

Monthly Newsletter of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club.

P.O. Box 154, Stanthorpe
Queensland 4380.

Officers & 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 & Typiste	Mrs. M. Flinn
Newsletter Sub-Committee	Mr. & Mrs. W. Cathcart
Librarian	Mrs. Z. Newman
Flora Officer	Mrs. D. McCosker
Fauna Officer	Brian McDonagh
Geology Officer	Mr. M. Passmore
Youth Officer	Geoff Marsden
Bushwalking Officer	Robin McCosker
Committee Members	Mrs. Jean Harslett
	Mr. E. Walker

ACTIVITIES

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

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Single - \$1.50	Family - \$2.00
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PROGRAMMEFIELD OUTING:

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LEADER</u>
The area all around Brian McDonagh's Property for a wild- flower outing	Sunday 20th October	Brian McDonagh

<u>MEETING:</u>	Wed. 23rd October	"New Zealand" holiday with Errol Walker.
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NOTE: Time of departure for next outing is 9.00 a.m. from
Weeroona Park for arrival at McDonahgs at 9.30 a.m.

Oct. 1974

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER, 1974:

The meeting opened at 8.15 p.m.

Present 15
Apologies 12

PRESIDENTS OPENING REMARKS:

President extended welcome to all present. The meeting observed two minutes silence as a mark of respect for the passing of Mr. Dick Harslett.

President extended thanks to the Rover Scouts for their efforts in compiling the September newsletter.

Minutes from August General Meeting:

Moved Mrs. T. Archer and seconded Mrs. W. McCosker that the minutes be taken as read in the newsletter be confirmed.

Inward Correspondence:

Return thanks from Mrs. Bessie Harslett & family, Mr. & Mrs. Bob Harslett and Mrs. Joan Paskin.

Letter from Mr. I. Jackson with \$1.50 sub.

" " Mr. J. De Roo enclosing \$2.00 for sub.

" " Rural Fire Board acknowledging our letter, and including an article on bushfire lore.

Press releases from D.P.T. on new Wildlife Laws approved and Crocodiles protected in Queensland.

Newsletters from other Nats. Clubs.

Outward Correspondence:

Letters of Condolence to: Mrs. Bessie Harslett & family
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Harslett
Mrs. Joan Paskin
Mr. & Mrs. W. Cathcart

Monthly report of club activities and advertising copy off meeting and outing activity to Board of Adult Education.

Moved Mr. D. Pfrunder and seconded Mr. M. Passmore that the inward and outward correspondence be received and adopted - carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Balance	28.8.1974	\$31.75
Sept. income		57.30
Bal. 25/9/1974		<u>\$89.05</u>

Accounts to be passed for payment -	Postage	\$3.35
	Flowers	\$8.00

Moved Miss G. Lancaster and seconded Mrs. Wilkinson that the Treasurer's report be adopted and accounts passed for payment. Carried.

OUTING REPORT: Geoff Marsden reported that there were 17 people on the Red Rock Gorge outing on Sunday Sept. 22nd. The 3½ mile hike in to the Gorge from Walsh's homestead was quite a rugged one but the return 3½ mile was more like 10 to the "oldies" in the party. However, the hike was well worth the end result, the scenery was magnificent. Who would ever credit that there could be so many orchids growing on the rocks in this area and such lush growth at the bottom of the gorge. It was also very interesting and exciting for us all to watch Robert and Geoff showing their prowess with a rope descending the gorge cliff face. I am sure it never ceases to amaze us at the dreadful hardships some of the early settlers in this district had to face, the incredible feat of hauling timber and tin out of the area must have been a herculean task. What a variety of "babies" we saw too, Mrs. Walsh was hand feeding 4 young lambs who could barely stand they were so young, and how about all those baby "bunnies" in the paddocks? Weren't they great to watch? The bird life was not as prolific as one would have imagined, perhaps because this is such a dry area. En route also the party saw an old dingo fence of 12 plain wires believed to have been erected in 1886. It really was a great day out and our thanks to Geoff for his efforts to make it such a success, also a special thanks to the Walshs' for permitting one and all to pass through their most interesting property.

NEXT OUTING: Brian McDonagh's area - Leader to be Brian, on Sunday 20th October. Depart Weeroona Park 9.00 a.m. to arrive at Brian's at 9.30 a.m. This is a noted wildflower area and it is proposed to take a short walk prior to lunch with a longer one after lunch.

NEXT MEETING: October 23rd, at C.W.A. Rooms.
Guest Speaker - Mr. Errol Walker - subject - New Zealand.

GENERAL BUSINESS: Discussion took place on supplies of stencils and stationery for the newsletter. Extra front covers have been printed. Discussion also on November camp-out to Gibraltar Range National Park by Mrs. J. Harslett. Discussion on handbook by Australian Conservation Foundation. Moved Mr. Passmore and seconded Geoff Marsden that a letter be written to the Conservation Foundation requesting that the Stanthorpe Club be included in their directory. Carried.

Meeting closed at 9.45 p.m. After the meeting programme Mr. Maurice Passmore presented a very enlightening, interesting and well illustrated lecture on the Continental Drift.

Oct. 1974

DONNELLY'S CASTLE:

How long since any of you have been to the "Castle" lately. Lions Club members deserve a pat on the back for their beautification of the area. It is one of the loveliest picnic areas in the district and well worth taking people to see, especially with so many wild flowers out in the area.

THE IBIS

The Ibis was a god in Ancient Egypt, probably because they followed the Nile floods on which the people depended. Today the various species are still the farmer's friend because of the large number of insects they eat. Australia has 3 species - the straw necked, the white and the glossy, all of which also occur overseas.

The straw-necked ibis "THRESKIORNIS SPINICOLLIS" (translated as the sacred bird with the spiny neck) is by far the most common in this district. Some years we see lots of them, and other years none. There can be some confusion when examining illustrations of them, as invariably these show the birds in nesting plumage, with distinctive yellow feathers hanging from the neck. These feathers appear to be absent from most birds seen here.

The white ibis "THRESKIORNIS MOLUCCA" is not very common here, and appears to be more of a wader than the straw-necked. It is white, with a black neck and tail.

The third species - the Glossy Ibis "PLEGADIS FALCINELLIS" (translated as sickle-beak) is quite a rare bird, and does not appear to have been recorded from this district. A slightly smaller bird than the other two, it is a red-brown colour with a greenish tinge on the wings.

All the ibis nest in the inland swamps, the nest frequently being made by bending lignum stems to make a platform. They nest in large colonies, often the three species together. Perhaps the most impressive thing about the Ibis is his flying ability. After the exertion of getting well airborne they rarely move their wings, and can literally glide until they are out of sight.

B. McDonagh.

Did you know - "Marriage is a wonderful institution that allows two people to suffer together difficulties they would never have had if they hadn't married".

STRENGTH FROM A GARDEN

Robert Louis Stevenson, who delighted so many with his stories of the past wrote - "The calm and certain stay of garden life" - how true! Many people, young and old, have found the truth of this. They have discovered that because a garden has infinite power within itself to recover and continue amid the stresses and demands of life, it can, in some very wonderful way, pass these qualities on to those who love it. The past ministers to the present, in the life of a garden, Marion Henderson has pointed out that Britain chiefly owes its garden beginnings to the Romans who planted laurel trees, figs, sycamores and myrtles, in the gardens they built in the centre of their beautiful homes. Then the monks, who came after the Romans, carried on the gardening traditions. Pilgrims and crusaders brought back the cherry, strawberry, tulips and pinks which were introduced into British gardens. As the english speaking people spread throughout the world, they took with them their gardens. Not the plots of earth on which beauty and usefulness flourished, but the seeds from which they sprang. In the wilderness of America "John Appleseed" planted apple seeds as he trekked across Pennsylvania. In your own garden, how many trees, shrubs and flowers, fruits and vegetables are there because in the not-so-distant past someone brought them, laboured to nurture them, awaited their blossoming.

Walk into the quietude of your garden and you are surrounded by the evidences of what one generation owes to another. Think further: out of this inherited beauty, strength and staying power have come. What we are, in character and worth, owes much to what has been bequeathed to us from those who have gone before. Nor should our thoughts stop there. As we are the inheritors of the past, so we are - or should be - the benefactors of the future. Every time we spend a period of effort and love in the garden, we are doing something of note and worth for the future. Others are going to benefit from our labours.

There is more in the thought than this; the strength and staying power we get when, by contemplation and resolve, patience and forethought, we build up a garden, plant these virtues for the help and guidance of future generations. So remember, your consolation and solace is not selfish. It is something from which only YOU are deriving help. Through you it is going on to future generations. No one knows where and how it will benefit the future.

This, perhaps is a lesson more than any other that our present generation needs to learn. We work, suffer, endure, and all in order that others may be helped. And how can this be done alone? How, any more than a garden, can we be developed without the Infinite power that lives within the warm earth?

This eternal strength is all around us, and within, if we would only stop and let it take control. We can, indeed, do so much.. Most we cannot do: only the inward life of the soul can bring that to true fruition. "Underneath", wrote a wise man long ago "are the everlasting arms." A figure of speech that enshrines an infinite truth.

Extracted from "Your Garden" Aug.1968

Some Helpful Hints for the Home Gardener:

Encourage the insects to return to your garden by refraining from using any of the dangerous synthetic compounds, and by using the natural compounds only when absolutely necessary and in the smallest quantities. Remove by hand those insects which are definitely doing damage, but try to make sure the insect is not a useful predator or parasite whose good work will far outweigh its temporary destructiveness. Never condemn an insect on sight: remember, a very few species are harmful, many are directly useful, and the majority have at least a biological value which is of some indirect service to Man. Encourage native birds - which being insectivorous, can do only good - to come to the garden by growing some of the plants they like, in particular eucalypts, banksias, melaleucas and grevillias. If birds are present in the garden, it will not be possible to use spray or dust without doing them some harm, even if you only destroy some of their food when you use a natural insecticide. Don't race for the spray when you see a few aphids, try the old old method of just plain old fashioned pure soap and water, it works wonders. Try crushed garlic and an oil mixture for the cabbages and caulies.

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THE CONTINENTAL SHELF:

Mr. Maurice Passmore went to such a lot of trouble to illustrate his talk on the Continental Shelf last meeting and his notes are so excellently prepared I feel it would be doing him an injustice to split them into several sections over a period of months. Would anyone who would like an illustrated copy of these notes please give me a ring at Stanthorpe 177 and I will be happy to have them duplicated for you.

The Editor.

MEMBERS: PLEASE NOTE!!!

Remember this is your magazine, how about some articles on any interesting topic, don't worry about putting them together in sequence or correctly punctuated, we will look after that for you and other people really ARE interested in what you have to say about some of your interests.

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October 1974.