

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.

Monthly Newsletter of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club.

No. 21.

October 1971

P.O. Box 154, Stanthorpe.

Officers and Committee 1971 - 1972.

President	Mr. W. Cathcart	Ph.812
Vice Presidents	Mrs.R. Harslett and Mr. T. Chapman	
Secretary	Mr. E. Walker	Ph.888
Treasurer	Miss J. Westcott	
Editors	Mr. D. Pfrunder	Ph. Pozieres 219
	and Mrs. D. Orr	
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Publicity Officer	Mr. F. Wilkinson	
Bushwalking Representative	Mr. R. McCosker	
Geology	Mr. P. Higgins	
Flora	Mr. B. Dodd	
Fauna	Mrs. Z. Newman	
Youth	Mr. G. Marsden	
Newsletter Sub-Committee	Mrs. B. Krautz and Mrs. W. Cathcart.	

Activities.

Meetings	4th Wednesday of each month
	C.W.A. Rooms 8 p.m.
Field Outings	Sunday preceeding 4th Wednesday.

Annual Subscription.

Single \$1.50	Family \$2.00
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Programme.Field Outings:

<u>Place</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Leader</u>
Stanthorpe Town Hills and Little Broadwater	24th October	Mr. P. Higgins & Miss J. Westcott
Boonoo Boonoo Falls Girraween Park	21st November	Mr. P. Ingram
Christmas Barbeque	19th December	McCosker Family.

Meetings:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
Mechanical Troubles	27th October	Mr. R. Marsden
Film Night	24th November	

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.Minutes of General Meeting - 22nd September, 1971.

The meeting opened at 8 p.m. in the C.W.A. Rooms with Vice President Mrs. J. Harslett in the chair. Members present totalled 62 with 8 apologies received.

Minutes of August Meeting: The minutes of the August meeting were confirmed on the motion of Mr. E. Walker, seconded Mr. D. Orr.

Inward Correspondence: (i) Newsletters from other Nats. Clubs.
(ii) Letter from Richmond Valley Nats. re their proposed visit to Girraween.

(iii) Letter from P.O. re Registration of our magazine as a periodical.

(iv) Letter from Mrs. J. McLellan, Warwick, re availability of country holiday homestead in Warwick.

(v) Advice from New England University of forthcoming school.

Outward Correspondence: (i) Letter to Richmond Valley Nats. advising them to visit Girraween for their Stanthorpe outing.

(ii) Advice of September outing and meeting to Board of Adult Education, Toowoomba.

Inward correspondence was received and the Outward endorsed on the motion of Mr. F. Wilkinson seconded by Mr. D. Orr.

Treasurer's Report: Balance on hand \$66.52. On the motion of Miss J. Westcott, seconded Mr. R. Leisemann, the Treasurer's Report was received and accounts passed for payment.

Business from Minutes: The Secretary advised that the club shall be joining the Y.H.A. as a group member and called for those members who wished to join as individuals to submit their entry fee.

Outings Reports: The acting president outlined the outing led by Mr. Noel Butler which 67 persons attended.

Miss J. Westcott described the forthcoming outing to Mr. Banca and Little Broadwater.

General Business: The acting President reminded the meeting that the Brisbane Nats. will be visiting Jolly's Falls on the 17th October and we are invited to join them.

Thanks were expressed to Mrs. D. Orr and Mr. D. Pfrunder for their continuing good work with the magazine.

Appreciation was extended to Mr. & Mrs. R. McCosker and Mr. G. Marsden and all who took part in the Nats. display for the Hobbies Fair.

Rock throwing on outings is a dangerous practice and the club was reminded of this because of bad examples being set on the last outing.

Meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

Following the meeting, Mrs. J. Harslett gave a talk on Fraser Island, illustrating her address with colour slides.

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Did you know: National Parks in Queensland have trebled in area in the last two decades and now cover about 2,500,000 acres, and are visited by more than 1½ million people each year.

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.Report of outing in the Dalveen Area, Sunday 19th September, 1971.

A grand total of 67 persons attended the outing to the historic Dalveen area in perfect weather under the able leadership of Mr. Noel Butler.

First stop for the party was a short distance from Dalveen where Noel provided us with some historical background of the area in a short address. The party visited the Historic Graves there. Some members found interest in the Geology of the area.

The route taken from Dalveen was the old Warwick road, used in the early days by Cobb & Co. Part of this road was built by convicts and members were wondering if they could find some of the original paving stones where road-work had recently been undertaken. Some interesting-looking stones were recovered, but at the end of the day, no one was sure if any genuine paving stones had been located.

We arrived at Kelvin Falls on the property of Mr. J. O'dea in the Elbow Valley area, in time to prepare for lunch. Good use was made of the Barbeque facilities available here and lunch was enjoyed in the delightfully peaceful setting near the falls. Then, after exploring round the falls at the picnic area, most members walked up-stream a short distance to find another more spectacular water-fall which was much admired, photographed and explored.

Meanwhile, outing leader Noel and Mr. Bill McCosker had ventured downstream to check the accessibility of other falls. They reported back that they had discovered an area suitable for another Nats. outing.

Following a welcome cup of tea back at the picnic area the party returned home by an interesting route through forest country and historic Maryland Station.

Our gratitude to Noel for a most enjoyable outing.

Bird List from Z. Newman.

Although our recent interesting outing to the Dalveen area was a very easy one in terms of personal exertion and we spent a lot of time travelling and admiring the scenery from the comfort of our cars, a number of keen eyes noted quite a varied selection of bird life. The following is a list compiled during the day's outing:-

Fantailed Cuckoo	Dusky Wood Swallow
Nankeen Kestrel	Topnot Pigeon
Red Wattle-bird	Welcome Swallow
Peewee	Blue Wren
Magpie	Little Grebe
White-throated Warbler	Jacky Winter
Pied Currawong	Grey Butcher bird
Kookaburra	Noisy Friarbird
Sparrow	Spurwinged Plover
Yellow-tailed Thornbill	Wood duck
Pied Cormorant	Crow
Straw necked Ibis	Greycrowned Babbler
Galah	Rainbow bird
Little Thornbill	Speckled Warbler
Willy Wagtail	Double-bar Finch
Mistletoe bird	Yellowfaced Honeyeater
Spotted Pardalote	Eastern Rosella
Noisy Miner	Whitenecked Heron.

October 1971.

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.Address on Fraser Island by Mrs. J. Harslett.

Fraser Island situated 100 miles north of Brisbane is the largest island off the East coast of Australia - and also has another claim to fame - being the largest sand island in the world. Its length is 90 miles and it varies in width from 7 - 16 miles. Height above sea level 790 feet. The permanent residents are few, approximately 100, made up chiefly of light house staff, men from timber camps and the forestry stations. Roads are many, but are of deep sand necessitating 4 wheel drive vehicles only.

Perhaps one of its most remarkable features are its 40 fresh water lakes, the largest, Lake McKenzie, being 500 acres in extent, and one at least is 400 feet above sea level. Fraser Island absorbs its fairly high rainfall of 60-70 inches like a huge sponge through its sands and releases it in constant flows and streams of fresh water across the beaches. Tidal wet lands in the S.W. provide the nursery for the fish of Hervey Bay, which are plentiful.

Another interesting feature is its tropical scrub lands, on sand, Wild flowers abound in the open forest country.

There are some coloured sands, but not of the quality of Rainbow Bay. Sands are pigmented with ferric colours, and are coloured by the action of peaty soils on the iron minerals concentrated in the sands.

Fraser Island was first noted by Cook 1770, then Flinders on two occasions, the second he landed a party of 6 naturalists, as well as water and wood getters.

Mrs. Fraser was rescued, after many years, her husband's ship was wrecked and she endured seeing all the survivors, including her husband, Captain Fraser, die. The island takes its name from the latter.

Petrie was one of the first men to realize Fraser Island's timber potential and from 1886 onwards great quantities of timber have been gained. The annual output at present is approximately 7,000,000 super feet. The Forestry have 6,000 acres of Hoop Pine and 6,000 acres of Cypress planted. Natural forests yield: Blackbutt, averaging 12'-14' girth & 120' length.

Satinay, 18' girth. This timber won world reknown for its straight cylindrical trunks of 100', resistant to the attacks of teredo, ideal for wharf pylons. It was also used for the "sidings" in the Suez Canal during the war.

Kauri, Hoop and Red Stringy are also milled, all taken across to the Mary River to be processed.

There has been interest in setting aside parts of Fraser Is. for National Park since 1959. The N.P.A. has been working very enthusiastically towards this end for the past nine years, and they have announced this month with some excitement that two mining companies, which they have opposed, have withdrawn applications and it is hoped that 70,000 acres will be gazetted as National Park soon.

Fraser Island Defence Organization (F.I.D.O.) have also been active in insisting that comprehensive surveys be carried out before mining commences, and then they would not oppose leases being allowed in certain areas.

There is grave concern that mining operations may damage underlying peat beds, and thus drain fresh water lakes. A great loss to bird populations.

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.NESOLYCAENA ALBOSERICEA.Notes on a new locality and a re-recording of the "Satin Blue" Butterfly.

In mid-August, while on Fraser Is. in company with forty-two Naturalists, making a brief survey of the potential of Fraser Is., for the case of conservation, I had the good fortune to re-record the Satin Blue Butterfly. This species was previously only known from Stradbroke Is., Exhibition Range and Eidsvold. This in itself is an unusual association of localities - a sandy ocean island and a dry inland area. Furthermore this species has not been seen for many years, so it was very exciting to re-record it, and to also add to its range.

Both males and females, as the name suggests, are a very pale blue and the undersides a light fawn or almost khaki colour.

The females were feeding on the flowers of Boronia Rosmarinifolia, while the males usually rested on a twig or the sand, or on the dead and brown leaves of Banksia Amula, the colouring of which closely matched that of the underside of the wings. Though Boronia Rosmarinifolia was prevalent practically throughout the island, the butterfly was restricted to limited areas close to Wallum swamps, which are readily recognised by the presence of the very large leafed Banksia (B. Robur) and in this type of country another Boronia Falcifolia is dominant. However they were always on the former and an extensive search for larvae and pupae yielded no results.

These appeared to be more on the wing early in the week than later, suggesting a very short flight period, and this may account also for it being recorded on so few occasions, there being a need to be in the precise place at the precise time.

JEAN HARSLETT.

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Programme for next outing to Mt. Banca and Little Broadwater:
Outing in the Town Hills area, Sunday 24th October, 1971.

Cars will leave town park at 9.30 a.m. and proceed to Mt. Banca.

A stop will be made at Westcotts' Nursery where the less energetic will be entertained while the others climb the mountain.

Next call will be to a good wildflower area on Peter Higgins' property.

From there the party will go to the Little Broadwater.

The bird life here is undisturbed and plentiful and there are many subjects for camera enthusiasts.

Lunch will be at the cars.

It will be necessary to carry water. }

Stout shoes are essential. }

IMPORTANT.

Miss J. WESTCOTT.

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Did you know? Of some 700 species of birds native to Australia, 545 have been recorded in Queensland. Of these 22 species are unique to the State.

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THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.Contribution:

It is a lonely sound that strikes the ear. A sound which only trees can give as they sing in the breeze, rubbing branches together, and bowing to the ground. Lonlier still is the look of the granite tors, as they gaze out across the country. Not a care or worry, always been the same and always will. It is a lonely place, peaceful, not without man's mark, but peaceful all the same.

Only when there has been a lightening strike has the peacefullness changed, but then it's a rare occasion. Nothing to worry about, all lightening is the same, destructive and artistic. Perhaps it is because this park is lonely, no longer does it echo the sound of laughing voices, but only the crash of breaking glass, "hot" words, and skidding of motor vehicles.

Sentimental; the name could not have been better chosen - Sentimental Rocks. It is something of the cool crisp air as it whistles around these granite heights that draws you, makes you tread lightly because you have the feeling of trespassing. Perhaps it is because rumour has it that an aboriginal lies here, that you feel you should not have come, but the magnet is too strong to free you.

Tall pillars of majesty, towering over a vineyard, the Sentimental Rocks stand, the highest of this collection of rocks, but by far a beauty of their own. But - how long will this beauty last? One only has to look at the facade of this wonderland to see that soon nature is going to be 'sat' on.

Let us enjoy the beauty while we have it. Wildflowers, wildlife, nature wonders, a playground for the artist, photographer, bushwalker, naturalist, rock climber, and to my disgust, a playground for the worm hunter, the garden soil thief, the party drinker and the litter-bug!

I remember when I saw this area some eleven years ago, and I have seen it for nearly every week since, and that same drawing magnet feeling, that feeling of wonder, amazement is still there.

For something different, visit the area at night with a fair wind blowing. Creaking branches, moving patches of moonlight, twitter of a bird, flight of an owl and the crash of a branch as it falls to the ground, it chills the spine, tingles the brain and quickens the breathing. Don't get carried away for the crash of glass, the roar of cars as lovers or another party settle down will bring you back to earth and reality.

Nowhere can you go today where man has not been before you, - but I think that "a thing of beauty is a joy forever".

ROSS ALLAN DAVID.

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Did you know: That our National Parks in order of size are: Simpson Desert (1,248,000 acres), Mossman River and Gorge (139,500 ac.) Eungella (122,600ac.), Hinchinbrook Island (97,200 ac.), Bellenden Ker (80,100 ac.), Carnarvon Range (66,500 ac.), Salvator Rosa (64,900 ac.), Mt. Elliot (63,200 ac.), Lamington 48,800ac.) Conway Range (48,000ac.) Dipperu (27,400 ac.) Whitsunday Island (27,000 ac.), Bunya Mountains (24,200 ac.), Robinson Gorge (22,000 ac.), Crystal Creek (17,800 ac.), Southwood (17,500 ac.), Mt. Barney (12,900 ac.), Hook Island (12,800 ac.), Girraween (12,600 ac.), and Isla Gorge (10,600 ac.), there are numerous smaller National Parks throughout the State as well.

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THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.The University Experimental Mine.

The Experimental Mine was acquired by the University of Queensland in June, 1951, for the use of the Department of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering. It is maintained and operated by the Department for Undergraduate Studies in mining and related subjects which cannot be covered fully in the lecture room or in the Department's normal laboratories, comprehensive though they may be, and for post-graduate studies in fundamental and applied research associated with the problems of mining. It is in these respects that the University of Queensland possesses a unique facility denied to the vast majority of Universities schools of mining engineering.

The work carried out at the University Experimental Mine at undergraduate level includes mine surveying, mineral land and topographic surveying, applied geology, mine sampling, the computation of ore reserves, mine ventilation, mining design, and the general engineering of mines relating to the problems of development, ore extraction, drilling, pumping, illumination, rock mechanics and the like.

Its related function at post-graduate level is the provision of facilities for mining research and experimentation, in such fields as air-flow, dry drilling, "drillability" of different rock types, jet piercing, vibrational effects of blasting, ventilation network analysis, etc.; in addition, one section of the underground workings is being set aside for the investigation of comparative durability of treated and untreated mine timbers under controlled temperature-humidity conditions.

Location:

The Experimental Mine is located at Indooroopilly, Brisbane, slightly less than six miles from the City centre and less than three miles by road from the University of Queensland at St. Lucia. The workings are situated on a moderately steep hill which rises to some 200 feet above sea-level.

Original Discovery:

Towards the end of 1918, a discovery of argentiferous lead carbonate was made by Messrs. P.J. Madden and G. Olsen in a garden rockery, the materials for which had been obtained on the site, on the latter's property on Finney's Hill, Isles Road, Indooroopilly.

Active mining work began on 1st. November, 1918, and the first 12 tons of ore mined were forwarded to the Cockle Creek smelting works in New South Wales, yielding 1245 oz. silver and 8 tons of lead.

The discovery stimulated considerable interest and by the end of 1919 many leases had been applied for over a fairly large area surrounding the original lease.

Production:

Several mining companies operated on a production basis during the period 1919 to 1929. Operations during this period resulted in the production of 1796 tons of lead valued at \$117,544 and 227,343 ounces of silver valued at £71,352 giving a total value of \$188,896.

Only silver-lead ore was mined, although zinc-bearing ore shoots were also located and investigated; no production of zinc was recorded. Analysis of shipments from the original discovery area showed the presence of copper together with traces of bismuth.

Mining finally ceased in 1929, and the mine remained derelict until the University of Queensland became interested in 1951.

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.The University Experimental Mine Cont.:The Mine Workings:

Much rich silver-lead ore was extracted from the open-cut developed by Glover, Olsen and Madden. The open-cut is somewhat circular in cross-section, about 200 ft. maximum diameter at its rim perimeter, some 80 ft. in diameter at its floor level and about 90 ft. deep. Two means of access to the open-cut are available, one via the 94 ft. adit and the other via an inclined tramway/walkway from the surface.

Besides the Open-Cut, a number of shafts were sunk by several mining companies.

The 8.6 acres purchased outright by the Queensland Government in October 1956 for use by the University of Queensland includes the open-cut and four shafts which provide access to the underground workings, namely:-

Main Shaft - a compartment vertical shaft fully box-timbered
sunk to the 290 ft. horizon;

"Experimental Shaft",
Ventilation Shaft, and
Inclined Shaft.

Some of the original workings have been extended to meet University research project requirements, and new developments, including the sinking of the Inclined Shaft, have been carried out.

Geology Notes:

The basement rocks of the Indooroopilly district are the Brisbane Schists, an ancient group of sediments which have been much disturbed and which take the form of mica phyllites.

Mineralisation has taken two forms - one, a silver-lead mineralisation which constitutes the principal economic occurrence of ore, and the other, a zinc mineralisation (associated with only minor amounts of silver).

The principal silver-lead ore deposit consists of the schist breccia with interstitial sulphides, more or less oxidised above ground water-level to carbonates, sulphates, etc.

The silver-lead ore body has been variously described as a pipelike formation which has been severely dislocated by tectonic movements and in which the walls were ill-defined. The richness of some of the galena in silver is probably associated with secondary mineralisation. The zinc-bearing mineralisations, upon which no production mining has been carried out, would appear to conform more regularly to normal fissure type ore bodies.

Extracted from Notes from the
University of Queensland Department
of Mining and Metallurgical
Engineering.

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Remember: Water and stout shoes next outing day!

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