

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.

Monthly Newsletter of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club.

No. 36

March 1973

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, Cwth. Bank Bus. hours.	
Editors	Mr. I. Jackson and Mrs. D. Orr.	
Newsletter Sub-Committee	Mrs. B. Krautz and Mrs. W. Cathcart.	
Librarian	Mrs. Z. Newman	
Publicity Officer	Mr. F. Wilkinson	
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>
Red Rock Gorge - Camp-out	24th-25th March	Mr. G. Marsden and Mr. I. Jackson.
Boorook	15th April *	Mr. B. Leisemann.
Castle Rock	20th May	Mr. R. McCosker.

Meetings:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
Birds	28th March	Mr. C. Cameron
Adventures with Malcolm Wilson	11th April *	Mr. M. Wilson
Brookvale Park	23rd May	Mr. L. Cockburn
Photographing Wildflowers	29th June *	Mr. M. Hodge

\* PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGES FOR THE ABOVE MEETINGS!!

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Did you Know: The reason fish are usually dark on top and light underneath is that this helps protect them from enemies. Seen from above, they look dark like the ocean or river bed. Seen from below, they seem light, like the light surface water.

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March 1973

THE GRANTE BELT NATURALIST.Minutes of General Meeting held 28th February, 1973.

Thirty four members were present with apologies being received from 8.

Minutes of previous meeting: Moved Mrs.J.Orr, seconded Mr.G.Marsden that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as written in Newsletter. Carried.Inward Correspondence: (i) The Queensland Naturalist  
(ii) Press releases from D.P.I.  
(iii) List of classes for 1973 - Toowoomba Adult

Education.

(iv) Newsletters from other Nats.Clubs.

Outward Correspondence: (i) Letter of farewell and appreciation to Mr.& Mrs.R. Tremeer.

(ii) Letter to Toowoomba Adult Education detailing next outing and meeting and requesting financial assistance for the next four guest speakers.

Moved Mr.I.Jackson, seconded Mr.G.Marsden, that the inward correspondence be received and the outward adopted. Carried.Treasurer's Report: Cr.Bal. \$25.94  
Subs. 8.00

Postage for Feb.

\$33.94

Credit Bal.

1.23

\$32.71Moved Mrs.G.Leisemann, seconded Mrs.H.Stevens that the Treasurer's Report be accepted and accounts passed for payment. Carried.Outings Reports: Mrs.J.Harslett reported on the last outing to "The Signpost" to which 45 members journeyed.

Next outing to Red Rock Gorge to be led by Mr.G.Marsden &amp; Mr.I.Jackson.

Next meeting Mr.&amp; Mrs.C.Cameron, "Birds".

General Business: The main items to come out of the February committee meeting were:-

(i) Decision to get quotes for club badges.

(ii) Car stickers to be investigated after badges are made.

(iii) A rubber stamp "Your subscription is now due" to be used on newsletters at the appropriate time.

(iv) The constitution is to be updated.

(v) A letter of appreciation to be sent to Mr. &amp; Mrs.

R. Tremeer.

Moved Mr.M.Passmore, seconded Mrs.J.Harslett the above items receive attention.

A show of hands expressed little interest for a club organized trip to Carnarvon over Easter, so it will be up to the interested members to arrange the trip privately.

Expenses for Mrs.J.Orr were approved and Mrs.Orr thanked members for the good supply of material for the newsletter.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m. after which Mr. Frank Gurney lectured on "First Aid in the Bush".

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Did you know: A shell is the hard outside covering of a living thing? It is made by the creature itself, or its parent. Shells are made from any of several substances. Nut shells are made of woody material called "lignin". Some shells are made of calcium carbonate (lime). Others are made of "silica" which is the material glass is made of.

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THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.FIRST AID IN THE BUSH:

An ant sting, sprained ankle, scalded foot or a broken arm, are only some of the many misfortunes any one could meet on an outing in the bush. To know what to do in the event of any such thing happening can be the maker or breaker of the day.

At our last meeting Mr. F. Gurney outlined some of the main points for first aid in the bush.

No matter how small or large the injury maybe, three points are to be remembered:

1. Preserve life,
2. Promote recovery and
3. Prevent the injury or illness from becoming worse.

TICKS: From Q'ld to eastern Vic. and in W.Aust. occurs the tick. Secreting itself mostly, but not always in body crevices the engorged tick is globular and ¼" in diameter.

TREATMENT: DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REMOVE THE TICK. Apply kerosene or turpentine liberally over the tick to kill it. The tick should then be left alone and medical aid sort for its removal. By trying to remove the tick its head could be left behind thus causing a dangerous situation.

SPIDERS: Normally only two species of Australian spiders can cause fatalities. These are the RED BACK found throughout Aust., and the FUNNEL WEB found mainly in and round Sydney and the eastern coast of N.S.W.

TREATMENT: If the bite is on a limb, apply a constrictive bandage above the bite i.e. above the knee or elbow. Wash the bitten area and apply a cold compress. Immobilise the limb and keep the casualty at rest, and do not delay in seeking medical aid. The bites of other spiders are not known to be dangerous although pain and local swelling may result.

BEE, HORNET, WASP AND ANT STINGS: Remove the sting if present - pulling sideways with a fingernail as the sting is a barb. If pulled straight out, more venom is injected. Apply metho. or weak ammonia.

SPRAINS, STRAINS AND BRUISES: A strain is the result of overstretching of a muscle or tendon. A sudden onset of sharp pain is usually felt and the injured part is painful to move.

A sprain occurs when the ligaments which bind the bony surfaces together are forced beyond their normal range.

A bruise is a haemorrhage into the tissues of the body.

TREATMENT: Rest or support the injured part and apply ice packs or cold compresses or immerse in cold water to reduce swelling and control haemorrhage.

AVOID MASSAGE. If doubtful about the injury treat it as a fracture. NEVER TRY TO REDUCE OR RETURN DISLOCATIONS ETC. TO THEIR ORIGINAL POSITIONS.

CUTS, ETC.: Wash the cut well to remove dirt etc. Apply direct pressure if bleeding does not stop. If bleeding persists, apply a restrictive bandage above the knee or elbow if on a limb, or bandage with a pad to apply pressure if in other areas. DO NOT WASH AWAY BLOOD CLOTS. Cuts which require medical attention are those with gaping edges, puncture wounds, wounds with severe bleeding, wounds in dangerous areas such as the chest and face or wounds where there is a possibility of dirt or broken glass still present.

HAEMORRHAGING FROM THE NOSE: Sit the casualty up with the head slightly forward. Loosen all tight clothing around the neck, chest and waist. Keep casualty cool with a free supply of fresh air. Instruct casualty not to blow nose and ask him to breathe through his mouth.



THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.FIRST AID IN THE BUSH Cont.:

Place cold wet towels on the neck and forehead, replacing frequently. Apply pressure on the flap of the nostril for about 10 minutes.

BURNS AND SCALDS: A burn is damage to body tissue caused by exposure to excess heat occurring from fire, flame, hot objects, electric current, sun's rays or friction.

TREATMENT: Remove the casualty from danger and prevent further burning by putting out burning clothes or washing away corrosives. Hold the burned area under the cold water tap, or put in a stream or pour cold water over the burn. Cold compress after irrigating the burns with cold running water will greatly reduce the swelling and pain of burns. Clean handling and clean covering with clean dressings will help prevent infection in burns. **DO NOT APPLY ANY OILS OR GREASE TO BURNS AND DO NOT BREAK BLISTERS.** A burn is worst 48 hours after it has happened.

A Scald is a burn from moist heat such as hot water or steam. Treatment is the same as for burns.

FRACTURES: Fractures occur whenever a portion of the bone structure is bent or broken and are of three types, simple (where the skin is not broken) compound (where a wound is present) and complicated (where damage has been done to some important external organs).

The patient should not be moved until the fracture has been immobilised, with splints etc. Control any haemorrhage and elevate the injured part. PERSONS WITH SUSPECTED SPINAL FRACTURES SHOULD NOT BE MOVED.

SNAKE BITE! Usually puncture marks about half an inch apart are present and sometimes scratching from other fangs. If on a limb apply a constrictive bandage and wash well the skin around the bite. KEEP CASUALTY CALM.

A constrictive bandage can be made from a belt, tie, handkerchief, but not from shoelaces, cord or rope. The bandage must be released after 1½ hours and re-applied above or below the original site. NOTE: Cutting through the puncture marks is not now recommended by first aid authorities.

**NEVER GIVE ANY CASUALTY ANY FORM OF SPIRITS OR ALCOHOL.** IF casualty is able to swallow give warm tea or coffee or milk sweetened with sugar.

**IN ALL CASES REASSURE THE CASUALTY AND DO NOT PANIC.**

From an address by Mr.F.Gurney.

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KOW SWAMP REVELATIONS:

In recent years a great deal of interest has been shown in Australia's archaeology. Several sites are being painstakingly investigated at present, and the latest find from Kow Swamp, some 120 miles north of Melbourne has caused great excitement. Kow Swamp is an ancient burial site of the aborigines, which was first opened up in 1960. Since then some forty human skeletons have been unearthed along with grave goods such as stone tools, shells, animal teeth and ochre. Fifteen of these heavily mineralised adult skulls are sufficiently well preserved to allow detailed study.

These skulls do not resemble those of man, Homo sapiens, being quite thick with massive and prominent brow ridges, whilst the back of the skull is bun shaped with a clearly defined horizontal ridge marking the point of attachment for the neck muscles. The teeth are very worn, and set in unusually large lower jaws. Similar features are rarely seen in other examples of prehistoric Australian man, in fact such features closely resemble those of the heavily boned Homo erectus who flourished in Java some 700,000 years ago.

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.KOW SWAMP REVELATIONS Cont.:

The point of interest is that the Kow Swamp specimens are only 10,000 years old. It is known that strains of Homo sapiens were present in Australia at least 15,000 years ago, so the Kow Swamp find represents the isolated remnants of an even earlier population, and probably one of the last colonies of Homo Erectus, before they became extinct.

M.PASSMORE

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"The Signboard".

The February field outing took us to less frequented parts of the district adjacent to the National Park. It included, first a visit to the site of the proposed lodge and craft recreation centre. By good fortune one of the promoters, Mr. Ken Taylor, was up for the weekend and he willingly showed our club around, and expressed the view that as people we probably all held similar thoughts and ideals to those they hoped to achieve in building this complex.

Bill Goebel was a tower of strength and an informative leader for the rest of the day, and the consensus of opinion by a good attendance of members, was that it was a splendid outing.

Bill showed us some of the early land marks, old mill sites etc., and then after lunch at Dr. Roberts Waterholes - where several feared they might stay, because of the boggy nature of the road even though Bill assured everyone there was nothing to worry about and as usual he was quite right - we climbed the adjacent hill known as "The Signboard" (not the "Signpost" as it appeared in the last newsletter). It has also been suggested that it was a sawyer, not a surveyor, who lost his life from this rock - please not two corrections from the previous newsletter - I apologise for the mistake.

There was a tremendous area of large slabs of rock to climb about. The rather austere faces of granite were dotted with incredible and numerous shapes created by the weathering. These created much interest and comment and imaginations were fertile as to what they represented.

The origin of the name of "The Signboard" is not known, but the fine panorama from the top and the number of well known points in the National Park area which could be pointed out, suggest to some perhaps this was the reason.

JEAN HARSLETT.

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MR. & MRS. C. CAMERON:

We welcome as our Guest Speakers to the club this month Mr. Christopher Cameron and his wife Mary. They are journeying from their property "Rockwood" Chinchilla to present this programme to us and we are grateful to them for making the effort. Earlier this month Mr. Cameron spoke to a large group of the Q'ld Naturalists and kindred organizations in Brisbane and reports of this are good. He and his wife were recent visitors to Masthead Is. and had some exciting experiences with bird observations.

I had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Cameron at work on Fraser Is. when a party of people interested in many facets of nature recorded a cross section of the potential, for furthering the cause of the Island's preservation.

Mr. Cameron is currently president of the Chinchilla Field Nats. while his wife is responsible for the design of their Club's badge (a scarlet robin is depicted) Some may not have seen the badge, but it is represented on their bulletin, which we receive.



THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.Mr. & Mrs. C. CAMERON Cont.

Mrs. Cameron, before her marriage, was the artist at the Queensland Museum. Some of the recent dioramas are her work and also she assisted in the illustration of the museum's publication "Birds of Brisbane and Environs" and numerous other museum activities.

We hope that this programme will be enjoyed by many and I'm sure those specifically interested in birds will enjoy this evening.

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CAMP=OUT - RED ROCK GORGE:

I was "red faced" when I discovered that instead of leading the campers on the "camp-out", I would have to go to work, however every one will receive a bonus because Mr. G. Marsden and Mr. I. Jackson have come to the rescue and will be the leaders for the week-end. They both know the area very well and I can assure everyone of a most pleasant and enjoyable camp-out.

The owner of Red Rock Gorge has kindly consented to allow the Stanthorpe Field Nats. to camp on his property. Mr. Walsh has requested that no rubbish be left behind, specially tins and plastic material. So Nats. please co-operate.

On arrival the cars will be left on the road-way near the house, then there will be a pleasant walk into the gorge, For the faint hearted Mr. Bob Harslett (he thought I was going) will provide a 5 ton truck to transport all the equipment to the camp site.

After erecting the tents and seeing that everything is ship-shape, there will be time for a walk along the side of the gorge which will permit a very good view of the gorge face.

On Sunday, the party will go into the gorge and traverse along the gorge for some distance, then make its way out and come back to camp via Sheep Station Creek.

The truck will leave from Mr. Walsh's house between 12 noon and 12.30 p.m. Assemble at Weeroona Park by 9.45a.m. Depart no later than 10.a.m.

WAL CATHCART.

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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

*Tiligua nigrolutea*, *Morelia spilotes variegata*, *Cercartetus nanus*. To most people these names mean nothing, but if one was to write, Blotched blue-tongue, carpet snake or pygmy possum, every one would have a grasping of what was being talked about.

Most of us have neither the time nor inclination to learn great lists of scientific names when we feel the common "every day usage" will do. Even though this may be the general line of thought, no harm is done if we take the trouble to find out what a scientific name means.

When an animal is classified, it is given a scientific name made up of two words. The first word of the name is its genus which is written with a capital letter and the second word written with a small letter, is the species. Latin is usually used for the scientific name and this name is for useage throughout the world, no matter what the local language may be. From country to country or district to district, common names may vary, according to language or dialect. An example is *Tiligua scincoides*, known in scientific literature by that name only, though in common speech it may be called "blue-tongue lizard" or "sleepy lizard".



WHAT'S IN A NAME Cont:

The scientific name is usually found printed in italics and is often followed by the scientist's name (in ordinary print) who gave the species its name.

In some cases a trinomial system is used to denote races or sub-species. e.g. *Tiligua scincoides intermedia* is the sub-species *intermedia* of the species *Scincoide* of the genus *Tiligua*.

I suppose *Limnodynastes tasmaniensis* could well describe a frog,  
Or be words uttered when in a bog.  
But when *Cereopsis novae-hollandiae* describes a goose  
I think some poor "bird's" brain was loose.  
Emu, cat, kangaroo or crested hawk,  
Is so much easier than scientific talk,  
But, it is not for us to say  
For this seems to be the scientists' way.  
*Melithreptus validirostris* to mean a bird?  
And other names unheard!  
I am sure if I quoted *Retaeyenohdellib gnorts*,  
Many would tie themselves in knots;  
Or give themselves a pinch  
To find *Hcnif arbez* was a Zebra Finch.  
To us poor fellows of the fray,  
The Aussie language is here to stay -  
So, when some one says "*Canis familiaris dingo*"  
you can reply "Yes, I know they did not go,  
But we did and had such fun  
Talking and walking in the sun".

R.A.D.

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WALKING - A DYING ART.

Since the next outing may involve a little more walking than usual, it may be interesting to think more about this simple, little action.

Strictly speaking, walking consists of putting one foot after the other and keeping upright at the same time!

Nature has gone to a great deal of trouble to make this possible, at the same time ensuring that man is different from any other mammal by curving the base of the spine in what is in fact, a very odd manner. It seems a shame that after all this effort, which must have taken aeons of time before there was any real result, man should have now come to rely less and less on his legs and more and more on wheeled transport. This especially so as it still remains the cheapest form and usually the most interesting method of progress. Agreed its not the fastest, but speed often kills interest.

You might think there isn't much to the actual process. Just one foot after another - that's all there is to it. Or could there be more?

There could, and indeed there is. Two people could walk 10 miles - use identical equipment, beequally fit - one could be fresh, the other exhausted (indeed he has forgotten the trouble nature has been to and would be quite happy to crawl on all fours!!)

Like all sports, walking has a special key, and that key is rhythm. You cannot hit a cricket ball, play golf or tennis or ride without rhythm, neither can you walk easily without rhythm of movement; and it comes with practise. The foot should always come down flat on the ground, not too much on the heel nor on the toe. This may sound like making a lot out of nothing

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST.WALKING - A DYING ART Cont.

but remember in 10 miles there will be approximately 20,000 paces! Even a tiny amount of effort reduced 20,000 times is a real consideration.

The army knows all about this, have you watched the rythum of troops marching?

Walking is a perfect exercise. Have you ever noticed you soon get warm walking, this is because it exercises so many muscles at once - yes, the ideal exercise.

A stout stick is a great help, and in hilly country it serves a definite purpose. Discovering real walking, as opposed to haphazard strolls, is an exciting experience.

The more and more we advance, there is more and more routine, more and more specialization. The spirit of adventure, of seeking and finding seems on the way out. Make the most of leisure hours by doing something to offset the artificial life - travel light - don't be afraid to spend a night out of your routine (tomorrow you return to it!)

Sir Edmund Hillary went out into the open air for fun as a boy - as a man he conquered Mt. Everest!

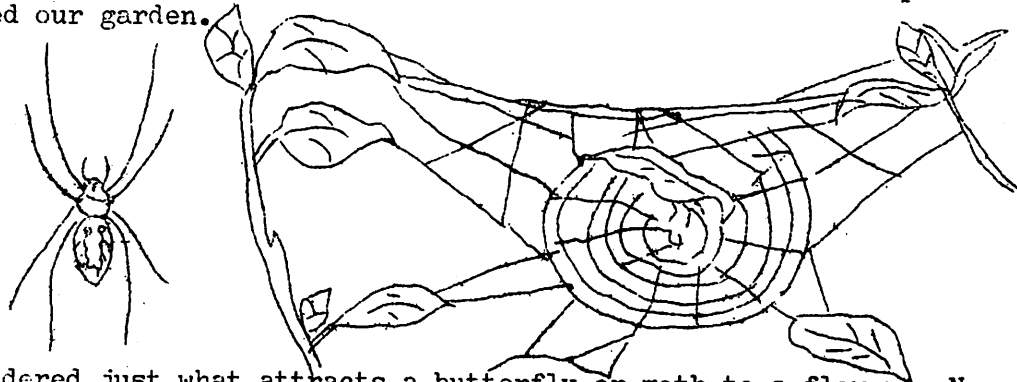
See you at Red Rock!

(Extracts from "The Open Air is My Hobby"  
by Eric Leyland. )

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SPIDERS:

Our garden is at present overrun with spiders of the family ARGIOPIDAE (Pronounced ARG-ce-OPE-i-dee) genus Phonognatha (pronounced FO-no-NATH-a) or to give them their common name Leaf Curling Spiders. The family to which these belong is the Wheel Web building spider, but these spiders have cleverly combined this method with a shelter for the spider in the centre of the web. This shelter is usually made from a dead leaf which the spider hauls into position near the centre of the wheel then curls and binds it with silk to form a narrow tube in which to hide. There are two common species of this spider, one having a grey body with black underside and the other being mainly light brown with attractive green and yellow patches on the abdomen. It is this latter species which has invaded our garden.



I have often wondered just what attracts a butterfly or moth to a flower. No doubt the experts could tell me, but last week I was intrigued to find one of the common brown butterflies with all the eyes on the wings fascinated by the red light attached to my power point! It spent over half an hour hovering, landing and circling this bright spot on the wall until I turned the power off when the butterfly with another hover and circle decided to leave my kitchen.

J. ORR.

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