

August, 1974.

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALISTMonthly Newsletter of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club

No. 52.

P.O. Box 154, Stanthorpe,
Q., 4380.Officers and Committee 1974-1975

President	Mr. F. Wilkinson
Vice Presidents	Mr. N. Butler
	Mr. M. Passmore
Secretary	Mr. D. Pfrunder
Treasurer	Miss G. Lancaster
Newsletter Editor & Typist	Mrs. M. Flinn
Newsletter Sub Committee	Mr. & Mrs. Cathcart
Librarian	Mrs. Z. Newman
Publicity Officer	
Flora Officer	Mrs. D. Mc Cosker
Fauna Officer	Brian McDonagh
Geology Officer	Maurice Passmore
Youth Officer	Geoff Marsden
Bushwalking Officer	Robin McCosker
Committee Members	Mrs. Jean Harslett
	Mr. Errol Walker

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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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PROGRAMMEFIELD OUTINGS :

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LEADER</u>
Red Rock Gorge	August 25th	Geoff Marsden
<u>MEETING :</u>	August 28th	"Across Sturt's Stoney Desert"
		Noel & Edwin Bonner.

NOTE: Time of Departure from Weeroona Park for next outing on August 25th will be 8 a.m. - owing to 20 mile drive and the 4 mile walk to the Gorge.

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MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING HELD 24th July, 1974.

Meeting opened at 8.15 p.m. with 33 members present and apologies received from 5.

MINUTES of previous meeting - It was moved by Mr. D. Pfrunder and seconded by Mr. W. Cathcart that the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting be confirmed. CARRIED.

TREASURER'S REPORT -INCOME AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 24th July, 1974.

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditures</u>	
Magazines subscriptions	\$ 54.00	Rent of P.O. Box	\$ 7.00
Sale of car stickers	9.70	Secretary's Expenses & Stationery	3.57
Refund $\frac{1}{2}$ share Camera Club use of P.O. Box	3.00	Magazine - Stationery	25.80
Bank Interest	1.28	Duplication	27.00
Membership Subscriptions	39.00	Postage	18.00
		Car Stickers	15.00
	<u>\$106.98</u>		<u>96.37</u>
Balance 25th July, 1973	19.22	Balance 24th July, 1974	29.83
	<u>\$126.20</u>		<u>\$126.20</u>

Moved by Mrs. G. Leisemann and seconded by Mrs. T. Archer that the above Annual Financial Statement be adopted. CARRIED.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT -

The President, Mr. F. Wilkinson presented his annual report expressing pleasure at the good attendances at meetings and outings. The co-operation of members, the co-operation of leaders of outings and the standard of guest speakers had ensured a very successful year. The President also paid tribute to the efforts and enterprise of the retiring Secretary, Mr. E. Walker and thanked Mrs. G. Leiseman for her work as Treasurer.

The President moved the adoption of his report. Seconded by Mr. D. Pfrunder. CARRIED.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS - Officers were elected for the year 1974-1975 as listed on Page 1.

Annual Meeting closed at 9 p.m.

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MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD 25th July, 1974.

This meeting followed the Annual Meeting with 33 members present and apologies from 5.

MINUTES of Previous General Meeting - It was moved by Mr. D. Pfrunder and seconded by Mr. R. McCosker that the minutes of the previous General meeting be "taken as read" in the last news letter. CARRIED.

BUSINESS

Motion - re letter from A.J. Braun, Sec. M.I.P.N. 75015 - Paris, France That we inform the Queensland Naturalists Club of our willingness to co-operate in providing accomodation and volunteers to assist in the study of this region. Moved by Mrs. M. Flinn and seconded by Mrs. Milne. CARRIED.

Inward Correspondence -

- (i) Letter from the Stanthorpe Shire Council thanking the Club for its comments on the Land Utilization Study - Granite & Traprock Areas.
- (ii) Newsletters from other Nats. Clubs.
- (iii) A Photo Report on Queensland Fauna Conservation, D.P.I.
- (iv) A D.P.I. Press Release re Koala shooting.
- (v) "Order in Council" re open season on wild-life under the "Fauna Conservation Act. of 1952".

Outward Correspondence -

- (i) Letter to Rural Fire Board re advising safe burning-off period for local landholders in this district.
- (ii) Advertising of meeting and outing activity and monthly return to Adult Education.

Moved by Mr. D. Pfrunder and seconded by Mrs. M. Flinn that the Inward correspondence be received and the outward adopted. CARRIED.

TREASURER'S REPORT - see Annual Treasurer's Report.

Moved by Mrs. G. Leisemann and seconded by Mrs. T. Archer that the Treasurer's Report be adopted. CARRIED.

OUTING REPORT - Mr. Noel Butler reported on the outing to Wilson's Peak and Connolly Dam on 21/7/74.

It was moved by Mr. N. Butler and seconded by Mrs. J. Harslett that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. Mick Burkhardt for assisting in the arrangements and his help on the outing. CARRIED.

NEXT OUTING: Red Rock Gorge. Leave town early - 8 a.m. Leader - Mr. G. Marsden. DATE - Sunday, August 25th.

NEXT MEETING: DATE - Wednesday, August 28th. GUEST SPEAKERS - Noel & Edwin Bonner. SUBJECT - "Across Sturt's Stoney Desert".

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Mrs. Archer volunteered as typist for next months Magazine.

Discussion on the newly declared Mt. Banca and Caves Fauna Reserve.

Discussion on visit to district by Dr. John Swan, Queensland University and success in locating rare specimens.

Meeting closed - 9.45 p.m.

After Meeting Programme:- "Remember Last Year" complied and presented by Mr. R. McCosker.

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OUTING REPORT - July 21, 1974.

After the usual gathering at the Park the outing commenced by the group travelling to our property "Belmont Orchard" at Dalveen.

When everybody had arrived and assembled, a short talk was given by Noel as to where we were going for the outing. We then proceeded to have a very quick look at water harvesting, this system is unique in this district by the virtue of the large amount of water collected and stored for later use off a small area of land. We then commenced our journey proper by wending our way through natural bushland up to the Rabbit Fence which at this stage is not only the top of the range but also the border fence between the two states and also the watershed for the Clarence and the Condamine River systems. Whilst travel-

Outing continued -

ling along the fence unknown to most of the party we crossed the very early coach road from Canning Downs to Maryland Station. A short journey along the fence we stopped to view those familiar land marks known to most of the group, extending from Sundown to Bald Rock. Off we went again for a short drive and then stopping once again to view more scenery from our property "Belmont Park" this time we were looking from East by North to West which gave us a grand view from Maryland Station to Wilsons Peak, the Killarney area parts of the Darling Downs, Cunningham Gap, the Railway Tunnell and the village of Dalveen. After many comments on the beauty of the landscape, we re-joined our transports and set sail for the lime quarry at Silverwood. This part of our journey took us down the old Warwick Road, passing St. Barnabas Church of England which now could almost be classed as Historic, and then along by Cherry Gully and in the shadow of the Gap Mountain, by-passing Warwick we arrived at Connelly Dam at 12.30 for Lunch. Here we were met by our co-guide, Mick Burkhardt, who many members of the party thought was the official gate opener. After a pleasant break for lunch we once again set off for the lime quarry where all spent a couple of hours looking and learning about some of our beloved country which most of us had never seen before. The usual cuppa was partaken and the singing of Happy Birthday to Marjorie Sweet and the familiar farewells our group departed for their homes.

One certain family were so keen to go on this outing that they even forgot to bring their cut lunch. Another was in so much of a hurry he put too much 'Metho' in his radiator.

Our group consisted of about 50 friends from the very young to our very loving not so youngs. A big thanks to Mick Burkhardt for his part in the outing and thanks to you all for joining us in the outing.

Mavis & Noel Butler.

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SNAKE BITE - by Larry Bwoke - taken October/73 issue of "DOWN UNDER"

There seems to be quite a deal of confusion as to just what is the best first-aid treatment for snakebite. Advice differs from book to book and in one book (published in 1969), the author, on one page, advises against lancing and then on another page advises that a razor blade is an essential part of a snakebite kit and goes into some detail as to how to carve someone up. In an effort to find out just what the latest ideas are, I visited the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories. This article is based on information supplied by them.

The classical venomous snakebite is two punctures close together. This may occur. However, quite often this pattern may be modified due to:

- (a) more than two puncture marks due to erected or partly-erected reserve fangs which normally lie horizontal behind the erect functional fang, to be brought into use when the operation fang falls out or is broken.
- (b) the snake biting several times in quick succession leaving a correspondingly increased number of punctures.
- (c) small abrasion or linear laceration caused by the snake's teeth either during the actual bite or while the snake is being removed if it remains attached after biting.
- (d) no apparent puncture marks due to the small fangs of the Austra-

Snake Bite continued - lian venomous snakes.

Unless a semi-circular row of teeth marks is seen, the bite cannot be assumed to be from a non-venomous snake.

The initial bite may be no more painful than the prick of a needle or thorn. There is usually no pain, swelling or visible reaction at the site of the bite and symptoms may not appear for up to twelve hours. The symptoms by venomous snakebite are often transient. Any one of the following symptoms occurring in a person claiming to be bitten by a snake indicates a venomous variety: vomiting, headache, sudden loss of consciousness, pain in the groin (in cases of a bite on the lower limb) abdominal pain, pain in the armpit (in the case of a bite on the upper limb), coughing, spitting or vomiting of blood, blood-stained or "black" urine, tenderness of glands in the groin or armpit. Sometimes the first sign or symptom is drooping of the eyelids and difficulty in seeing, speaking or swallowing.

When a person has been bitten by a venomous snake, the absorption of venom into the general circulation must be prevented or delayed as much as possible until it can be neutralised by an appropriate anti-venene. The Commonwealth Serum Laboratories recommend the following procedure.

1. Remove the snake as quickly as possible if it remains attached. Kill or immobilize it so that it is available for identification only if possible within four or five seconds and if it involves no risk of further bites.
2. If the bite occurs on a limb, apply a tourniquet around a single-boned portion of that limb between the bite and the heart. Complete cessation of the circulation must be achieved. The tourniquet should be released every 20 minutes for not more than 30 seconds to allow fresh blood to enter the limb. If antivenene has not been given after two hours it should be discarded.
3. As soon as the tourniquet has been effectively applied (or if a tourniquet cannot be applied) the wound should be washed thoroughly and sucked vigorously to remove any venom which may have been deposited on the skin or in the superficial tissues. If water is not available for washing, saliva or urine may be used instead.
4. Since exercise will increase the flow of venom through the circulation, it is very important to keep the victim still. He should be kept warm, reassured as much as possible and prevented from walking about. Where possible, the affected part should be immobilised in a sling or splint.
5. Snake venom contains a neurotoxin which causes muscular paralysis. If there is difficulty in swallowing, give nothing by mouth, and nurse on the side with head down and turned to one side. If the jaw or tongue is paralysed, an airway should be inserted or the tongue grasped and pulled forward. If breathing is impaired carry out artificial respiration - mouth to mouth if necessary. Alcohol should be strictly avoided.
6. Observe the patient closely after the bite. Paralysis, if present, may progress further and lead to respiratory obstruction and insufficiency.

There are a few procedures which were common in the treatment of snake bite a few years ago but which now have been discarded. Incision, the deep lancing in the region of the bite, in knowledgeable or

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Snakebite continued:- practised hands and performed within the first few minutes after the bite could be useful in giving greater access to tissue for the useful application of sucking and in promoting blood loss from the wound when the tourniquet is temporarily released. If done expertly and expeditiously the cuts may do no great harm. The main objection is that the first-aid may sever a nerve, vein, artery, or tendon and even an experienced person may easily miss cutting the area where the venom is deposited, as venom is not usually injected in one spot, but along the curved track made by the fangs. This direction of the tracks is difficult to determine. Excision of the envenomed area is another practice not now favoured. Excision is the raising of the area of flesh surrounding the bite and cutting off this raised flesh. It both shocks and disfigures the patient without adding much to his prospects of an uneventful recovery.

Condy's Crystals (Potassium or sodium permanganate) were once an item in every snakebite outfit, but they should not be used as a first-aid measure. Their powerful oxidising properties will bring about destruction of a lot of tissue but an insignificant quantity of venom.

Death from snakebite may occur from under three hours to over 24 hours. The following figures were taken from 91 cases of fatal snakebite before antivenene was introduced. 8.8% died in under 3 hours, 7.7% in 3-6 hours, 15.4% in 7-12 hours, 26.3% in 13-24 hours, and 41.7% in over 24 hours. 82% did not die until at least 7 hours after being bitten, indicating that there should be adequate time to reach medical attention even in potentially fatal cases. These figures, however, apply only to fatal cases, and many people bitten by venomous snakes do not develop any symptoms or only mild to moderate symptoms.

BIBLIOGRAPHY -

"Treatment of snakebite in Australia and New Guinea Using Anti-venene" August, 1969. This is a pamphlet published by the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories.

"Venomous Australian Animals Dangerous to Man" - by J. Ros. Garnet - published in 1968.

The above may be obtained (the pamphlet is free) from the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories, Bread House, 49 Gregory Terrace, BRISBANE. Phone 21 4766.

Further information is available from: The Director, Commonwealth Serum Laboratories, Parkville, Melbourne, Vic.3052.

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HAVE YOU NOTICED - in spite of the frosty mornings - nature is donning her gay dress once more. Wattle Trees are a lovely sight - and the gay bulbs are bursting forth. Spring is on its way.

STOP PRESS - Don't forget our next OUTING to Red Rock Gorge - SUNDAY, AUGUST 25th and the change of leaving time -- 8 A.M. from Weeroona Park.