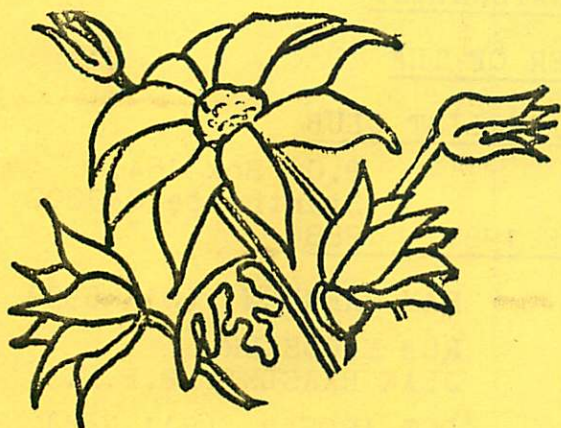


15 APR 1988



THE
**GRANITE BELT
NATURALIST**



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



PYRAMIDS

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, 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 MONTHLY MEETING OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD
NATURALISTS, HELD IN THE Q.C.W.A. ROOMS AT 'pm on MARCH 23, 1988.

Present 24

Apolofies 3

OPENING

The meeting opened with President Ray in the chair and he welcomed all present and in particular the guest speaker Peter Haselgrove and new members Joan and John Bourne.

MINUTES

It was moved by Frank Wilkinson and seconded by Bob Lacey that the minutes of the February meeting be adopted as read in the March Newsletter.

CORRESPONDENCE. Inward included 1. Invitation from Chinchilla Field Naturalist Club re launching of their book "Going Bush with Chinchilla Nats" on March 19th. 2. Toowoomba Field Naturalists asking for suggestions re activities or places for them to visit, other than National Park walking tracks over the May long weekend. Members are invited to them for the activities. Newsletters received from Toowoomba Bush Walkers, Richmond Valley Naturalist Club, Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club. Outward forwarded to- 1. 4QS re outing and meeting notices. 2. Bill Humble thanking him for permission to go on to his property on Sunday for the Finney's Falls trek. It was moved by Lyle Thompson seconded by Ailsa Wilkinson that the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed. Carried.

FINANCE

Treasurer Joan Stevenson presented the financial statement which showed credit balance as at

24.2.88	\$239.75
Receipts Subs \$10.00 Bring and	
Buy \$7.20 Room Rent \$9.74	26.94
	<hr/> 266.69

Expenditure Room Rent \$8	
Magazine Duplication \$6	
Magazine postage \$31.50	45.50
	<hr/>

Balance as at 23.3.88 \$ 221.19 credit
Treasurer Joan moved that this report be received and the following accounts be passed for payment Magazine postage \$15.75, Magazine duplication (two months) \$12.00, Room Rent \$8. Post Office Box \$23.00. Motion seconded by Errol Walker and carried.

OUTING REPORT.

Errol Walker spoke on the outing Sunday March 20th to Quart Pot Creek and Finney's Falls. 40 people attended and enjoying seeing and hearing about the Beautification scheme, a visit to the Pint Size Studio, Silver(Red) Bridge and then through to Finney's Falls where Geoffrey Walker had a welcome cup of billy tea waiting for us.

PRE-OUTING
REPORT

Roy Werner, leader for the camp-out on April 23-25 to Cambridge Plateau and Lions Road. It is planned to leave Weeroona Park at 8am on 23rd. Final details will be printed in the newsletter.

MEETING
PROGRAMME

Guest speaker for the meeting of April 27 will be Brian McDonagh who will show a slide programme prepared by his father of the wildflowers of Western Australia as well as those of the local area.

SPECIMENS

Jean Harslett showed and spoke on a birds nest which had been blown down by the wind when in the process of being built.

GENERAL
BUSINESS

Members were asked to make a list of places to visit and activities suitable for the Toowoomba Field Naturalists for their May long weekend campout.

Jean Harslett spoke on her weekend with the Chinchilla Nats and their book "Going Bush with the Chinchilla Nats." which she had launched. Jean also spoke on the passing of Dr. Saunders and all that he had done for National Parks. Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

MEETING
PROGRAMME

President Ray introduced the Guest Speaker Peter Haselgrove who took us on a trip via some beautiful slides to the Sundown National Park. His programme whetted our appetite to visit there in the not too distant future. A vote of thanks was carried with acclamation.

Dot Archer. Hon. Sec.

MARCH OUTING REPORT

by Errol Walker

The day dawned a little cloudy with moderate easterly winds which carried a hint of rain. The bureau forecast was for showers during the afternoon. Our half day outing from the Y.M.C.A. to Finney's Falls was enjoyed in sunshine until the last few minutes when some of Brisbane's weather managed to cross the dividing range. The outing was attended by 40 people.

Stanthorpe tourist promotion officer, Mr. Ted Fitzgerald, kindly gave up some of the small amount of spare time he gets to explain the concept and development of the Quart Pot Creek Beautification scheme. Ted explained in 20 minutes, how engineers and consultants submitted plans and specifications for the scheme. These ideas were later modified and implemented by our own people for a fraction of the estimated cost. The results now speak for themselves.

We inspected the lower wier near Rayner's residence where Roy Werner explained the origin of gravel dumps from the tin mining days. They are still obvious by the sloping flat shapes in the landscape downstream from the Y.M.C.A. on the western bank of the creek.

The attractive winding paths were followed right up to Carnarvon Bridge. What a wonderful opportunity these walkways are for residents and visitors alike to appreciate the beauty of Quart Pot Creek. This beauty will, in the future, reflect our borrowed heritage when the deciduous trees mature and autumn transfers the scene the only way cool climates know how.

Next stop was the pintsize Studio. It is an example of what determination can accomplish. An old dairy shed has been converted into an Art Gallery workshop where we were able to appreciate some really "understandable" art works in watercolours oils and photographs.

Back to the creek banks and we were soon walking rough tracks amongst our native flower and familiar granite outcrops.

The Red Bridge was the next point of interest. This 102 year old bridge, though painted silver today, was indeed red up until 1974. Below the bridge are some of the most picturesque, wide, water washed granite creekbeds on the Granite Belt. It is not uncommon to find artists, with easels erected, spending quiet afternoons recording the scene.

Geoffrey Walker had the billy boiling when we reached Finney's Falls. There was little water flowing over the falls

but, to a naturalist, that is only an excuse to observe other things in more detail. We even found garden lillies flowering in moist areas of the creek banks. Thanks to Jenny and Bill Humble for the use of and access through their delightful property adjacent to Finney's Falls.

OUTING REPORT(continued)

One more stop of interest was the settling lagoons below the town water supply reservoir. Cr. Kris Carnell was able to explain the use of these lagoons in collecting sediment deposited during the water purification process.

5pm saw the group back at the Y with, I hope, a little more knowledge of local areas very close to home.

Thanks to the experts who volunteered their knowledge and supplemented my research on this most interesting part of the Quart Pot.

CAMPOUT DETAILS.

from Leader Roy Werner.

The camp out on April 23-25 will be a three day drive through the Cambridge Plateau and Toonumbar State Forest and the Lions Road, following the Kyogle to Brisbane railway over the McPherson Range to Rathdowney.

Departure at 8am on Saturday 23rd April from Weeroona Park. We will travel via Tenterfield and the Bruxner Highway through Tabulam(top up with petrol if required) to the Mallangance Tick Gate(150km). Turn right immediately before the tick gate and proceed 300m to Mallangance lookout, excellent views from here which is the morning tea stop. We then pass through the tick gate and turn left 100m from the gate onto the Cambridge Plateau Forest Drive to the picnic area(12km). Here we will have a two hour forest walk and lunch. The afternoon drive(35km) takes us past many signposted stands of timber and panoramic views of the coastal ranges, to the campsite for two nights at the Toonumbar Dam. The campsite has toilets but no showers, the water is suitable for washing and swimming but drinking water should be carried.

On Sunday we will take a short walk to Bells Bay then travel along the Toonumbar Forest Drive returning mid afternoon. On Monday we travel to Kyogle(29km) then via the Summerland Way to the Lions Road over the McPherson Range, arriving Rathdowney Mid afternoon.

Drivers may return home via Mount Lindsay road(approx 152km) or the smoother Boonah-Cunningham Gap highway(approx 186km) Estimated total distance is 560km and road surfaces are suitable for ordinary vehicles.

"GOING BUSH WITH CHINCHILLA NATS" IS LAUNCHED.

The Bi-Centenary project of the Chinchilla Field Naturalists Club, "Going Bush with Chinchilla Nats" was launched at a very successful function held in the Chinchilla Historical Society Museum Grounds on March 19.

Club members set up a most interesting and informative display to support the book launch, the display featured numerous fine exhibits covering many aspects of natural history.

Master of Ceremonies, Darryl Cunnington, invited CFNC president, Ross Tait to conduct the book launch. Mr. Tait thanked the Historical Society for providing the venue and thanked members and friends for attending, more particularly those representing kindred clubs throughout southern Queensland.

On this, the 21st birthday of CFNC, Mr. Tait outlined some early history of the club and made mention of several foundation members who attended the inaugural meeting on March 31, 1967.

Some of the stated aims of the infant club were to interest as many people as possible (especially children) in the study and conservation of our native flora and fauna - also to increase member knowledge of natural history by means of field outings, film and slide evenings and a general exchange of knowledge. From the very start, observation and recording of aspects of our environment became the basis on which our book has evolved.

Mr. Tait then introduced the authors, who were acknowledged, Guest Speaker Mrs. Jean Harslett, B.E.M. was introduced and given due recognition for her contribution to science, community service, conservation, photography and history. Jean Harslett has been honoured by having five species of beetles named after her - this being a measure of her interest in entomology. Jean received the British Empire Medal for her contribution to science, Paul Harris Fellow for community service.

In her address to the gathering Mrs. Harslett said - "May I say how delighted and honoured I am to be associated with this special achievement of the Chinchilla Field Naturalists Club and the occasion of your book launching.

I know you have enjoyed 21 years of comradeship and the wonderful fellowship of shared interests in common - but you have achieved so much more than that - 21 years of success, significantly coinciding with Australia's 200 year celebrations. To have a club contribution to give to the celebrations, greatly enriches the occasion.

The foundations and ideals of this club were laid soundly and well. The executive displayed a far sightedness which had far-reaching effects (and you have had the ability to change with the times) and today's events prove that.

Light heartedly it has been said "When all is said and done, usually more is said than done". This cannot be said of the Chinchilla group. Tremendous contributions have been made to scientific literature in Australia by amateur workers, who were compelled only in the love of their hobby and a desire to share it with others. This was no 9am to 5pm job, but hour upon hour of dedicated time - scientists of avocation, not vocation - who sought no recompense. Men like J.M. Black, a retired, South Australian

Mrs. Harslett's address.

wrote four volumes of "Flora of South Australia", an authoritative work, completed in his 97th year - so there is great hope for all of you to enjoy longevity. -----

Looking through "Going Bush", I note the art work of one family, Mrs. Betty McKenzie, Mr. Wally McKenzie and daughters Mary Cameron and Margaret Saul and photography by son-in-law Chris Cameron and foreword by the late Cecil Cameron. Six in one family - what a fine contribution! The Chinchilla Field Naturalists have taken the initiative and they must be sincerely congratulated on their achievement, the result of such endeavour, effort and enthusiasm - and all voluntary. Only those who have been closely associated can really appreciate the traumas, concerns and grey hairs.

This publication is a treasure for anyone in this region, and much further afield too. Between its covers is a fount of information for you. As a limited edition, it is remarkable value for money. May you be rewarded by success.

With pride it is now launched and offered to you all."

The book has received excellent reviews and may be obtained in Chinchilla and Miles from the local newsagencies at \$13.00 per copy.

SLITHERIES.

from Dore McCosker.

When searching for information on the fish found in Bald Rock Creek on the January outing and reported in our February issue, I learned that the Galaxias family of small scaleless minnowlike fishes contains the largest number of fish species in Australia - about 20.

However, the description of the family did not fit local fish which we observed but what I read about the River Blackfish or Slippery certainly did - excepting for the reported maximum size. Locally it is known as 'Slithery', its scientific name *Gadopsis marmoratus*.

It is interesting to learn that it is a unique endemic family - only one species - restricted to the temperate area of S E Australia in the Murray-Darling north to the upper cooler tributaries of the Condamine and to other rivers in Victoria and Tasmania.

Although it can grow to 635mm and 5.5kg, it is usually less than 300mm. It has tiny scales and long low dorsal and anal fins. Pectoral fins and tail are rounded. It is carnivorous, feeding on aquatic insects, carp, shrimps, worms and small fishes, including its own young.

These brief notes are taken from "Australian Freshwater Fishes By John R. Merrich and Gunther E. Schmida from the Stanthorpe Library.

111*****111

Camp-out April 23rd leaves Weeroona Park at 8am.

Programme April 27 by Brian McDonagh at 8pm.