

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.

Monthly Newsletter of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club.

No. 34

December 1972/January 1973

P.O. Box 154, Stanthorpe.

Officers and Committee 1972 - 1973.

President	Mrs.R. Harslett	Ph.Amiens 5U.
Vice Presidents	Mr. W. Cathcart and Mrs.J.Wilkinson	
Secretary	Mr. E. Walker	Ph.888
Treasurer	Mrs.R. Leisemann	Cwth.Bank Bus.Hours.
Editors	Mr. I. Jackson and Mrs.D. Orr.	
Newsletter Sub-Committee	Mrs.B. Krautz and Mrs. W. Cathcart.	
Librarian	Mrs.R. Tremeer	
Publicity Officer		
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>
Girraween Park - Christmas Barbeque	17th December	McCosker Family
Bluff River	21st January	Phillip Ingram.

Meetings:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
No meeting in December.		
Rural Fires Board Activities	24th January	Robert Burke.
Brookvale Park	28th February	L. Coburn.

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Did you know: (a) Officers of the Club to be; President, two vice-Presidents, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Editor, Hon. Librarian, and any other officer recommended by the Council and determined by the Club in General Meeting.

(b) Affairs of the Club to be controlled by a Council consisting of all the elected officers, together with five Ordinary Members representing the various aspects of the Club: Fauna, Flora, Geology, Bushwalking, and a Youth Representative. Quorum to be five, and Council to meet at least once quarterly. Any Council Member absent without leave from three consecutive meetings shall, if the Council so recommends, lose his seat.

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December 1972/
January 1973.THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.Minutes of General Meeting held 22nd November 1972.

Twenty nine members were present with apologies being received from 5.
Minutes of Previous Meeting: Moved Miss J. Westcott, seconded Mrs. D. Wise-
 man that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as
 written in the Newsletter. Carried.

Inward Correspondence: (i) Press releases from D.P.I.
 (ii) The Queensland Hosteller.
 (iii) Newsletters from other Nats Clubs.
 (iv) Letter from Mr. H. McKecknie re Cooloola.

Outward Correspondence: (i) Monthly return to Toowoomba Board of Adult
 Education.
 (ii) Letter to Mrs. K. Hirshfield answering en-
 quiries about proposed Carnarvon trip.
 (iii) Letter of congratulations to Mr. G. Marsden.
 (iv) Letter to Mr. & Mrs. T. Chapman advising of
 Life Membership.

Moved Mr. W. Cathcart, seconded Mrs. J. Paskins that the correspond-
 ence be received and adopted. Carried.

<u>Treasurer's Report:</u> Cr. Bal.	\$16.73	<u>\$16.73</u> Bal.
Subs.	17.00	33.73

Postage Nov. Issue
1.07

Duplicating
 Sept. & Oct. 5.00
 Nov. 2.50
8.57

\$25.16 Bal. Cr.

Moved Mrs. G. Leisemann, seconded Mr. I. Jackson that the treasurer's
 report be accepted and accounts passed for payment. Carried.

Outings Reports: Mr. D. Orr reported on the outing to Killarney area
 and Queen Mary Falls. Approx. 50 took part.

Next outing will be the Christmas Party at "The
 Junction" on McCoskers' property at Wyberba on 17.12.72.

The April 1973 outing will be brought forward to
 the 15th April 1973.

General Business: The Toowoomba Nats. Club is to be reminded of our
 Post Office box address.

The decision selecting a club badge is to be made
 by the Committee.

The President has discussed Fire prevention with
 Mr. Bill Tunell who has offered to lecture to the Club in Jan. '73.

Another appeal was made by the President for more
 Magazine material.

The Meeting closed at 8.35pm. after which Mr. I. Jackson lectured to the
 Club on "Scouting Today". A vote of thanks was presented by Mr. G.
 Marsden.

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The President has advised that Mr. Healy, Secretary Rural Fires Board in
 a letter to her states that Inspector Robt. Burke will happily make his
 services available as guest speaker on 24th. Jan. 1973. His territory
 ranges from Miriamvale in the north to the Border. His interests and
 knowledge cover a wide field and he has personally given of his time to
 this job in which he has a sincere and enthusiastic interest. This dis-
 trict is well protected by the Rural Fires Board coming under its juris-
 diction.

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THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.Scouting Today:

B.P. once said "I suppose every boy wants to help his country in some way or other. There is a way by which he can do so easily, and that is by becoming a scout".

Who was B.P. and who was this person referred to as a scout?

On 22nd.Feb., 1857 at 1 Stanhope St., London W., there was born a boy, who was later named among other things, Robert Stephenson Symth Baden-Powell, a member of a large family whose father died when he was very young. As Robert grew he became interested in the world about him. He and his brothers had no money to buy pleasures, but they made their own building boats, grasshuts, towers, camping, eating rabbits and fish. After gaining a sound education at Charterhouse, Robert joined the army. His many and varied experiences during his time with the army have filled many books, perhaps his most famous being the "Battle of Mafeking".

B.P. felt that some of his ideas might prove an additional attraction to the Boys Brigade, Y.M.C.A. and others. Soon another book "Scouting for Boys" followed.

In August 1907 at Brownsea Island off the Dorset Coast B.P. invited 20 boys to take part in an experimental camp. They lived in tents, cooked their own food and learnt many valuable skills. Soon after this camp boys began forming themselves into patrols of 6 or 8 boys and then looked about for an adult leader who could help them.

So quickly did this "new game" spread that within two years a rally at Crystal Palace, London drew together eleven thousand boys.

To most people a 'scout' is the term applied to anyone in the movement, from the little fellow sometimes known as a "grub", but rightly as a Cub, to the knobbly-kneed old chap properly known as an adult leader.

The movement is divided into four sections.

CUB: This section caters for boys between 8 - 11 years. It is the only section in which males and females can be leaders. It is in the Cub section that the boy learns the basic code of scouting. The section motto is "Do your Best".

SCOUT: 11 - 14½ years. Here leadership, initiative and responsibility are developed. Camping and outdoor training play an important part.

SENIOR SCOUT: To be known as VENTURER as from January 1973. 15 - 17½ years. This is the period of adolescence when the young man is taught to apply the training received in the Scout Troop. Senior Scouting aims to give the youth high standards and helps him to "Look Wide". It trains him for his Queen Scout Badge, the hallmark of a trained Scout.

ROVER SCOUT: 17½ - 24 years. This is the age when the young man is finding himself and choosing a career. It is the period for training of responsibilities of manhood. All Rover activities include a strong physical and intellectual programme. He is studying hard and developing the social graces and those qualities which will fit him for a place in the world of men and women.

Although each section is self-contained, each is a part of the whole and fits into a progressive scheme for training, each part contributing to the age the boy or young man has reached.

The leaders of the movement known as adult leaders or Scouters, give devoted and voluntary service, because they realize the value of providing leadership and training to the next generation of citizens. Their reward is seeing their boys grow into better men.

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.Scouting Today Cont:

The principles of scouting, as identified by the founder, are that man should serve God, act in consideration of the needs of others, and develop and use his abilities to the betterment of himself and the community in which he lives. Besides the aims and principles a member of the scouting movement abides by two things - His Promise and 9 Scout Laws. SCOUT PROMISE: On my honour, I promise that I will do my best to do my duty to God and the Queen. To help other people and to keep the Scout Law. SCOUT LAW:

1. A Scout is to be trusted.
2. A Scout is loyal.
3. A Scout is friendly and considerate.
4. A Scout is a brother to all scouts.
5. A Scout is cheerful.
6. A Scout shows courage in all difficulties.
7. A Scout makes good use of time, possessions and property.
8. A Scout is careful of natural resources.
9. A Scout has respect for himself and others.

What of Scouting Today: At present the movement is undergoing vast changes. We are on the move. With the progression of man into science it has been found necessary to progress past the image of a boy with a pack on his back learning to tie knots.

Such notable changes as the adoption of a new badge, changes in uniform and principles and change of name from Boy Scouts to Scout Assoc. have been to the fore, and one aspect which has been receiving emphasis is Conservation.

The Scouting movement has a history as a conservationist training association. Our Adult and boy members have learnt to appreciate nature and natural resources, stemming from our emphasis in training in the outdoors and awards for proficiency in nature study and conservation subjects.

Already we have a revised Scout Law - "A Scout takes care of Natural Resources" and the adoption of an 'outdoor code'; - "As a Scout I will strive to conserve nature so that life may be richer for all".

Our earth was equipped to support one hunting type person per 10 square miles of reasonable country. It is estimated that earth could support 4 million of them. Agriculture and industrialisation enable us to raise this to 1,000 million by 1840. By 1930 this grew to 2,000 million 1960 it became 3,000 million and by 1978 it is predicted that it will be 4,000 million persons, all eating their heads off, wearing out consumer commodities and polluting like mad! As a result, our natural resources are diminishing, but technology will continue to supply alternatives for some depleted resources as in the past. Oak, Steel, Titanium for ships. Wood and peat, coal and coke, coal gas and mineral oil, natural gas and petroleum products for fuel.

Scouting will train its members to awareness of the results of man's impact on his environment - will provide lists of source material and will invite useful organisations and resource personnel to assist in the training as a prelude to providing useful, enjoyable, practical projects for our youthful members.

Although outdoor activities will still play an important part in Scouting, the Scout of today and tomorrow will be better equipped to take in his stride life around him, and keeping the motto "Be Prepared" in mind a useful citizen when he becomes a man.

From an Address by I. Jackson.

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.SNAKES ALIVE!

What strange influence is our Nats. Club exercising over its members?

I thought I'd never see the day when a group of 'Dinkum Ausnaries' would stand only a few feet from a black snake they had disturbed from its sunbaking and just watch! Cameras were in action, but no one reached for the nearest stick.

Well, red-bellied blacks are one thing, but a blind snake is quite different. If this one - about 18 to 20 inches long - had not been turned up by the plough, we would never have known of its existence.

Blind Snakes (family TYPHLOPIDAE) are cylindrical, worm like burrowing snakes quite distinctive in appearance. They are generally uniform in thickness from head to tail, and the body is covered by small shiny scales, more or less uniform in size. The under surface is lighter than the back. Both head and tail are bluntly rounded. The mouth on the underside of the head is small. The eyes are small pigment spots covered by scales and probably able to distinguish only light from dark, but no objects.

Blind snakes are non-venomous and are generally seen above ground only at night or after heavy rain. Little is known of their habits except that they often feed on ants and termites and their larvae.

D.McCOSKER.

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WILD FLOWERS:

What flowers are blooming now?

I'm asked this question so often that an answer through the Newsletter occasionally might interest flower watchers.

For a start there are "buttercups and daisies - daisies and bluebells" - in fact, with summer here all the smaller flowers - yellow, purple, pink and white - that grow through the grasses are quite common.

Always a delightful surprise are the hyacinth orchids (DIPODIUM PUNCTATUM) with their peculiar habit of springing straight from the ground with no leaves at all. White flannel flowers and purple Dampiera are still plentiful and the handsome head of royal purple blowers of the Finger Flower (CHEIRANTHERA) with its prominent golden stamens always commands admiration. On rocky ledges are dainty clumps of Isotoma which is said to be poisonous.

Conesticks (PETROPHILE) are crowned with gold at present while the wild hops (DODONAEA) are weighted down with their seed pods glowing red. Leptospermums and Wattles seem to be always blooming, but quite outstanding in the damp spots are the massed blooms of the tall paperbarks. (MELALEUCA).

D.McCOSKER.

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THE DRAWBACKS OF CONSERVATION. Westcott's Nursery is known to many birds as a pleasant place to feed and nest, but of recent weeks the proprietor has been talking of eviction orders. It appears that some feathered "friends" have been taking a great deal of interest in plant names, so much in fact that they have been collecting the carefully prepared and located shiny name tags with never a thought to the inconvenience caused. With a grey thrush nesting in the glasshouse & honeyeaters choosing the shadehouse watering is a problem to say the least.

M.PASSMORE.

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THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.DIARY NOTE 16.11.72.

Today Mrs. Bill McCosker took me to an unusual nest. It was so beautiful and ingenious in architecture, and the architect quite a rare visitor here at this time of the year - a Striped Honeyeater (PLECTORHYNCHA LANCEOLATA).

Previously I have seen this species feeding on scale on a Hibiscus in a garden at Amiens, and they only seemed to be there in passing.

This rather thick set bird of sombre plumage, only relieved by marked stripes on its head and upper parts of the body, creates in contrast a fine nest, delicate in structure. It is grass overlaid with spider-web, lichen and in the case of the nest previously found by Mrs. B. McCosker - even had a case moth attached.

Perhaps the nest's most unique character is in its pendulous situation. The nest is approx. 3½ ins. across and at least half as deep again as it is wide - could be described as being like an upturned parachute. It is attached to the most slender drooping eucalytus branchlets and so is in constant movement. These branchlets are so slender that only the wiry nature of the green eucalypt could provide the necessary strength. When the bird alights on the nest just its mere extra weight makes the whole nest drop down considerably.

There were Butcher Birds nearby - and indeed it is said they are often found together.

Is this slender support for the nest, Nature's way of providing a "landing" too delicate for the more robust Butcher Birds, thus obviating the chance of Butcher Birds dining on Striped Honeyeater fledgelings?

The ways of Nature are quite remarkable enough for this to be so.

When the Striped Honeyeater settles in the nest her tail, by necessity, is almost in an erect position, and appears slightly forked on the end. Both birds were actively engaged in collecting insects for the fledglings, a favoured spot seemed amongst the spider webs in adjacent ANGOPHORA trees (ANGOPHORA FLORIBUNDA).

J. HARSLETT.

An added note by Mrs. McCosker suggests that the insects in the cocoons attached to the previous nest, appear to have emerged after being attached to the nest thus providing a well stocked larder on the house!

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DON'T FORGET THE CHRISTMAS BAR-B-QUE:

WHERE: The Junction at McCosker's - FOLLOW NATS SIGNS!

WHEN: 17th December 1972.

BRING: All the food you can eat, - steak, onions, tomatoes etc. and friends and relations.

THE HOT PLATE WILL BE PROVIDED.

If you come at approx. 2.00p.m. or after, there will be walking for those interested.

At 5 p.m. you start cooking - BRING YOUR OWN - COOK YOUR OWN!

ENTERTAINMENT: Mr. W. Cathcart and Troupe(?) will entertain you with songs carols etc. afterwards.

SEE YOU THERE!!!!!!

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THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.HANDY HINTS - CAMP COOKING:

Camp cooking is not really any different from cooking at home except that instead of all the amenities being laid on, some improvisation has to be done. Cooking is an art to be accomplished in, something to enjoy at every stage of planning, preparing and eating. The important thing is to be interested - an ambitious!!

Adhesive tape is useful for sealing fars and tins.

Soap rubbed on the outsides of billies makes them easier to clean.

Always cut at least 3 ft. of grass away from your fire before lighting it.

Never guess quantities unless you are experienced.

Branches that snap will burn more easily than those that bend.

If cooking in Aluminium foil - cut the sheet of foil large enough to fold in half over food to be wrapped and to allow for a three-folded crimp-seal at all three open edged.

Lay foil shiny side up and spread with butter or fat.

Arrange materials to be cooked in the vertical centre of one half of the sheet and with the edge on the horizontal centre line.

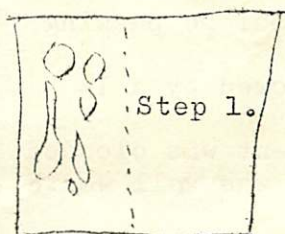
Fold other half of foil over the ingredients and make folds about 1/2" each of the open edged.

Cut another sheet of foil same size as the first and fold so that joins do not meet. This makes a double layer of foil around food - airtight, watertight and ready for cooking.

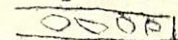
Cooking is done on a bed of hot coals never over a flaming fire.

If package is wrapped properly it should soon swell up like a balloon, and a hissing sound heard. This indicates that package is well sealed and food is pressure cooked.

Turn after approx. half of cooking time. Be careful not to make a hole in foil when turning.



Step 2.



Step 3.



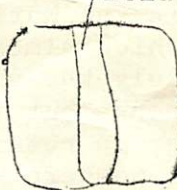
Step 4. 2nd.



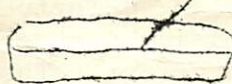
Sheet.

Finished Result.

Fold.



Fold.



NEXT MONTH: COLLECTING WILD FLOWERS.

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Book Review: "AUSTRALIA'S SOUTHEAST" By Stan & Kay BREEDEN:

Christmas is always a time when one is searching amongst the book shelves, and the most cursory glance at this latest edition to the natural history of Australia will immediately demand fuller investigation of such a delightful book.

The pages are full of the most appealing photos both in colour & black and white. There are examples of well known scenes such as those around Cunningham's Gap and Crater Lake, marvellous plates of flowers and birds of every description, and animal studies of rarely seen species like the Tasmanian Devil and Sminthopsis Mouse.

These alone would make the purchase worthwhile as a diverse and attractive collection of the true Australia, but in addition all are complemented by imaginative and lyrical prose. Nevertheless the authors ob-

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.Book Review: "AUSTRALIA'S SOUTHEAST" By Stan & Kay BREEDEN Cont.:

vious affection for their subject does not in any way distort the accuracy of their work. Chapter 2 on the Eucalypts, for instance, could almost pass for Max Jacob's work "Growth Habits of the Eucalypts", the Bible of all Australian foresters, but not even the best versed of his pupils could fail to find something new in the Breeden's text. The work is not, however, aimed at the forester and the natural scientist, but is designed for those perceptive people who are irresistibly drawn to the Australian bush, and for whom a general knowledge is an invaluable tool.

Ecology cannot be presented in the very precise scientific terms one may use in physics, but it is an unfortunate tendency for those who have had a scientific training to attempt such a presentation. How much more appealing is the authors' approach. In speaking of the dawn in the New England bush, they conjure up such images as "the blue wren with feathers fluffed, trembles with the effort of song" and "the willy wagtail diving on a kookaburra which absorbs the punishment motionless and in silence".

A truly delightful book, it has but one drawback. If you don't already possess one, you feel compelled to go and buy Volume I. The books, by the way, are published by Collins.

M.PASSMORE.

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Outing to Queen Mary Falls:

In typical Nats.Club style the assembled set out on its November Outing in fair weather. We progressed as planned and after a few short stops for re-assembly made our first break for a walk up to Brown's Falls and found that the assembled exceeded 50 in number.

The falls and the forest walk were enjoyed by all before passing on to overlook Dagg's Falls.

Luncheon in the National Park picnic area was followed by a 1 1/4 mile graded walk which almost all undertook.

Unfortunately the view from the north east escarpment was clouded by a murky atmosphere, but the drive down the eastern fall was well worth the effort. The group returned through White Swamp.

As several members had not seen Killarney, the party broke up at Old Camindah and those interested returned through Killarney and Elbow Valley while the remainder followed the outward route through Liston and Amosfield to home. An interesting feature of the outward journey was the number of lizards sunbaking on the road. These were in the main Bearded Dragons and Blue Tongues, but one Land Mullett was sighted on entering the rain forest region.

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D.Orr.

Our President and Committee
Extend to all our
Members, Readers and Friends
S E A S O N S G R E E T I N G S.
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