELT
NATURALIST**

15 AUG 1986



Monthly Newsletter of the
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club



Registered by Australia Post - Publication No. **QBH 1824**

PRICE 10c

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

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

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1986 - 1987

PRESIDENT	JEAN HARSLETT B.E.M. (833 185
VICE-PRESIDENTS	ROBIN M ^C COSKER RAY MARSDEN
SECRETARY	DOT ARCHER (811 754)
TREASURER	JOAN STEVENSON
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	MILLIE MARSDEN
NEWSLETTER SUB COMMITTEE	DORE M ^C COSKER JOAN STEVENSON BRUCE GIBSON
PUBLICITY OFFICER	TOM ARCHER
LIBRARIAN	JANET HOCKINGS
FLORA & FAUNA OFFICER	BRIAN M ^C DONAGH
GEOLOGY OFFICER	COL HOCKINGS
YOUTH OFFICER	RAY ROLLAND
BUSHWALKING OFFICER	RAY MARSDEN
COMMITTEE -	Frank Wilkinson Don Lighfoot Roy Werner Esme & Bob Lacey Ailsa Wilkinson Lyle Thompson
HON. AUDITOR	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 newsletter.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY JULY 23rd 1986.

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|------------------|----|
| <u>Present</u> | 27 | <u>Apologies</u> | 14 |
| <u>OPENING</u> | President Jean opened the meeting and apologised for the change in time due to the Royal Wedding being televised at 9pm. She welcomed all present. | | |
| <u>MINUTES.</u> | Secretary Dot read the minutes of the last annual meeting held on July 14th 1985. Moved by Lyle Thompson and seconded Ray Rolland that they be confirmed. Carried. | | |
| <u>CORRESPONDENCE</u> | Letter sent to our Hon. Auditor Mrs. Joan Ferris thanking her for auditing the books for 1984-5 and one received from Joan wishing the Club well for 1986-87. Moved by Millie Marsden seconded Bob Lacey that the inward correspondence be received and the outward adopted. Carried. | | |
| <u>FINANCIAL REPORT.</u> | Treasurer Joan Stevenson presented the financial statement for 1985-86 showing a credit balance of \$15-60 and moved that it be received. Seconded by Ray Marsden. Carried. | | |
| <u>PRESIDENT'S REPORT.</u> | <p>President Jean presented the following report</p> <p>It is with pleasure that I give a brief report on the activities for the year ended 23rd July 1986. Membership has remained good, we have endeavoured to keep expense to a minimum to allow everyone to be part of our activities. Your membership just covers your costs, a bulletin regularly posted, rent of the rooms for the meeting. A Bring and Buy has helped a little, but responsibility has fallen to too few.</p> <p>I was elected as President by "remote control" being in Denmark at the time, and missed the first two programmes. However, the executive got together quickly and planned a good and varied programme. Visits to a variety of terrain some new, some trackless, some up and ever up! some drives through pleasant countryside for those less able to be active and members even entered into an insect day and surprised themselves. Mentally and physically stimulating, or peaceful pleasures, remember the moonrise at Barney, or what could be more satisfying to a leader than the overheard remark of a bright eyed boy cavorting over rocks and through caves in granite "It's better than Disneyland".</p> <p>Meeting programmes for the Wednesday nights have catered for a variety of tastes Antarctica, South Africa, Russia, Scandinavia, Australian National Parks, Mt. Moffat, Ayers Rock Trip, Salvador Rosa. Brett Porter has spoken on National Park Management and Rural Conservation was also discussed. They have been varied and interesting and some of excellence.</p> <p>To Vice Presidents Robin McCosker and Ray Marsden for taking meetings when I've been absent, Secretary Dot Archer for keeping communication in order (and reminding me of things I might forget), Tom Archer for publicity, Joan Stevenson (as Treasurer) for keeping us afloat on an elastic</p> | | |

President's Report continued.

(oops) I mean unelastic budget, Bulletin Editor Millie Marsden and committee Dore McCosker and Bruce Gibson (with Ray Rolland's guiding hand) the Bulletin has appeared on time every time, I thank all the above for their efforts.

As a small expression of appreciation for their endeavours, I've tried to give a thumb nail sketch of each speaker. Though I have mentioned some people, there is also special gratitude to each and every member, for entering into the spirit of things and giving of their talents and time."

Jean moved that her report be received and this was seconded by Ailsa Wilkinson. Carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.

<u>PRESIDENT.</u>	Jean Harslett nominated by Ailsa Wilkinson	Accepted
<u>VICE PRESIDENTS.</u>	Rob McCosker nominated by Dot Archer	Accepted
	Ray Marsden nominated by Ray Rolland	Accepted
<u>SECRETARY</u>	Dot Archer nominated by Millie Marsden	Accepted
<u>TREASURER</u>	Joan Stevenson nominated by Ray Marsden	Accepted
<u>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</u>	Millie Marsden nominated by Esme Lacey	Accepted
<u>NEWSLETTER</u>	Dore McCosker nominated by Jean Harslett	Accepted
<u>SUB COMMITTEE.</u>	Bruce Gibson nominated by Jean Harslett	Accepted
	Joan Stevenson nominated by Jean Harslett	Accepted
<u>PUBLICITY OFFICER.</u>	Tom Archer nominated by Jean Harslett	
<u>LIBRARIAN.</u>	Janet Hockings nominated by Dot Archer	Accepted
<u>FLORA AND FAUNA OFFICER.</u>	Brian McDonagh nominated by Lyle Thompson	Accepted
<u>GEOLOGY OFFICER.</u>	Colin Hockings nominated by Tom Archer	Accepted
<u>YOUTH OFFICER.</u>	Ray Rolland nominated by Ray Marsden	Accepted
<u>BUSHWALKING OFFICER.</u>	Ray Marsden nominated by Bob Lacey	Accepted
<u>COMMITTEE.</u>	Frank Wilkinson nominated by Millie Marsden	Accepted
	Don Lightfoot nominated by Ailsa Wilkinson	Accepted
	Roy Werner nominated by Tom Archer	Accepted
	Esme and Bob Lacey nominated by Jean Harslett	Accepted
	Ailsa Wilkinson nominated by Frank Wilkinson	Accepted
	Lyle Thompson nominated by Joan Stevenson	Accepted
<u>HON. AUDITOR.</u>	Joan Ferris nominated by Joan Stevenson.	

GENERAL BUSINESS. Millie Marsden moved that a letter of thanks be sent to hon. auditor Joan Ferris. Seconded Tom Archer C'd.

Subscription. Discussion took place of whether subs. should be altered. Millie Marsden moved that the subscription remain the same \$10 for a family and \$6 single. Seconded Don Lightfoot. Carried.

It was resolved that fifty cents per family per night be asked toward room rent. It was decided to continue the "Bring and Buy" at meetings.

Annual Meeting closed at 7.40PM.

Dot Archer Hon Sec.

Minutes of the general meeting held on 23rd July 1986.

Minutes Moved by Millie Marsden seconded Frank Wilkinson that the minutes of the previous general meeting be taken as read and confirmed. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE. Inward Letters of thanks from Gillie and Peter Noakes. Toowoomba Bird Club re change in Fauna Conservation Regulations. Australia Post re approval of Magazine Registration. Newsletters and journals from Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club; Richmond Valley Naturalist Club; Chinchilla Field Naturalists Club; National Parks Association; Rain Forest Rescue; Food Justice Centre re Plant Variety Rights registration destroying Plant Breeding in Europe. Outward. Letter of sympathy to Noakes family re passing of Neta. 4 QS Radio Station re Outing and Meeting notices.

Moved by Esme Lacey, seconded Rob McCosker that the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed. Carried.

TREASURER'S
REPORT

Same as annual meeting showing a credit balance of \$15-60.

Moved by Joan and seconded by Ray Marsden that the following accounts be passed for payment - Room Rent \$6.00; Magazine postage \$13.50; Magazine Duplication \$5.00; Stencils \$19.62. Carried.

OUTING REPORT
NEXT OUTING.

Will be printed in the August Magazine.

On August 24th to Mount Jibbenbar. Ray Marsden has organised with Gordon Leahy to lead the outing. More details will be available in the magazine.

NEXT MEETING.

Programme will be a film with Colin Hockings to choose order and arrange for a projector.

SPECIMENS.

Jean spoke on a fern found on the outing to Mt. Banca, Skeleton Fork Fern. Jean also had on display a Russell Eye Orchid.

GENERAL
BUSINESS .

A meeting to organise programmes and outings for the next ten months to be held at Tom and Dot Archer's home on Caves Road at 7.30pm on Tuesday July 29th. All present enjoyed the "Remember Last Year" slides and a vote of thanks to Robin McCosker was carried by acclamation. Rob put the programme together from slides provided by members.

PROGRAMME.

Dot Archer Hon. Sec.

REPORT ON THE AUGUST OUTING TO MOUNT BANCA BY
LEADER JOHN HARGRETT

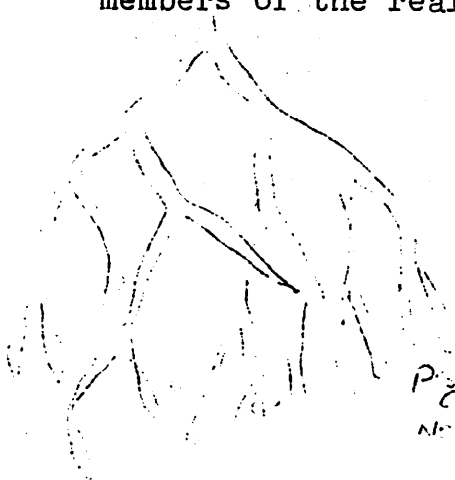
Who said July days couldn't be perfect? The day for the Mount Banca Outing was just that. A splendid party which built up to 53 strong by lunch time enjoyed seeing beauty spots so close to the town of Stanthorpe, and hearing a little history in relation to familiar place names.

The Passmore family made it very easy for us, by allowing us to park on their property, and have lunch there. Margaret Passmore was a splendid little guide (and made my day a breeze) She was so enthusiastic and observant of everything on the Mount Banca and Happy Valley Hills.

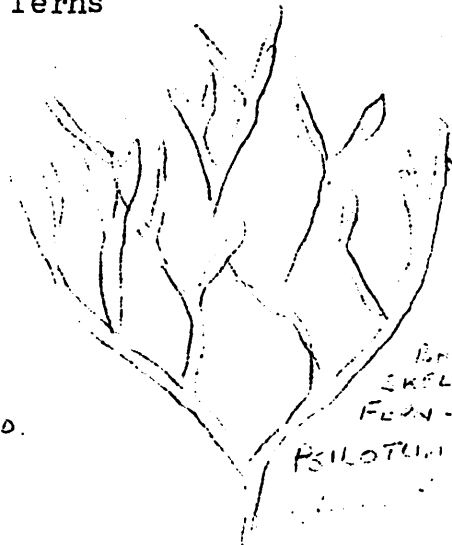
Our thanks to John Passmore, Murray Pearson and Livio Benetto for permission to pass through their respective properties.

Before lunch, Mount Banca was explored, with excellent viewpoints to the east over the town. Then across to look west. A steep little descent down the valley and across to the next ridge, where Margaret led us to an unusual fern. It was a most unusual plant, readily recognised by its wiry skeleton-like stems. It was a pretty golden-green, with bright yellow fruiting bodies. The plant does not possess true roots, but absorbs water and nutrients through hairs directly attached to the complex rhizomes. This plant has been cultivated in Japan for over 400 years.

The Genus has three species in it in the world, and two of those occur in Australia, through mainly tropical regions. Though widespread, they are also very restricted in distribution. The north Queensland species hangs down and is an epiphyte on trees, while the species here is erect and thrives in rock crevices. The one we saw is called Skeleton Fork Fern (*Psilotum nudum*.) and they are members of the really ancient ferns



PSYLOTUM
COMPLANATUM
 NORTH QUEENSLAND.



MOUNT
 BANCA FERN
 SKELETON FORK
 FERN -

PSYLOTUM NUDUM -

Mount Banca Outing Cont.

We saw the rosettes of three species of greenhood orchids, and I guess some eyes were looking for the small orchid *Chiloglottis trapeziformis* which was recorded 50 years ago from Happy Valley by the late Harry Simpson. It would be great to relocate it, and the correct type of habitat was seen in the gully.

At the second crest we saw some fine specimens of the Red Ash (*Alphitonia excelsa*, tucked in between rocks in warm surroundings, they've survived as remnants of rain-forest species. How the imagination dilates at the thought. One specimen really lived up to its name of 'excelsa' and was as large a tree of this kind, that we have seen in the district. A remarkable growth pattern near the base of the tree excited a couple of camera buffs. "With its silvery-white under leaf why 'Red Ash'?" I looked up my 'list of songs' and found it has very dark timber, so perhaps it refers to that.

The empty chrysalis cases of the large *Herioid* moths, the larvae of which feed on roots of trees, and emerge on wet nights in April were found. Also empty cicada cases, and part of a very large Phasmid or Leaf insect. Mostly they can look very leaf and stick like, but they can display very delicate and beautiful lace like wings, with a streak of bright orange or red near the top of the wing. It is remarkable that such a fierce looking creature is harmless and can display such delicate beauty. I guess they look pretty fearsome to their counterparts. The males which are quite small by comparison are devoured by the females after mating.

Climbing the second bald rock some early spring flowers were seen, as well as mountain bracken. A surprise to see a wattle in bloom, not the usual earliest species, but a rarer one recently named *Acacia latisephala*. Others flowering included the Queensland daphne, Myrtle, *Hovea*, Queen of the Bush (*Pimelea colorans*) Snow flower, the small purple flower *Westringia longifolia*. The 'Wild Fuschia' (*Correa*) was also seen in several places.

From the afternoon walk, some returned back across the gully others walked out on to the new 'Skyline estate road' and some were picked up by cars.

During the lunch break the weighty question of the Annual Meeting versus the "Royal Wedding" arose and a compromise was arrived at, an hour earlier start to the meeting.

Heather Graham brought along the recently arrived Czechoslovakian family, who are keen hikers in their homeland, and we hope they enjoy some of our activities.

Jean Harslett Leader

One small boys remark while cavorting over and under granite boulders, "Its better than Disneyland" made our day.

This report of the flora seen on the Mount Banca outing was submitted by Dore McCosker.

For the most part, flowers on the Mount Banca are still only a promise. However, enough buds had opened to simplify identification.

The heavy frosts have affected some varieties and turned their leaves to the richest tones of burgundy - lovely for floral art. Most striking were a Bossiaca and two Acacias, the rich golden balls of the *Acacia latisepala* contrasting vividly with the red leaves and branches.

There appeared to be three varieties of *Notelaca*. The golden green foliage of *Notelaca linearis* (my favourite) also blends well in floral arrangements.

Heath plants *Cryptandra amara*, *Leucopogon*, *Pimelea*, *Boronia*, *Mirbelia*, *Hovea*, *Eriostemon* and *Indigofera* are very forward in bud and ready to put on their usual spring display. The prickly ones *Melichrus urceolatus* and Prickly Moses made their presence felt in the scrub.

As we returned to the lunch spot after viewing the leafless fern - a living remnant from pre-historic times - we discovered the Red Ash trees (*Alphitonia excelsa*). The leaves of this plant contain saponin, a soapy substance, and were used by the Aborigines to poison water to catch fish.

Next outing will be to the property of Gordon Leahy at Mount Jibbenbar members are asked to be ready to leave Weeroona Park at 9am to travel to Springdale. This will be the morning tea break, it will take the best part of an hour to reach the homestead at Springdale. From there members will travel in their own vehicles for about a ten minute drive. All will then transfer to four wheel drives for the next part of the journey. Several members have offered to take passengers in their 4WD vehicles and Mr. Gordon Leahy will also provide a ute. Somewhere along the track a six foot fence has to be negotiated and it is thought that a ladder or two might make it easier.

Members will need to carry lunch and drinking water.
Looking forward to seeing you on the 24th.

Ray Marsden.

Next Programme will be a film left to the discretion of Colin Hocking this will take place on Wednesday 17th August at 8pm.