



THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST



Monthly Newsletter of the
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club

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OFFICERS OF CLUB FOR 1990 - 91

PRESIDENT	Kris Carnell	835268
VICE-PRESIDENTS	Ray Marsden	811593
	Jean Harslett B.E.M.	833185
SECRETARY	Desley McDonagh	813074
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Flora & Fauna Officer	Brian McDonagh	841284
Geology Officer	Colin Hockings	811978
Youth Officer	Robin McCosker	835371
Bushwalking Officer	Errol Walker	812008
Librarian	Esme Colley	812927
Committee	Nominated Officials with Power to co opt	

Meetings: 4th Wednesday of each Month at Q.C.W.A. Rooms at 8pm.

Outings: The Sunday PRECEDING the 4th Wednesday of each Month.

Annual Subscriptions: Single \$8.00 Family \$15.00 per annum

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 and post to members.

ADDRESS CHECK

Could all members please check that their address is correct, and if not notify the secretary immediately.

COPY FOR NEWSLETTER

Could all contributors to the newsletter please have their copy in the hands of the editor by the second Sunday of the month if at all possible. Copy may be sent to P.O.Box 33, Severnlea 4352 or left with Sylvia Murphy at Chelsea House & Garden at the Stanthorpe Plaza.

MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB HELD IN THE
C.W.A. ROOMS, STANTHORPE ON 22/5/91 at 8.00 pm.

President Kris welcomed all present, including visitors: Bill Yull, and David and Olive Hockings. David was to present the programme following the meeting.

ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES as per attendance book.

MINUTES: of the previous meeting were adopted as a correct record of that meeting on the motion moved by Millie Marsden, seconded Ailsa Wilkinson and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Inward; 1. Chinchilla Field Nats - 2 copies of Urimbirra
2. J. Coulter - Information on Rainforest Timber Bill
3. I.P.R. - Greenguide Information
4. Q.A.N.I. - The Queensland Naturalist April 1991.
5. Shelley Thompson - Change of address
6. Prochures

Outward:
1. L. Kelly - Thanks for Outing
2. Mr Bonner - " " "
3. D. Sullivan - Thanks for interesting programme.
4. 4 Q S - Round the Ridges
5. I.P.R. - Response to Green Guide.

Moved JDesley McDonagh, seconded Rob McCosker that the inward correspondence be received and the outward adopted. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

<u>Statement for 24/4/91 to 23/5/91</u>	
Bank balance as at 24/4/91	285.18
<u>Receipts-</u> Subscriptions	23.00
Room Rent Collect.	12.50
	<u>35.50</u>
	320.68
<u>Expenditure</u>	
Room Rent	10.00
Magazine dup.	6.00
Magazine postage	26.00
Presentation book	17.00
	<u>59.00</u>
Bank balance as at 23/5/91	\$261.68

Accounts to be passed for payment: Room Rent \$10.00; Magazine Duplication \$6.00; Magazine Postage \$26.00; Petty Cash \$15.00.
Moved Julia Brown, seconded Tom Archer that the Treasurer's Report be adopted, and the accounts be passed for payment. Carried.

OUTING REPORT: Verbal report. The previous outing was a good outing. Weather was cool and showery, and 44 people attended. They experienced good views of the park, and the underground river. There were everlastings growing up in a rock.

NEXT OUTING: After some discussion the decision was made that this will be a half day clean-up, from the bottom of Granite Street in the "Red" bridge area of Quatpot Creek. Members to wear leather gardening gloves and bring bags for the rubbish.

NEXT MEETING: 26th June will be a first aid night. FJames will bring slides of SES rescue, and the Ambulance will be there to talk to the club.

MINUTES (Contd)

Vice President Jean Harslett will chair the meeting.

SPECIMENS: Jean Harslett spoke about the stamps from Australia Post with beetles on them. She had the stamps and specimens of the jewel beetle there. Dore McCosker had specimens of Banksia, and Geebung. The Book "Friends and Foes of Australian Gardens" by David Hockings was on display. Desley McDonagh spoke of the eastern Spinebills in the Salvia-like humming birds, and one that was sitting on the railing and taking nectar from the salvia flowers within reach.

GENERAL BUSINESS: After some discussion on annual subscriptions, Jean Harslett moved and Tom Archer seconded the following motion: "That the annual subscription remain the same for the following year" This motion was carried.

PROGRAMME FROM DAVID HOCKINGS: Kris introduced David Hockings who presented a programme on a tour he and his wife Olive had been on, in the Cape York Area. We were treated to a programme of excellent slides, presented in David's usual interesting manner. We were fascinated by the plants and the ants' nest plants as well as other slides of plant life in the Shelbourne Area and the area itself. After the excellent programme Kris thanked David, and the members showed their appreciation in the usual manner. (We are very fortunate that Colin and Janet Hockings chose to live in this district and not somewhere else aren't we ?? Secretary Desley.)

FIELD OUTING REPORT

A good attendance of 44 people enjoyed the Field Outing to the Underground River and Aztec Temple on May 19th. We parked on the Racecourse Creek Road at the locked gate for the service road which leads to the Underground River. After morning tea we set off along this road a little way then turned off to the right and walked through a forest of tall trees and ferns to the northern slope of the Signboard. This large granite monolith rises steeply from the ground on its eastern side where, it is said, a climber had a fatal fall many years ago. Upon reaching the top, via a gentler slope, we were rewarded with a view of Bald Rock to the east, then in an arc, clockwise, South and West Bald Rocks, Mt Norman Turtle Rock, Sphinx, Castle Rock and the Pyramids to the west. Several other rock formations were seen, including smaller duplicates of the Pyramids to the south which invited our investigation, perhaps on an outing sometime in the future. Also seen from the top was a family of about 8 feral pigs - it is hoped the Park Rangers can control this destroyer of the natural environment with their baiting and trapping programme. The chilly easterly wind with its threat of mist and drizzle hastened us to descend the southern slope to Bald Rock Creek. We followed the formed walking track to the Underground River and spent some time marvelling at the forces and ways of nature.

We had lunch here, where the creek was a mere string of sculptured rock pools, due to the dry weather. After lunch we walked to the Aztec Temple, to clamber over the hillside and once again marvel at the works of nature - huge totem-like granite spires towering above the trees. A rare sight was the clump of everlasting daisies making a splash of gold in a niche in one of these spires, some 10 metres above the ground. We returned to the creek and followed the service road back to the cars, passing the Signboard, rising eerily out of the bush on our left.

Rob McCosker

PRE-OUTING REPORT FOR 23rd JUNE 1991.

The June outing will be a clean-up from the bottom of Granite Street to the Red Bridge. We will meet at James' place at 1:00 p.m. It is the last house on the right at the southern end of Granite Street. Bring gloves, Woolies bags and fertilizer bags, if you have them to deal with the rubbish.

Afternoon tea will be back at James' place, so bring your afternoon tea and a folding chair to sit on. I'm sure everyone will enjoy a well-earned rest, and feel a glow of self-satisfaction when the job is done.

MEETING ON 26th JUNE 1991

Frank James will show slides of rescue by the S.E.S. at Giraween at the June meeting, to be followed by an address on First Aid by an ambulance officer. We will be advised of what we should take in a first aid kit on outings, as well as other procedures in the event of an accident.

THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF FRED.

We now have two frogs living in our bathroom! "Fred" has remained with us all the summer, and apart from a short time when he took to exploring the rest of the house instead of going out of the cat door in the evenings, he has been very little trouble. He was, however, somewhat of a health hazard when we never knew where he would appear - in the middle of the lounge, half-way up the dining room wall or in the folds of the dining room curtains. On this last occasion both he and I had a fright as he flew across the dining room when I unsuspectingly drew the curtains, but his closest brush with death came when I inadvertantly shut him in the kitchen door one morning. Fortunately I realised what was happening in time and he escaped with a crushed hind leg, and severe shock (to both of us!) After that traumatic incident he confined his activities again to the bathroom and back patio, while the toes on his left hind foot shrivelled and turned black, and his left hind leg dragged pathetically behind him. However, after about three weeks he not only recovered the power in his damaged leg, but his toes also recovered, and now appear quite normal again.

As for our second frog - we were aware that there were several other "Freds" around the house, as they could be seen on the glass panels of the kitchen door at night, and one in particular has been living somewhere in the roof of the back patio all the summer and would often be heard to croak during the day. About a month ago, we discovered that this frog has joined "Fred" in the bathroom and has taken up residence in the top corner of the shower door, showing great reluctance to move anywhere else. I have made several attempts to evict the pair of them in the past fortnight, so far without success, but I shall persevere, and will make another attempt when the weather becomes colder, if I can prise them out of their corners.

We shall then await next summer, and hope that this homing tendency is not inherited. If it is, we may have to build a second bathroom, as two frogs is about my limit!

Audrey Ridge

Youth is not a time of life - it is a state of mind. It is not a matter of red cheeks, red lips and supple knees. It is a temper of the will; a vigour of the emotions; it is a freshness of the deep springs of life. Nobody grows old by merely living a number of years; people grow old by deserting their ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul.

STAG BEETLES

(Sometimes called gold beetles)

At the May meeting Dore McCosker had specimens of beetles which were found in the heart of a yellow jacket block of firewood in mid May. The following notes were supplied by Jean Harslett.

Stag beetles are common in Eastern Australia, often seen flying around gum trees in November and December, feeding on young foliage.

The larvae live in rotting wood and pupate in cells in burrows.

The males have strong mandibles, strongly furred on the inner side.

Very variable - colour and size - from gold, bright green - iridescent; and blue-green to purplish shades (these latter are the North Queensland form).

The Stanthorpe form was called *Lamprima latreillei*, but I think now that all colour phases are bracketed under *Lamprima Aurata* and are considered locality variations of the same species.

Stag beetles belong to the "Lucanid" family (Lucanidae).

CHEMICAL COMPANY PLANTS TREES TO CUT POLLUTION

The chemical giant, Dow Chemical (Australia) Ltd. has started a tree plantation which will soak up waste water from the factory.

The ambitious tree planting program aims to achieve zero discharge of water waste from the Dow manufacturing plant. Excess water will be used to irrigate the trees.

Dow managing director, Geoffrey Norris, says zero discharge of waste from any manufacturing site is the ultimate target for every responsible company although he admits this is very difficult to achieve.

The 46,000 trees have been planted on part of a 52 hectare site adjacent to the factory complex. Excess water from the factory is collected and fed into an on site treatment facility. Here the water undergoes biological treatment, settling and chlorination before it is used for irrigation from large storage dams. Over 150 million litres will be available each year for irrigation.

In conjunction with the CSIRO, part of the plantation will be used to trial native eucalypts for genetic improvement.

The CSIRO seed orchard will occupy six hectares of the Dow plantation. It will be planted with Tasmanian blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*). Trees for the seed orchard have been sourced from about 220 different groups, which represent the full range of the species' natural habitat.

Performance of the trees will be monitored, with progressive thinning carried out to leave only the best of each group for future seed production. In the years to come, seed from this orchard in Altona will provide the basis for superior planting for hardwood plantations in Australia and overseas.

from "Australian Horticulture"
January 1991.
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