

JULY 1974

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST

Monthly Newsletter of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club.

NO. 51 JULY 1974

P.O. Box 154 STANTHORPE

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE 1973-74

PRESIDENT	Mr. F. Wilkinson
VICE PRESIDENTS	Mr. R. Leisemann & Mrs. Harslett
SECRETARY	Mr. E. Walker (Phone 888)
TREASURER	Mrs. G. Leisemann
EDITOR	Mr. I. Jackson
NEWSLETTER SUB-COMMITTEE	Mr. & Mrs. W. Cathcart
LIBRARIAN	Mrs. Z. Newman
PUBLICITY OFFICER	
FLORA OFFICER	Mrs. D. McCosker
FAUNA OFFICER	
GEOLOGY OFFICER	Mr. P. Higgins
YOUTH OFFICER	Mr. G. Marsden
BUSHWALKING OFFICER	Mr. R. McCosker

ACTIVITIES

MEETINGS:	4th Wed. of each month at C.W.A. Rooms, 8.00 p.m.
OUTINGS	Sunday preceeding 4th Wednesday

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

SINGLE \$1.50 JUNIOR (Full-time Student) 50c. FAMILY \$2.00

PROGRAMME

<u>FIELD OUTING:</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LEADER</u>
WILSON'S PEAK CONNOLLY DAM	21st July	Mr. N. Butler

MEETING: 24th July (Bring along slides taken on  
outings during past year  
please)



Present	36	Apologies	7
---------	----	-----------	---

Meeting opened 8.00 p.m.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Moved by Mr. F. Gleeson, seconded Mrs. J. Stevenson that the minutes of previous meeting be confirmed.

## INWARD CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter from Mr. R. Moncrieff re June lecture.
2. Newsletters from other Nats. Clubs.
3. Letter from Adult Educ. re Speakers fee approval.
4. Copy of letter sent to Q'land. Nats. Clubs from France. (see extracts)

OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter to Stanthorpe Council re Land Utilisation Study.
2. Advertising copy & monthly return to Adult Education.

## TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance Brought Fwd.	\$33.00
Accounts	8.34
	<hr/>
Credit Bal.	\$24.75

Moved by Mrs. G. Lasemann and seconded Mrs. Z. Newman Treasurer's Report be accepted.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES: It was decided to hold the copy of the letter from France until the next meeting to enable more members to consider its contents. General context being: "We are a group of students from different fields such as Law, Economics, Sociology, Zoology etc. we have a common ideal which is nature, and its preservation; as such, we are organising trips overseas to get acquainted with the local fauna, flora, and the people themselves. As Secretary of the Movement I have been asked to prepare a study tour of Australia for a group of 15 students who all speak good English, the purpose of this trip is beside the visit of as many as possible national parks and natural reserves, to make a report on the fauna and flora of the region and on the managing of those parks, we should also proceed to the making of a colour 16 mm film. etc. etc. ... I am looking forward to coming to Australia in mid-November this year as our group has decided to send me here to be able to prepare this trip which is planned for July and August '75. What we would like to get is people who know their local fauna or flora and could help us as guides to show us the points of interest in your region" and so on..... (Sgd.) A. J. Braun, Sec. M.I.P.N. 75015 - Paris, France.

JULY 1974

GENERAL BUSINESS: Nominations for future Office Bearers was discussed and several suggestions made. Further nominations have been called for and members are requested to have these on hand for the next meeting. Members are also reminded that subscriptions for the 1974/75 period are now due. A request was made for slides taken on the outings of the past year to help in the compiling of "Remember last year". Tea and bikkies afterwards. Mr. W. Newman suggested that we again contact the Rural Fire Board to arrange publication of burning off advice. Suggestion moved Mr. W. Newman and seconded Mr. N. Butler.

OUTINGS: Mr. F. Wilkinson reported on the June outing to Bald Rock - 32 attended.

Mr. N. Butler will lead the next outing to Connolly dam and if the weather is not the best has an alternative route planned so whatever the weather it will be a really good day. Members are asked to assemble at the usual time (9.30 a.m.) and proceed to the Summit, cross the railwayline at the Sawmill, continue straight ahead towards Dalveen, look for NATS signs, meet Noel and he will then decide which area we will visit.

CLOSURE: Meeting closed at 9.15 p.m. following which Mr. R. Moncrieff gave an illustrated lecture entitled "Settling Southern Queensland".

BALD ROCK OUTING:

The decision to go to Bald Rock was motivated by the fact that Jean went off to Ayers Rock so we had second best - Bald Rock. There are 6000 acres around the Rock, which is a State Park and covers 1000 acres. Thanks you to the Flinns for starting off the members from the Stanthorpe Park as although I was leading (?) I went early to put up signs and to repair some bad places in the track leading from the main road.

Thirty two, big 'uns and little 'uns turned out and the day was perfect weatherwise, most had a cuppa and we set off on the climb, which for me was steeper than it was a few years ago. Three eagles gave a soaring display whilst we climbed, it was no effort for them apparently!

Before we topped, three trail bikes came up and passed us, also seemingly without effort, however, the view on top was reward enough for us, a 360° panorama was presented to us, with Mt. Lindsay dominating to the north and if I remember correctly, Mt. Norman towards the south. On top Brian identified a specimen of Eucalyptus Andrewsii and another gum which he could not place. Coming down we took



JULY 1974

a southerly course and passed a dwarf cypress, callitris, formerly known as meulleri, which is also to be seen on Mt. Norman and the Lamington Plateau.

We passed large patches of two species of orchids, one the tongue orchid, deddrobium lingui-forme, then came across some N.E. Blackbutts, Euc. Andrewsii, and two species of gum we could not name. Further down we encountered an example of what pressure will do. Several large flags of rock about three inches thick and a couple of yards across had been forced up to form a natural "bridge" about 9 inches above the surrounding rock.

After lunch we followed the creek down and this necessitated some vigorous rock hopping. Some quite deep crevices were seen with water moving along under, and also an almost perfect cleavage plane on one large rock about 12 ft. by 6 ft. both surfaces, had they been horizontal would have made excellent table tops.

Several healthy looking bird's nest ferns were seen, also dozens of rock lily orchids (dendrobium speciosum) which should be worth seeing when in flower. Another cuppa and we started our way homeward to be stopped by an excited Dulcie who had treed a half grown spotted tiger cat (Dasyurops Masculatus) which inspected us with as much interest as we inspected it, though it had no camera to focus on us. I must confess this was the first "Tiger Cat" I have seen in the bush.

On the main road my attention was drawn to a nearby rabbit warren on which occasionally black, ginger and white rabbits have been seen. They were not in evidence today but we saw a grey rabbit chasing a magpie, which took to the air to get away. That's the truth!

Frank Wilkinson.

ooo000ooo

OF ALL THE THINGS YOU WEAR YOUR EXPRESSION IS THE  
MOST IMPORTANT.

ooo000ooo

Haven't we been having a rather cold spell members? Take heart Spring is just around the corner. Quite close to town there are quite a number of Snowy River Wattles (Acacia Boormani) in bloom, quite a few natives and wild flowers peeking out too.

ooo000ooo



JULY 1974

"SETTLING SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND"

Our Speaker for last meeting was Mr. Bob Moncrieff who was to speak on the early days of southern Queensland. A rather informal approach captivated his audience and the first portion of the evening was taken up viewing a number of colour slides, some of them unique insofar as they dealt with little known customs of our aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. The journey we had via slides was from across the Simpson Desert (the first crossing by motor vehicle) these days there is a procession going across - thence to Thursday Island and other northern parts.

We viewed the hunting of dugong and turtle and saw some good shots of sea eagles and a huge nest, it looked like one of our camp fires built ready to light when on one of our campouts. We saw a group of natives being "dressed" in preparation for a corroboree and the corroboree taking place, a number of rock paintings and some rare rock carvings. There are not many rock carvings done by our aborigines. A number of sandhills, the Birdsville track and other shots of dry watercourses which are raging torrents every few years. One lonely grave was by a water course and belonged to a young daughter of a driller who put a pipe enclosure around the grave. Wind had blown the sand up above ground level.

Mr. Moncrieff then gave a very interesting run down on the early exploration of the southern Down and our border area. Mr. Robin McCosker introduced Mr. Moncrieff to the members and on the termination of his address Mr. Noel Butler, in moving his vote of thanks mentioned that the first Butlers came here in 1858, so were not so far behind the explorers.

F. W.

ooo000ooo

During a forthcoming Executive Meeting it is proposed to schedule outings and leaders for the ensuing 12 months and we feel sure that many of you have places you are keen to re-visit or see for the first time. Would you all put on your thinking caps and have your suggestions for these outings ready for this meeting on Wed. evening.

ooo000ooo

Don't be too sure about anything. Remember, a hole is nothing at all, but you can break your neck in it.



Recently I became acquainted with a lady who claims to have been the first white child born at Rivertree. She remembers the pit built of bricks near the old smelter in which the skeletons of two goannas were seen by the Nats. She told me that she and her brothers used to get long sticks and chase snakes into the pit for fun. They saw a snake under their house one day and set a tin of milk on the ground. Soon after a snake came out and she ran to tell her mother who gave her a gun. When she got out she found that the snake had been joined by two others and sang out "There are three there now - which one will I kill?" She shot two of them and the third cleared out.

D. Wiseman.

ooo000ooo

Frank and Jean Milne have a married daughter living in a Granite Belt area in Canada, St. George. She has been so impressed with what Jean and Frank have told her of our Nats. Club that she has commenced one among her pupils, and in turn some of their parents have been impressed and are now endeavouring to form an Adult Club, and that's how it all begins. So now we can look forward to an interchange of information between some Canadian Nats.

ooo000ooo

The hardest thing to explain is something you had no business saying in the first place.

ooo000ooo

Soon.....The miracle,  
The awakening , stirring sigh,  
The eager eye  
Of new-found youth to laugh and sing  
About the miracle,  
That men call Spring.

(A.N.)

ooo000ooo