

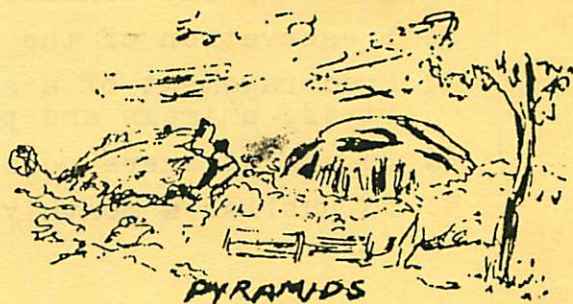
19 JUN 1989



THE  
**GRANITE BELT  
NATURALIST**



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 OF CLUB FOR 1988 - 1989

PRESIDENT	RAY MARSDEN (811 593)
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HON. AUDITOR	JOAN FERRIS

MEETINGS - 4th WEDNESDAY of each month in the Q.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

Rent donation per family per meeting

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 general monthly meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalists Club held in the Q.C.W.A. rooms, Victoria Street Stanthorpe on Wednesday May24, 1989 at 8pm.

Present 15

Apologies 7

Opening. President Ray Marsden welcomed all present and in particular David Carlisle, a new member.

Minutes. It was moved by Val White and seconded by Rob McCosker that the minutes be taken as read in the May Newsletter and confirmed. Carried.

Correspondence. Inward received from - 1. Invoice from International Colour Productions. 2. Invoice from Granite Belt News and Stationery. 3. Australia Post Account for Magazine Registration. 4. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club 5. Australian Conservation Foundation re raffle. Newsletters were received from Darling Downs Naturalists; Queensland Naturalists; Toowoomba Bush Walkers; Richmond Valley Naturalist. Outward correspondence was forwarded to: Letter of thanks to Mr and Mrs. Reed; Toowoomba Bush Walkers Club; 4QS re outing and meeting notices. It was moved by Ailsa Wilkinson seconded by Brian McDonagh that the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed. Carried.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Julia Brown moved that her report which showed a credit balance of \$225.47 as at May 24 1989 be received and the following accounts be passed for payment - Magazine postage \$18.00; Room rent \$8.00 Magazine duplication \$6.00; Photocopying \$12.00, Magazine Registration \$42.50; Stencils \$44.25; Wrappers \$58.50. This was seconded by Frank Wilkinson. Carried.

May Outing Report. Leader Val White reported 35 attended the outing on Sunday May 21 to Sugarloaf, in spite of the inclement weather - rain had been falling consistently since Easter. Noel Collins-Rubie met the group at Kyoomba and gave interesting, historic information of the various places visited which included the site of Spillars Hotel(1885); Cascades - now not visible from the road due to timber growth. Noel told how the miners had diverted the stream of water so as they could gain access to the tin. The hotel site at Thirteen Mile Creek was insoected. On Noel's property a bora ring was seen and many native artifacts which he had found. An unnamed shepherd's grave was seen and, further on, the site of the graves of seven children who had died during the typhoid epidemic in 1875. After lunch some members did a bit of fossicking and came back with some grains of tin. At Sugarloaf Border Sugarloaf Mountain was climbed to the trig station. By this time it was raining again so the outing was concluded. The secretary was asked to write letters of thanks to Noel Collins- Rubie. Tony Kaiser and Rod Reeves

June Pre-outing Report. The outing will be to Mt. Mitchell and the leader Ray Marsden. Cars will meet at Weeroona Park and leave from there at 8am. As it is a 3 hour climb, lunch and water will have to be carried. More details in the June Newsletter.

June Guest Speaker. Wednesday June 28th - National Oaks Visitor Program. The secretary to contact Girraween National Park to confirm this.

Specimens. Ray brought along the tin he had collected on the Sunday outing.  
Colin Hockings brought some salt water snail shells in bottles, they are very fragile.

General Business. Rob McCosker spoke briefly on the camp-out for July which will be to Mt. Maroon near Boonah. Rob would like a 7am start from Stanthorpe on the Saturday July 22 as he'd like a 9.30am start on the Mt. Maroon climb. For those not wishing to climb the mountain, there will be plenty to see around the camp area and creek.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm.

After Meeting Program. Guest speaker Colin Hockings was introduced by Ray Marsden. Colin then took us on a trip via slides to Evans Heads, showing many interesting areas to be visited and many lovely beaches to enjoy peacefully. This was enjoyed by all present and brought back some happy memories to some folk who used to go there in the 30's who were amazed at the changes which have taken place. Many thanks Colin, for a very interesting and well presented program.

Dot Archer.  
Hon. Secretary.

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### OUTING REPORT TO SUGARLOAF.

By Leader - Val White.

The Sugarloaf outing, on Sunday May 21, 1989, was a resounding success with 35 members and visitors attending. It was most pleasing to me as rain had been falling in the area consistently since Easter, we knew wet feet would be the order of the day, and we were not disappointed.

It was overcast when we left the park at 9.30am but brightened up as we headed for Kyoomba, our first stopping place. Here we were met by Noel Collins-Rubie, who gave us a concise account of the area. We were shown the site of Spillar's Hotel (1885), the race-course, the hall, also the tennis courts, plus a non-stop resume of families, their successes and tragedies.

The next stop was opposite the Cascades, a waterfall which falls into Quatpot Creek. Unfortunately today, the timber has grown so tall the falls are no longer visible from the road, but could be heard distinctly, so there was a large volume of water going over. Again we were given an account of how the miners diverted the stream of water to gain access to the mine.



Sugarloaf Outing(continued)

On once again to the Thirteen Mile Creek, here we inspected the site of the hotel and found remains of the well which supplied the hotel. There are still the outlines of the underground cellar. Specimens of glass bottles and crockery were numerous. The story of coins being found in the gutter after heavy rain, sent many fossicking, but none were found.

We then proceeded to Noel's property, where we were shown the bora ring. I found it very interesting, because the first time Noel showed it to me, it was drought time and plainly visible, now the bare path is covered in moss. We went up on the Knoll, where there are good views to the surrounding area. In the early days this was part of Maryland Station and the lambing flat was nearby. Noel had many native artifacts to show, which he had found on the property. (Tom needed his cuppa by now, so we sat around and discussed the timber, rocks etc.) We then headed back to the homestead and inspected the shepherd's grave (unnamed) near the road, then back to Sugarloaf Road to the site of the Sugarloaf school. This was most interesting as we were shown photographs as well. Over the road to the Roman Catholic Church site, where we saw the site of the graves of seven children who died during the typhoid epidemic in 1875. The school was closed for a time then. Up the road a few hundred yards to the sites of four inns. Noel had some bottles, an ink bottle, horseshoe, metal heels from the miner's boots complete with the nails etc. Further on, past another hotel site (there were 12 established between 1872-85), to the site of Mrs. Alliason's house, shop etc. Noel also showed us where the tannery was built in 1885.

By this time it was after 1pm and a strong wind blowing, so we went into the edge of the pine forest to have our lunch, where it was warmer. After some more talking about mining, some of the members went off to try their hand at fossicking, and came back with some grains of tin. We had intended to explore Brown's Gully, but the road was too wet for vehicles, so this was put off for another outing next year.

We reluctantly said goodbye to Noel at this point, and proceeded to the Sugarloaf Border, where we climbed Sugarloaf Mountain 3500' to the Trig station. By this time it was raining lightly and it was impossible to see Bald Rock and other land marks so we called it a day. Usually there are numerous parrots and small birds on the mountain, but none were seen on the outing. I had intended to show members the tin shafts, dug by the Chinese miners (one wonders how they managed to work in them) and also the Willson's Downfall Cemetery. However, I think all agree, it is a very interesting place to visit and, next year we may be able to conclude the outing in better weather.

I have to thank the following people for their co-operation in making the outing possible. Noel Collins-Rubie for giving unstintingly of his time, knowledge and historical material for our enjoyment, Tony Kaiser manager of the Sugarloaf Forest for allowing us to enter the forest (even though we didn't do the walk we intended) and Rod Reeves for access to Sugarloaf Mountain. Finally, thank you fellow members for supporting me on my first leadership of an outing.

Pre-outing report of Mt. Maroon Camp-out for July 22 and 23.  
By leader Rob. McCosker.

Mt. Maroon, 965m high, is situated south of Boonah, adjacent to the Boonah-Rathdowner road and is almost as spectacular a sight as nearby Mt. Barney, whose West Peak at 1362m is the third highest in the state. This complex of rugged mountain peaks, including Mts. Lindsay, Ernest, Maroon and May are extrusive remnants of the original Focal Peak shield volcano, while Mt. Barney is an earlier igneous intrusion.

Some attractions of Mt. Maroon are the wonderful views of Mt. Barney and the peaks of the Mian Range from the top, as well as being home to a considerable number of wildflowers.

Our campsite is a Queensland Government Reserve held for the Education Department and used by numerous school groups. It has a large flat area beside a small creek and numerous shade trees, it is readily accessible by car. A short distance upstream there is an interesting rocky gorge with a waterfall, which was quite a sight on our pre-outing trip, after all the rain in May.

The climb to the top of Mt. Maroon is quite hard, I would rate it at 8 out of 10, with about 5 hours return. We have to drive for about 20 minutes to the start of the walk, so I plan to leave the campsite at 9.30am - this means a 7am start from Stanthorpe, unless you can manage to get away on Friday afternoon. Since it is such a pleasant campsite, I can recommend this outing to members of all ages. Those not climbing the mountain, may explore the creek on foot, drive to nearby Maroon Dam or to the Lower Portals on Mt. Barney which has an easy 3.7k walk from the carpark.

Road directions to the campsite - refer to RACQ Gold Coast Northern Rivers Map. Take the Cunningham highway to Aratula, 5km past Aratula turn right onto the Boonah road. At Boonah turn right onto the Boonah-Rathdowner road for 24km, turn right onto Burnett Creek road. Follow for 3km, turn left onto Newman Road, take the right fork before the house and continue to campsite on right before the third creek crossing (there are two gates and two creek crossings.)

Anyone wishing to meet at the start of the walk track on Saturday morning should continue past the Burnett Creek turn-off, through the Maroon township and turn right at the Cotswold signpost - the last turn before the gravel road - and follow this road to the end.

There are no facilities at the campsite and the creek water should be boiled before drinking - or bring your own. Lunch and water will have to be carried on the walk up Mt. Maroon, as well as camera and binoculars, of course!

I have nothing planned for the Sunday except to return home on a more scenic route via the Burnett, White Swamp and Mt. Lindsay roads. I almost forgot to mention that there is a small swimming hole at the waterfall, but since it will be in the middle of winter, perhaps it wouldn't have mattered.

For any further info please contact me on 835217 after July 10.

(As some folk may like to have a little more time to consider this camp-out I thought it may well be prudent to include the details in this newsletter. Ed.)

Outing to Mt. Mitchell.

June 25th

Leader Ray Marsden

Time for meeting at Weeroona Park for the Mt. Mitchell outing on Sunday June, 25 is 8am.

We will re-assemble at the carpark at Cunningham's Gap on the northern side of the highway. Those who wish, may have their "cuppa" before beginning the 10.2 kilometre return walk. I would like to set off on the walking track, on the southern side of the highway at approx. 1015am.

The track begins in rainforest, and after about one kilometre, comes out into open forest country with numerous magnificent grass trees. It passes through patches of rainforest as it circles around the west peak of Mt. Mitchell to the saddle between the twin peaks. From here on there are some excellent views of Mt. Cordeaux and the main range to the north to be seen.

From the top, reached after climbing the east peak, there are no views to be seen, but from a rocky south east spur the views are quite spectacular. Spicers Peak is immediately to the south across Spicers' Gap (which we visited on a former outing). Through this Gap was the main access to the Darling Downs from the coastal plain before the construction of Cunningham's Gap road.

The walk is 10.2 kilometres return but is on graded tracks all the way and is regarded as an easy walk. Lunch and water will be carried and lunch will probably be eaten at the spur.

Comfortable walking shoes are essential and light weight rain gear should be carried as the weather conditions can change very quickly.

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June Meeting Program: This will be a talk presented by Brett Roberts of Girraween National Park. Mr. Roberts will present his program at the meetin On Wednesday June 28th, meeting begins at 8pm in the Q.C.W.A. rooms Victoria Street.

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Over the page is a proposed cover for the Granite Belt Newsletter. Members are asked to give consideration to the question of whether a change of cover is needed or whether it should be retained in its present form.

Thanks are extended to Mel Dominey for the work he has put in to prepare the proposed cover for the magazine. Ed.

Now is the time to be sorting through your slides taken during the year for the program in July, which will be "Remember last year". Nominations for office bearers will also be needed for the July meeting which is the annual meeting. What would you like to do for the club?