

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.

Monthly Newsletter of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club.

No. 31

September 1972

P.O. Box 154, Stanthorpe.

Officers and Committee 1972 - 1973.

President	Mrs.R. Harslett	Ph. Amiens 5U.
Vice Presidents	Mr. W. Cathcart and Mr. F. Wilkinson.	
Secretary	Mr. E. Walker	Ph.888.
Treasurer	Mrs.R. Leisemann	
Editors	Mr. I. Jackson, Mrs.T.Chapman, Mrs.D.Orr.	
Newsletter Sub-Committee	Mrs.B. Krautz and Mrs.W.Cathcart.	
Librarian	Mrs.R. Tremeer	
Publicity Officer	Mr. T. Chapman	
Bushwalking Officer	Mr. R. McCosker	
Geology "	Mr. P. Higgins	
Flora "	Mrs.W. McCosker	
Fauna "	Miss J. Westcott	
Youth "	Mr. G. Marsden.	

Activities.

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

Annual Subscriptions.

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

<u>Place</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Leader</u>
Coolmunda Dam & Inglewood State Forest.	17th September	Mr. M. Passmore.
Wildflowers & Mt. Banca	22nd October	

Meetings:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
"Remember Last Year"	27th September	Film night.
Through the Centre	25th October	McCosker Family.

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PLEASE NOTE: Date for September outing is ONE WEEK EARLY as this date is most convenient for the leader of this outing.

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THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.Minutes of General Meeting held 23rd August 1972.

Nineteen members were present with apologies being received from nineteen.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: The Minutes of the previous meeting were moved by Mrs. Nixon seconded by Miss J. Westcott. Carried.

Inward Correspondence: (i) Naturalist Clubs' Newsletters.
(ii) National Park magazine with request for back nos. of our Newsletter.

(iii) The Queensland Hosteller.
(iv) Press releases from D.P.I.

Outward Correspondence: (i) Letter to adult education with details of August Meeting and outing for advertising in Border Post.
(ii) Letter to Mr. R. Payne (Gibraltar Range Nat. Park Ranger) suggesting he contact Mrs. J. Harslett re guidance over visit to Granite Belt.

<u>Treasurer's Report:</u>	Cr. Balance	\$21.31	Duplicating Exs.	\$5.00
	Subs.	44.00	Stationery	66.
		\$65.31		\$5.66

Credit Balance \$59.65.

Moved G. Leisemann seconded M. Passmore that the Treasurer's Report be accepted and Accounts passed for payment. Carried.

Business from Minutes: Mrs. J. Harslett reported that Mr. R. Payne's visit is now postponed owing to other business.

Supplies of paper for Newsletter obtained as requested.

Outings Reports: Mr. John Harslett reported on the outing to Amiens.

Members who attended the extra outing to Tenterfield reported a most exciting and enjoyable day.

Committee Members Report: Meeting held Friday 18th Aug. 1972. There was a good attendance of Committee Members.

(i) The programme of outings and meetings for the forthcoming year was discussed at length. These will be published in the Newsletter.

(ii) It was also again suggested that members of the clubs who are going to an area of general interest would like to put a note in the Mag. so that other members could join in if they so desired.

(iii) The group leader of an outing should appoint specialists to help lead smaller groups interested in specific areas of studies - e.g. committee members appointed for special subjects could be used. General discussion was lively and interesting following this report.

Other rendezvous suggested for outings were : Brookfield Park, Gibraltar Range and Ravensbourne Park.

General Business: Mr. T. Chapman would like to know names of anyone interested in a week camp-out at Carnarvon Gorge in the May holidays. Transport should be no problem.

Mr. M. Passmore spoke about the September outing to Inglewood forest and Coolmunda Dam. Depart Park 9.00 a.m.

Mr. I. Jackson (Editor) requested ideas and suggestions for the Newsletter and asked for articles and/or other material to be sent in during first week of the month of issue.

Car stickers and Badges. Some entered and inspected - mainly badges. Suggestion made that we use existing car sticker used by other Nats. Clubs with out club name printed on. The President pointed out merit of this - Cost - Recognisable as Naturalist Club Sticker.

Mr. M. Passmore suggested that the Cooloola area mining problem may soon

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.Minutes of General Meeting held 23rd August 1972 Cont.:

be rearing its head again and asked could this club do anything about saving the area. A letter to the local M.P. was suggested. The President said this subject to be discussed at a future meeting. Meeting closed at 9 p.m.

Mr.J.Verri and Mrs.J.Harslett then gave a most interesting and amusing programme of slides from various areas.

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Report of Outing to "Harsletts' Area", 19.8.72:

The last outing took place at "Mountain View" on 19th August and was very pleasing to see 13 cars arrive at "Mountain View" at 10 a.m.

The days outing began by going to the Amiens State Forestry to see the Aboriginal Markings, then we climbed the Sow and Pigs, which was very interesting to everyone because of the rock formations as well as all the wild flowers which were at their best for this time of the year.

Lunch was held at Dick Harslett's place, then afterwards we were divided into two groups. One group was led by Jean Harslett to Swyers Gully, but unfortunately there was only one Crystal Topaz found by Peter Higgins, but the party enjoyed the outing very much.

The other party climbed Mt.Ferguson which has a good view of Harslett Bros. farm and also the sheep country behind Mt.Ferguson. From the top of Mt. Ferguson we carried on to the falls which is on the 13 mile creek and it also has a wonderful rock formation.

I feel the day out was very successful and I would like to thank you all who were present.

JOHN HARSLETT.

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Proposed Outing - Inglewood Area - 17th September 1972:

Cars will depart from Weeroona Park at 9 a.m. sharp. The total distance to be covered will be approx. 140 miles. Petrol may be purchased at Inglewood if you find the needle suddenly showing empty.

The programme will be as follows:

Coolmunda Dam will be first stop and here a general study will be made of the area, layout and other interesting features.

The party will then proceed to Inglewood State Forest which consists mainly of Cyprus Pine. Wildflowers should be at their best at this time of the year.

The outing will be a study of the association of botany with geology and ecology and the concept of multipal use of local land. The treatment of timber will also be studied.

Mr.M.Passmore, who has spent some time working in this area will be the leader for this outing.

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Handy Hint:

Keep scraps of old carpet in the car during cold weather. A piece in front of each back tyre provides traction to pull the car out of ruts.

M.McD.

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THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

In presenting a few ideas, as requested by the Newsletter editor, in the form of a 'Message from the president', two thoughts come to mind, one of "Looking Forward" and the other of "Looking Back". Obviously the former is the thought that I have to be involved with, but this cannot be done without the latter. In doing just this I realize the splendid year that our past President, Wally Cathcart and his team have chalked up. In his leadership Wally brought something of himself, and his aesthetic approach to the beauty and wonder of Nature to the club. This has I'm sure influenced each one of us, who have been associated with Wally.

"Looking Forward", a club of this type brings together, in good fellowship, people with interests in common. I hope that our outings will be more than 'Picnic days out', that each one of us will understand some facet of nature, a little more deeply. The interest can be of our own choice, enriched by the knowledge and observations made by fellow members.

A Naturalist Club can also set a high ethical standard of conservation. In this I do not refer to the signing of petitions, which in their way serve the cause, but rather to our individual and personal endeavour to care for the environment immediately around us.

"Let it never be said to our shame,
This place was better before we came."

I believe there are many small ways, that we, as members of a Naturalist Club, can help to keep this lovely corner of Australia Beautiful!

JEAN HARSLETT.

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HANDY HINTS: Care of Sleeping Bags:

1. Sleeping bags should be aired frequently. The sun's rays are an excellent sterilizer and will re-fluff the filling.
2. Insert sheets should be used whenever possible. This will keep the bag clean and will prolong its life.
3. Slide fasteners should be handled carefully and slowly. Caution will prevent the cloth catching in the teeth.
4. Always make sure slide fasteners are open before packing bag into its cover.
5. Down, compressed by your body has little insulation, so insulate underneath with anything you have that is not uncomfortable to sleep on.
6. Keep the bag dry because damp down will not fluff up and therefore loses efficiency.
7. A good quality sleeping bag can usually be safely drycleaned or washed, provided they are treated in a similar manner to silk or wool. Bags should be well aired after drycleaning. Check the label to see the makers recommendations.

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Next month the subject for Handy Hints will be Bird Watching.

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Publications received and available from our Librarian, Mrs. F. Tremeer:

The chestnut breasted Quail.

Code for outdoor Studies.

Unprotected, protected and rare fauna in N.S.W.

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THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.NATIONAL PARKS, Cont. from August Issue:

If the situation is to be retrieved, natural conservation must be treated as a legitimate form of land use, with claims at least as good as those of mining, forestry and agriculture, and in one sense better, for under National Park status, the natural resources of timber, soil and minerals are preserved, and if the national need was sufficiently urgent, a section of the Park could be revoked and the resources obtained. Although this is only a possibility for the distant future, the possibility is there. But, the reverse is not there, for once land has been mined, re-forested or farmed, there is no chance that it will ever be useful for Nat.Park purposes.

Now all that may seem to stretch the purposes for a park a little, but we must remember that we have to look to the very distant future, not just present day requirements, and whereas an area may be un-interesting to the non-scientist, it would become a place of great interest, or at least considerable curiosity once it was the only sample of its type left. I am quite sure that the day will come when people will travel many miles for the opportunity to walk around in a patch of Brigalow. In any case, whether it be Nat.Park, Scenic Reserve, Wildlife reserve or Scientific reserve, it must be reserved totally for the future. I saw a new item just the other night where timber is being felled on a wild life reserve in Tasmania to supply wood chips to Japan.

Now returning to the needs for Nat.Parks, I quote Carrick and Costin in their book, Biogeography and Ecology in Australia. They in turn were quoting an Australian psychiatrist who said, "A city child probably needs 3 months a year of the year in the country to balance the effects of the concrete jungle on his mental stability. It is hard to imagine that a mature mind could develop in a child who has been denied the influence of Nature".

Not only the child but everyone can receive considerable benefit in the form of mental and spiritual uplift and recovery from the stress of modern day living by just relaxing alone or with a few friends in a forest that has been untouched by the hand of man since time began. No doubt, many people who visit Nat.Parks for a variety of reasons, benefit in this way.

In Australia, recreation will always be one of the chief purposes of a Nat.Park; recreation that is in the sense of enjoyable leisure, consistent with preserving the natural state of the park. Hiking, photography and nature observing are legitimate forms of leisure, shooting, fishing and removal of plants are not.

The management of Nat. Parks present many problems, which must be overcome quickly. One problem is fire within a Nat.Park. Do we burn or do we have a policy of total and complete protection. I doubt if complete protection is ideal as the flora and fauna have lived with fire successfully since time began. Accidental fires started by lightning strikes or fire started by food hunting aboriginals. Many plants need fire to germinate and therefore survive, and without fire, many wild flowers would be lost through the overgrowth of grass.

There is another side of the argument for burning. We must think of the fauna. This is a totally different story. In past times, any fauna destroyed in a fire was quickly replaced by others from adjoining areas, but today the environment is often completely altered in adjoining areas and there are no replacements. Some areas of Nat.Parks which were recently accidentally burnt are being kept under surveillance and it is from these that we hope to see the long term results of fires in a relatively short period.

We have the benefit of experience of the N.S.W.Nat.Parks and Wildlife Service in their attempts at so-called protective burning. One of their coastal parks contained a rare species of parrot - the ground parrot. The

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.NATIONAL PARKS Cont.:

ground cover of this park was largely heath and poorer type grasses. It was decided to burn sections of this cover at suitable times, but even the best laid plans go astray, due to wind changes, the whole park was burnt. An after burn survey showed that 8 parrots were in the Park, whereas 60 were known before the fire. From this then, we know that fire does have some effect on wild life numbers, perhaps not always as drastic as in the point illustrated, but if there are no suitable surrounding areas to accomodate fire disturbed animals, they must surely perish.

Over usage of parks by people is a problem difficult to remedy. The Park manager is posed a dilemma here, has he the right to limit the use of the Park by a generation in order to preserve it for a generation as yet unborn? After all the present generation is paying to support the parks, but the answer must be yes, not only the right but also the duty. What right have we to disrespect something which the future generation will depend on? What of development of Nat.Parks, how far do we go? Many people advocate for roads, chairlifts, canteens, but these surely can do nothing but harm. Director of South African Parks, Rocco Knobel has this to say about this artificial development, "National Parks are created to preserve outstanding scenic displays for the enjoyment of this and future generations, they are not play-grounds where artificial amusements are to be installed. I hold the view that when visitors start demanding entertainment in visitor accomodation areas, it is a sure sign that visitor concerntration is too high and that city like conditions have been created."

Obviously then the problem os usage versus conservation is to exclude development which belong elsewhere. If a Park is to remain unimpaired for future generations, it would seem appropriate to place sansible limits on its development to make preservation the first consideration when choosing a site for facilities, to limit visitation to certain areas of the Park and ultimately if the case warrants, as was the case at Ayres Rock, restrict the number of visitors to a tolerable limit.

If a park is of moderate acreage, and a moderately active person can walk to an attraction within a few hours, surely there are no needs for roads. If a park is large, some roads and perhaps accommodation would be necessary, but it must be important that these be limited to give access to a reasonable part of the park. Normal considerations of cost and ease of construction must take second place to conservation needs and aspects. Private enterprise accomodation establishments should not be allowed to spoil the natural beauty of the Park, other constructions should not be allowed in parks either. The rugged Warrumbungles Park in N.S.W. is an example of this. Whenever one is trying to photograph the grandeur of this area, the unsightly buildings of the deepspace telescopes seem to be always in the back-ground.

There are many minor problems in Park management, vandalism is one. Fortunately we do not have a serious vandal problem, but the unfortunate thing about vandalism is that it snowballs. If someone carves his name ona tree, the next bloke along will often do the same thing. This type of offence is punishable by law, but first you have to catch the offender.

The area under reservation in Aust. as Nat.Parks and Reserves as at June, 1970, show there are 34½ million acres. Tasmania, although the smallest state, has the highest percentage of reserves in ratio to state acreage, Qld. the lowest. The Northern Territory has the greatest acreage reserved, 12 Million acres. Qld. has less than 3. including 2m. in one Park in the Simpson Desert. There are many areas in Qld. which should be Parks, but without public

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.NATIONAL PARKS Cont.

support in obtaining these areas, they will soon be destroyed. In recent times we have seen miles upon miles of our beaches destroyed by sand-mining, we have seen caves destroyed for the mining of guano, we have seen Tasmania's Lake Pedder in the process of being destroyed by the hydro-scheme and we have seen 100's of sq. miles of our tropical north bulldozed out by overseas companies looking for a quick dollar in cattle-raising. As it will be the public of this and future generations who will benefit from Parks, it is up to the public to bring pressure to bear on the powers that be for more and bigger parks.

Whether it be the private citizen or organised groups, all must do their bit. It is only with the co-operation of all will we be able to pass on to the future, bigger and better National Parks, still in their natural state and still containing natural wild life.

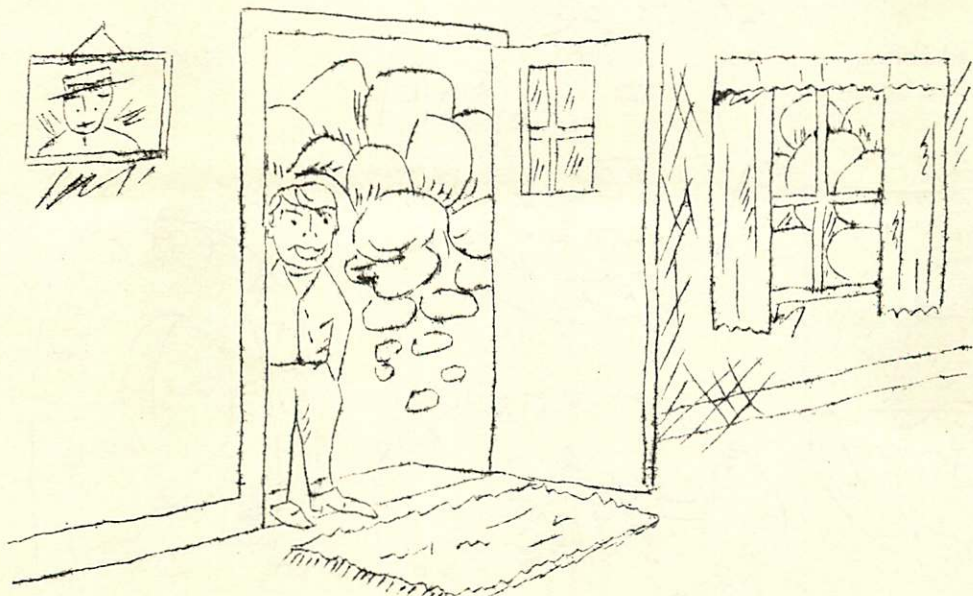
Finally, I give you a quotation which I believe most fitting for Qld. It was made by the late John F. Kennedy and he said,

"Each generation must deal anew with the raiders, with the scramble to use resources for private profit and with the tendency to prefer short run profits to long run necessities. The nations battle to preserve the common estate is far from won."

From an address to the Stanthorpe Nats.
by Mr. T. Ryan, Girraween National Park.

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JEST A MINUTE :-



HEY DEAR! I GOT SOME OF THOSE
"PIGS" FROM HARSLETT'S

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.

Jottings of some interesting articles etc. from magazines received from other Clubs:-

1. The Cooloola area - notes on what to look for there
Qld.Nats Club July 1972.
 2. Book Reviewed - Water Birds of Australia - Pocket sized publication.
Qld.Nats Club July 1972.
 3. 10 Commandments for Travellers - very amusing!
Qld.Hosteller Aug.Sept.Oct.1972.
 4. The Sunbird - a magazine for all bird watchers.
 5. Crocodiles in Queensland by C.Roff.
Toowoomba Nats.Club July 1972.
 6. Botany and dyes -
Toowoomba Nats. Club March 1972.
 7. Notes on the Rocky River area near Tenterfield.
National Parks Magazine June 1972.
 8. Ravensbourne National Park Toowoomba Nats.Club, June 1971.
- These magazines are available from the Librarian for reading at meetings or at home.

F.TREMEER.(Librarian).

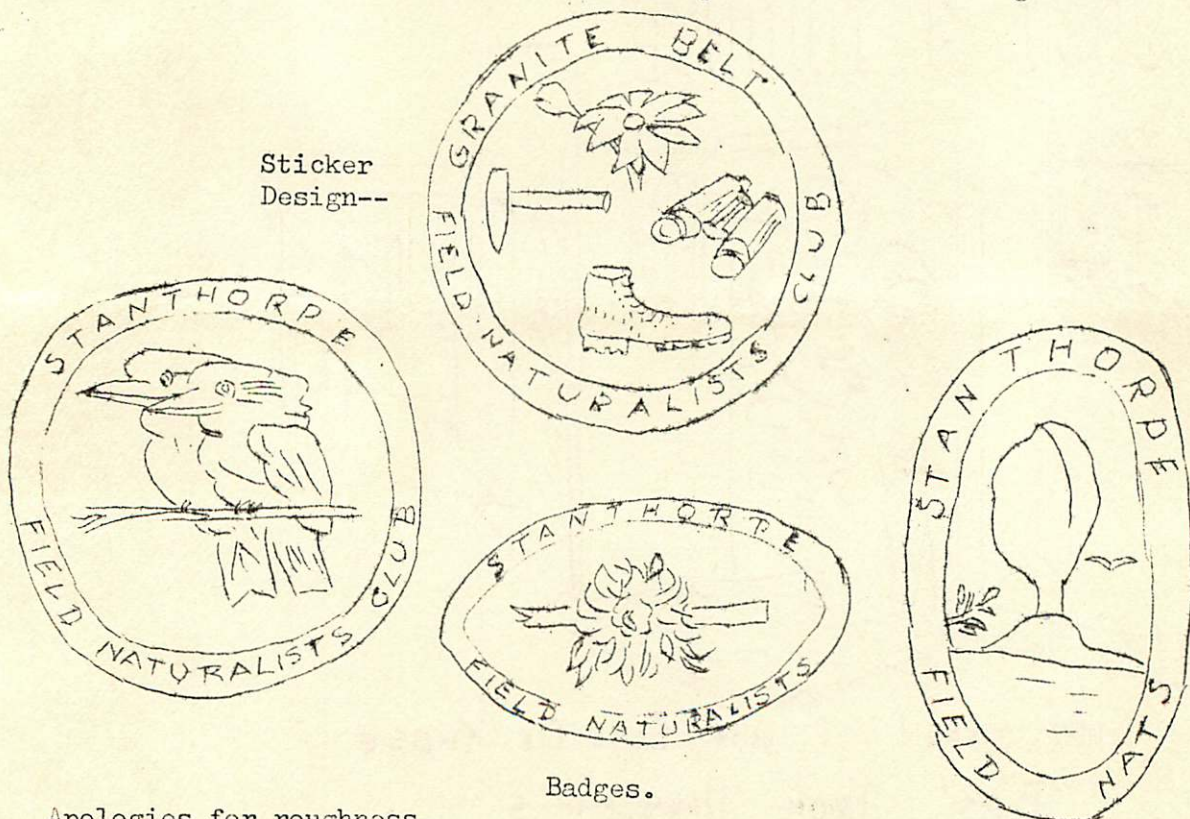
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The Bushwalker's Guide to South East Queensland by M.Hammond and T.Young, published by the Brisbane Bushwalkers Club is again available from Errol Walker, Price \$2.00. See Errol at the next meeting for your copy!

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The following designs were received in the quest for a Club badge and sticker:-

Sticker
Design--



Badges.

Apologies for roughness.

J.O.