

17 MAY 1988



THE  
**GRANITE BELT  
NATURALIST**



**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, 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 STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB MONTHLY MEETING, HELD IN THE Q.E.A.W. ROOMS AT 8 P.M. ON APRIL 27th, 1988.

Present - 22

Apologies 5

OPENING President Ray opened the meeting and welcomed all present and in particular Charlie Ellway, Barbara Power, Audrey Belmont and Brian and Nola Dodd.

MINUTES Moved by Rob McCosker, seconded by Roy Werner that the minutes for the March Meeting be taken as read in the April Newsletter. Carried

CORRESPONDENCE - Inward - Newsletters received from

1. Toowoomba Bush Walkers
  2. Chinchilla Field Naturalist
  3. The Darling Downs Naturalist
  4. Richmond Valley Naturalist Club
  5. Queensland Naturalist Club
- Outward sent to
1. State Library
  2. Toowoomba Field Naturalist Club
  3. 4 Q.S. Radio Station

Moved by Margaret Carnell and seconded by Brian McDonagh that the inward be received and the outward endorsed. Carried

TREASURER'S REPORT -

Balance as at 23.3.88

221.19 Cr.

Receipts

Room Rent	7.50
Bring & Buy	2.50
1/2 P.O. Box Rent Payment	11.50
from Camera Club	
	<u>21.50</u>

242.69

Expenditures

Room Rent	8.00
Mag. Postage	15.75
Mag. Duplication (2 mths)	12.00
P.O. Box Rent	<u>23.00</u>

58.75

Cr Balance as at 27.4.88

183.94 Cr.

Treasurer Joan moved that her report be received and the following accounts passed for payment - Room Rent \$8.00, Mag. Deup. \$6.00, Mag. Postage \$15.75, Petty Cash for Secretary \$10.00

Seconded by Ailsa Wilkinson and Carried.

April OUTING REPORT

Leader Roy Werner spoke on the Campout April 23rd - 25th to Cambridge Table land and Lyons Road. A total of 23 attended and enjoyed a well planned weekend with perfect weather. A Walk around the Dam and trips by car through Forest Areas was very pleasant in spite of the leeches on the walk and some roller coaster hills on the trips by car. Millie Marsden expressed the clubs appreciation to Roy and Beryl for organising it so well and all present showed their appreciation by acclamation.

MAY PRE OUTING REPORT was given by Don Lightfoot. This is to be a joint outing with the Stanthorpe Historical Society members on May 22 to the Pikedale area. Cars to leave Weeroona Park at 9 a.m. and have smoko near the homestead. Anyone wishing further information can contact Don at 811 418.

MINUTES CONTINUED -

CAMPOUT TO GYMPIE was discussed - date June 11th, 12th & 13th. President Ray spoke on accommodation and trips of interest. 15 present showed their interest. More enquiries to be made for May General Meeting.

NEXT MEETING will be on Wednesday May 25th at 8 p.m. in the C.W.A. rooms ~~XXXXXX~~ - Errol Walker will be the Guest Speaker and will take us by slides on a trip to the Snowy Mountain Area.

SPECIMENS - Brian McDonagh spoke on a nest of a Native Bee that he had found in a fruit case in his packing shed.

As there was no further business the Meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

After Meeting Program - President Ray introduced our Guest Speaker Brian McDonagh who showed us some very lovely wild Flower slides taken by his late father in W.A. and around our own district.

Dorothy Archer,  
Hon. Secretary.

APRIL OUTING TO TOONUMBAR DAM CAMPSITE.

By Leader Roy Werner.

Eighteen adults and five children met at the Mallanganee lookout for morning tea and to enjoy the panoramic views before passing through the tick gate and turning north on to the Cambridge Plateau Forest Drive. The road followed the ridge top and provided excellent views, both east and west, as it climbed steadily through patches of scrub and cleared areas to enter the Cambridge Forest and to level out at the Cambridge Forest picnic area 12km from Mallanganee.

Here the group followed the newly opened 2km circular walking track on its steep descent to the creek where we decided not to continue the walk owing to the slippery condition of the track still wet from recent flood rains. However, Rob McCosker and family pressed ahead to the waterfall, several kilometres further on.

*Stenocarpus senuatus* (Wheel of Fire), *Austromyrtus bidwillii* (Python Tree), *Araucaria cunninghamii* (hoop pine), *Cassine australis* (Red Olive Plum) were among the impressive variety of trees seen in this small area. Many of the trees were of majestic proportions both in girth and height.

A pleasant lunch was enjoyed at the well maintained picnic area with its superb views towards Casino, Lismore and Mount Warning, before continuing on through areas of rainforest and stands of magnificent trees including hoop pine, spotted gum, brown pine and flooded gum. We descended from the plateau to the camp site at Toonumbar Dam. "Old Spotty", a huge spotted gum at the roadside caused much comment. Estimated to be between 200 and 300 years old, four people could just touch hands around the trunk.



## April Outing(continued)

Our picturesque little campsite for the two nights included among its facilities, a covered picnic table large enough to seat the whole group at one time, fireplace, water tank and a cold, cold shower complete with guardian spider.

Sunday began at a leisurely pace with walks before breakfast, Dore McCosker saw a large White Breasted Sea Eagle air freighting an eel off for breakfast. During the morning we inspected the Rotary Park at the Dam wall and then set out on the Rotary walk to Bells Bay. Memories of the walk include the excellent Rotary lookout, delicate little fern gardens, ground orchids in bloom, large white domed fungi, the almost "goosestepping march" to avoid the hordes of leeches, the varied birdcalls, the group de-leeching on the Bells Bay jetty, the surprised look on Rob McCosker's face when he entered the water below the dam wall for a swim - it was COLD, the very small eel caught at the wall which seemed quite at home in a drinking glass of water, Roy and Beryl dancing the "Slippery Crossing Polka" to its inevitable horizontal conclusion.

After lunch on Sunday we travelled to Afterlee and then began the long climb up to the Toonumbar Forest drive to the northern end of the Richmond Range. Here the rainforest trees seemed even more lush and larger than those on the plateau. Many times we stopped to admire outstanding examples of staghorns, elk horns, crows nests and huge strangler figs. One fig had completely overwhelmed a very large host tree whose crumbling trunk left openings to the sky resembling cathedral windows.

The Murray Scrub lookout, perched on the western edge of the range, provided an almost vertical view of the densely timbered valley floor many hundreds of feet below and away towards Tooloom and other points west. The rushing waters of the Eden Creek Falls could be heard through the scrub, but wet conditions prevented us from viewing them.

The road continued climbing north to the top of the range then turned east along a high ridge to the Sherwood Lookout. This gives an unobstructed view of Mount Lindsay, Mount Barney and surrounding ranges and foothills. From the lookout the road gradually descended past the Toon Hopp Pine plantation to the Summerland Way and Kyogle, where we arrived at dusk for fuel and refreshments, before setting off for the 29k drive back to the campsite.

We made a mid morning departure on Monday from the campsite and travelled via Kyogle and Wiangaree to Wilson Avenue, the start of the 50km Lions Road which follows the Kyogle-Brisbane railway line up through the Richmond Gap in the McPherson Range before descending into Queensland to Rathdowney. Flood damage and high creek levels denied us access to some areas. However the top road was clear and the lunch stop was made at the loop lookout with its excellent picnic facilities. This overlooks the unique spiral loop in the railway where a gain of the extra 20 metres was an advantage in reducing the length of the tunnel under the main range. A pictorial display of animal and birdlife and construction difficulties encountered on the building of the road proved most interesting.

Outing Report(continued)

Trucks had to be towed by one bulldozer with another chained alongside to prevent them slipping off the road. A short stop was made at the border gate to place donations in the Lions collection box to assist with the upkeep of the road.

The steep grade from the border gate to Running Creek was further accentuated by a high ridge which created a false horizon and the illusion of almost slipping forward in our seats.

The party arrived at Rathdowney mid afternoon and then proceeded home independantly after a long weekend of good fellowship and wonderful scenery.

000000000000

NEAT OUTING.

The outing on May 22nd is to the Pikedale area under the leadership of Don Lighfoot. Members of the Historical Society will be joining in this outing which will leave Weeroona Park at 9am. Cars will proceed to the old Pikedale Homestead where morning tea will be taken and details of the outing will be given. Don says there is not a lot of walking to be done but those who wish to walk back from the Washpool area would be welcome to do so. Don would like to know the number of walkers so as to be able to arrange car travel.

June Outing.

Consideration is being given to taking a bus to the Gympie area for the June long weekend. It would be appreciated if those wanting to make the trip, let the leader Roy Werner know before or at the May meeting. Many arrangements will have to be made and it will make things easier if numbers are available at an early date.

MAY MEETING PROGRAM.

The May meeting will be held in the QCWA Rooms in Victoria Street on Wednesday May 25 at 8pm. The program is in the capable hands of Errol Walker who will present a program on a recent trip to the Snowy Mountains. Errol's superb photography is well known and members may look forward to a great program.

000000000000000000

SNIPPETS.

Congratulations to Esme Lacey on being made a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow. This honour was made at a recent meeting of the Rotary Club when District Governor Elect Bob Mann of Goondiwindi made the presentation.

Best wishes to Doris Spence who has left for a few months in Britian, hope you get some good walks in there too, Doris.

Harslett family have a centenarian in the family. Denise and Alex are representing the family at the celebrations, in Britian also.