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THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST



Monthly Newsletter of the
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club



PYRAMIDS

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

P.O. Box 154,
Stanthorpe, Q4380.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1987 - 1988

PRESIDENT	RAY MARSDEN (811 593)
VICE-PRESIDENTS	ROB MCCOSKER JEAN HARSLETT B.E.M.
SECRETARY	DOT ARCHER (811 754)
TREASURER	JOAN STEVENSON
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	MILLIE MARSDEN
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	DORE MCCOSKER LOUISE FISCHER TOM ARCHER
PUBLICITY OFFICER	JANET HOCKINGS
LIBRARIAN	BRIAN MCDONAGH
FLORA AND FAUNA OFFICER	COLIN HOCKINGS
GEOLOGY OFFICER	GEOFFREY WALKER
YOUTH OFFICER	ERROL WALKER
BUSHWALKING OFFICER	
<u>COMMITTEE</u>	Frank Wilkinson Roy Werner Esme Lacey 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

Donation .50c per family per
meeting to cover rent.

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 OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB held in the QCWA Rooms Victoria Street on Wednesday July 22, 1987

Present 26

Apologies 10

OPENING

In the absence of the President Jean Harslett, Vice President Ray Marsden took the chair and welcomed all present.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting July 23 1986 were read and it was moved by Dore McCosker seconded Esme Lacey that they be adopted as a true record. Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Joan Steverson presented the financial report which showed a credit balance of \$15.60 as at 30th June 1986. Receipts totalled \$481.28 made up of Subs \$381.00, Room Rent Collections \$71.10, Bring and Buy \$11.10, Donation \$3 Half Post Office Box(Camera Club) \$11.50, Bank Interest \$3.58.

Expenditure totalled \$452.21 made up of Room Rent \$60.00, Magazine Postage \$131.00, Magazine Duplication \$59.00, Magazine Photocopying \$44.30, Stencils \$19.62, Magazine Paper \$42.35, Carbon Copy Book \$5.75, Petty Cash \$20.00, Australia Post Registration \$40.00, Post Office Box Rental \$23.00, Show Society Prize \$3.00, Federal Duty Tax \$4.65.

Bank Reconciliation

Cash Book Balance \$44.21

Plus outstanding cheques \$9.00

Less monies not banked \$5.10

Bank Statement 30.6.87 \$48.11

Treasurer Joan moved that her report showing a credit balance of \$48.11 be adopted, this was seconded by Lyle Thompson. Carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Secretary Dot read the report of the year 1986-87 which was written by President Jean Harslett. The activities of the past year and the programs were well varied and the camp outs had been very popular. She thanked all leaders of the outings and all who presented programs. Committee members and her executive were thanked especially Tom Archer as publicity officer, it has encouraged newcomers to the Club, especially for meetings.

Moved by Dore McCosker and seconded by Brian McDonagh that the President's Report be received. Carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

President Ray Marsden nominated by Rob McCosker. Accepted

Vice Presidents. Rob McCosker nominated by Ray Marsden Acc'p'd

Jean Harslett nominated by Brian McDonagh

Secretary Dot Archer nominated by Annette Walker Accepted

Treasurer Joan Stevenson nominated by Lyle Thompson "

Newsletter Editor Millie Marsden nominated by Dot Archer "

Newsletter Sub Committee Dore McCosker nominated by Joan

Stevenson Louise Fischer nominated by Dot

Archer Both Accepted

Publicity Officer Tom Archer nominated by Esme Lacey Acct

Librarian Janet Hockings nominated by Colin Hockings Acpt

Annual Meeting(continued)

ELECTION Flora and Fauna Officer Brian McDonagh nominated by
OFFICERS. Ray Marsden Accepted
Geology Officer - Colin Hockings nominated by Tom
 Archer Accepted
Youth Officer - Geoffrey Walker nominated by Millie
 Marsden. Accepted.
Bushwalking Officer - Errol Walker nominated by Millie
 Marsden. Accepted.
Committee. 1. Frank Wilkinson, 2. Roy Werner, 3. Esme
 Lacey, 4. Bob Lacey, 5. Ailsa Wilkinson, 6. Lyle
 Thompson, 7. Ray Boggen accepted nomination.
 Hon. Auditor. Joan Ferris nominated by Joan Stevenson
 Subscriptions to remain at the same level Accepted.
GENERAL \$10.00 for family and \$6.00 single.
BUSINESS Rent donation to remain at 50cents per family per
 meeting.
 Bring and Buy stall to be continued.
PROGRAM The program and outing planning meeting to be held on
MEETING Monday August 3 at Archer's residence on Old Caves Road.
CLOSURE. The president thanked members for their attendance
 and declared the annual meeting closed at 8.55pm

Dot Archer Hon. Sec.

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALISTS HELD IN
 THE QCWA ROOMS ON July 22nd 1987 at 9pm.

MINUTES. Moved by Colin Hockings and seconded by Robin McCosker
 that the minutes be taken as read in the July newsletter
 and confirmed. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE. Inward. 1. Royal Australian Ornithologists asking
 for someone to be Regional Representative to organise
 and promote a Nest Record Scheme re breeding of
 Australian birds in this area. 2. Australia Post re
 registration approval. 3. Film Library Booking Forms.
 4. Newsletters and Journals from Australian Conservation
 Foundation, Darling Downs Naturalist, National Parks,
 Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club, Richmond Valley Nats,
 June and July Chinchilla Club Newsletter.
 Outward. 4QS re Outing and Meeting notices,
 Sympathy cards to May Prentice and Judy Pfrunder.
 Moved by Esme Lacey and seconded Bob Lacey that the
 inward correspondence be received and the outward
 endorsed. Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT Same as annual report \$48.11 plus an extra \$22.00
 deposit making a credit balance of \$70.11.
 Moved by Joan Stevenson seconded by Lyle Thompson that
 the report be received and the following accounts be

FINANCIAL REPORT(continued)

passed for payment Room Rent \$8.00, Magazine Postage \$15.75, Magazine Duplication \$6.00, Carried.

OUTING REPORT

Millie Marsden reported on the outing to the Goat Hole on the Aspinall property at Dalveen. The 20 people who attended enjoyed the day and the interesting stories of the area told by the owner of the property Mick Aspinall.

A letter of thanks to be forwarded to Mick and Philomena for their hospitality.

NEXT OUTING.

It was decided to leave the August 23rd outing venue to be decided at the Program and Outing meeting on August 3rd. Program for August 26 will also be decided at that meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Ray announced that the club had been invited to join the Chinchilla Nats. on September 26 on Aikens property at 9am, lunch to be carried. More details will be available in the August magazine. John Walter also spoke on this outing and said that Mrs. Aiken would also be able to give more information on the Nest Record Scheme to those interested.

Brian McDonagh told of Sun Birds seen at Agens Waters and Tom Archer spoke on the pair of Black Shouldered Kites nesting in an apple tree on the Archer property.

Meeting closed at 9.22pm.

PROGRAM

Robin McCosker and Errol Walker had organised the "Remember Last Year" outings and these were presented outings remembered by the slide show included the campouts at Gibraltar Range, Torrington and outings to Hutchins Hill, Arrow Rock, Geology Outing in Warwick and Dalveen areas, Rivertree, Nundubbermere Falls. Supper was served after the program which brought a very enjoyable evening to a close.

Dot Archer.
Hon. Sec.

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Outing Report to Goat Hole

by leader Ray Marsden.

The outing to the Goat Hole on the Brooklands property of Mick and Philomena Aspinall on July 19 was attended by twenty people including newcomers Ron and Nancy Gooding and Bob Luttrell, all from the Warwick area.

From the Aspinall home, the group travelled by car to the north west corner of the property, led by Mick Aspinall. From the cars we walked about a mile to the bank of a gully of the Rosenthal Creek. From here it was a scramble to the bottom of the gorge as best one could, it was fairly tough going for the climb down into the creek bed. This deep gorge cuts its way through the surrounding undulating country and it was estimated that we climbed down about 150 feet. The Goat Hole is a very deep rock pool at the base of a small waterfall, seems aptly named as not many other animals than goats and Nats. would visit the place. The water was clear as crystal and Mick says that it is a good place to swim given the right weather.

Outing Report(Continued)

A three legged turtle came in for a lot of attention, it would seem that he was not quite quick enough when out walking. A piece of his shell was also missing from the area above the leg joint. The falls are an effective barrier against fish moving further upstream.

Mick led the group up the other side of the gorge, which was even higher than the side from which we had descended, and from the top, we had good views down to the Goathole and the sandy bed of Rosenthal Creek. We could also see our friend Turtle moving about in the clear water. On this rocky cliff, which was almost vertical at this point, there was much evidence of goats having recently been in residence. Dingoes are prevalent in the area and the goats most likely camp on the edge of the cliff for protection. If they were to be attacked they could climb over the edge.

As we were having lunch, we were joined by the owner of this property Mr. Harold Downing, he was out on a dingo patrol and told us that the only way he can ensure the safety of his animals is to have them enclosed with an electric fence. He invited the group to come back to the area for another outing as there are several places of interest.

Not many flowers were seen to be blooming on the outing though we did see some lovely wattle trees. Birds were not too plentiful at this time of day, but we did see eight magnificent wedge-tailed eagles soaring overhead.

Mick led us on a round trip back to the cars where we had a cuppa and then decided, that as the day was still young, we would go along to see the Cherry Gully railway tunnel. At one time this area was quite heavily populated and three railway sidings served the area.

The tunnel, though short, gave us plenty to think about as when it was built in the 1880's the blasting would have been executed with hand drills. This was a remarkable effort, The line has lasted well, Lyle Thompson, who worked on the line prior to his retirement, told us that during the 1976 heavy rain caused a part of the line below the tunnel to slip downhill. Tons and tons of rock sank into the mud before a firm base could be established.

It was interesting to note that the Cobb and Co. Coach route traversed this hill in the early days en route to Tenterfield. A little used track still follows the track established by the old coaches.

In one of the paddocks an old council maintainence workers van on iron wheels lies languishing. Mick told us that his father had tender-£1 for the van during a sale of obsolete machinery from the Glengallan Shire Council in 1954. When used by the council it would have housed the grader driver and his offsider for a week while out on maintainence patrols. When the gang moved on it would have been towed behind the grader to a new camping spot, which would preferably been near a good fishing spot. The van has been used on the property to house workers in outlying paddocks. It made a good feature for a number of photographers.

Our thanks to Mick and Philomena for leading us on the outing and to Mick for his many interesting stories about the area.

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NEXT OUTING.

The August outing, on August 23, is to Jibbenbar and will be led by Gordon Leahy. This outing will leave from Weeroona Park at 9am and travel to Gordon's property at Springdale, to arrive there approx. 10am.

After a quick cup of tea, during which Gordon will outline the plan for the day, the party will travel in their cars for about 2ks and then transfer to 4WD vehicles for a further 5-6ks. Lunch will probably be eaten before the steep climb to the top of Mount Jibbenbar to save carrying extra weight. The last leg to the top of Jibbenbar is rated as hard as it is fairly steep and scrubby.

Extensive views of the surrounding countryside will be seen from the top, it is interesting to note that Jibbenbar is higher than Stanthorpe, being 3200 feet above sea level.

Gordon is putting two 4WD's at our disposal and passenger room in other 4WD vehicles will be appreciated. The vehicles will travel along a made but quite steep road.

BLUE MOUNTAIN HALF DAY.

An extra outing has been arranged for August 30 and will be a half day wildflower outing to Blue Mountain leaving Weeroona Park at 1.30pm.

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NEXT PROGRAM.

The program for August will be presented in the QCWA Victoria St. on August 26 at 8pm. Mr. R. Hills, a geologist who now resides at Wyberba will present a program entitled "Antartica".

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INVITATION

An invitation from the Chinchilla Club, whose members are camping in the district from September 20-28, to join an outing on Col and Nancy Aiken's "Dalmoak" property on Saturday September 26 at 9am, has been received. Mrs. Nancy Aiken will lead the outing which will be of particular interest to "birdos". Lunch is to be carried.

An outing to Horan's Gorge is planned for Sunday September 27 has also been arranged and members will be welcome to join this outing also.

An invitation has been extended to the Chinchilla Club to attend the September program which has been specially chosen with visitors in view. Robin McCosker will present a program entitled "Granite Belt Scenes" and as Rob is a top photographer, this will be a great way of showing off the district.

Chinchilla Club are anxious to see a rare Grevillea which grows on the Granite Belt and it would be greatly appreciated if someone could shed some light on this subject.

The committee met at the home of Dot and Tom Archer on August 3 to draw up a tentative program for the coming year. Some apologies were received and those present drew up the following outing and program list.

OUTINGS

August 23. Jibbenbar - Gordon Leahy
 30. Wildflower Special to
 Blue Mountain Ray Marsden
September 20 Inglewood Wildflowers
 Tom Archer
 26 Chinchilla Nats. to
 Nancy Aiken' Dalmoak
October 25 Basket Swamp May Prentice
November 22-23 Camp-out Spicers Gap
 Mt. Greville
December 6 Christmas Party at
 Colin and Janet Hockings
January 24 Girraween National Park
 11am start. Rob McCosker
February 21 Demon Creek-Rocky River
 Tom Archer
March 20 Walk out from junction of
 Quart Pot and Broadwater
 to Finney's Falls
April 22-25 Camp Out Lions Road
 Roy Werner
May 20 Don Lightfoot's Surprise
June Long Weekend Proposed Bus Trip
 Gympie
July 21 Boonoo Boonoo

PROGRAMS

August 26 R. Hills "Antartica"
September 23 Granite Belt Scenes
 Robin McCosker
October 28 Jean Harslett
November 25 Jack and May Bennie
February 24 Peter Haselgrove
March 23 Esmé Lacey, Frank and
 Ailsa Wilkinson.
April 27 Brian McDonagh
May 25 Errol Walker
June 22 John Walter or Nancy
 Aiken
July 27 Remember Last Year
August 21 Amiens Wildflowers
 Tom Archer.

Next Outing Leaving Weeroona Park at 9am for Jibbenbar August 23

Special Outing. Half day wildflower outing leaving Weeroona Park at 1.30pm for Blue Mountain.

Next Program. QCWA Victoria Street at 8pm on August 26 - "Antarctica" by newcomer to the district Mr. R. Hills.