

Monthly Newsletter of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist ClubP.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. J. 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:

Place	Date	Leader
Gibraltar Range National Park, N.S.W.	23rd & 24th Nov.	Mrs. Jean Harslett
Week-end camp out.		

<u>MEETING:</u>	Wed. 27th November	New Zealand holiday with Errol Walker
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NOTE: Time of departure for week-end camp out is 10.00 a.m.
from Weeroona Park 23rd Nov. (Some plan to go down
Friday evening).

Nov. 1974

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 23RD OCTOBER, 1974

The meeting opened at 8.10 p.m.

Present	35
Apologies	10

PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS:

The President welcomed members and guest speaker for the meeting, Mr. Robert Simcocks. The President outlined the reasons for the the change of plans for the after-meeting activity being changed from the advertised lecture on New Zealand to the lecture on Rock Climbing by Mr. Simcocks.

Minutes of September General Meeting:

Moved Mr. D. Pfrunder and seconded Mrs. Marsden that the minutes "taken as read" in the newsletter be confirmed.
Carried.

Inward Correspondence:

Letter of return thanks from Mr. & Mrs. W. Cathcart.
Letter from Mr. Bill Barker enclosing cheque for \$4 for 2 years subscription.

Press Releases from the D.P.I. (1) re "Joey" kangaroos cannot be kept in suburban back yards.
(2) re Heavy fines for advertising or dealing in native birds.

Newsletters from: Q'land Naturalist Club No. 69
Toowoomba Field Nats. Club No. 255
National Parks Assoc. of Q'land. Vol. 44 No. 7

Outward Correspondence:

Letter of application to the Australian Conservation Foundation Inc. applying to have our Club included in their directory.

Monthly report of Club activities and the advertising of the meeting and monthly outing activity submitted to the Board of Adult Education.

Moved Mr. D. Pfrunder and seconded by Mrs. Z. Newman that the inward correspondence be received and the outward adopted. Carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Balance C/f. 25.9.74	\$89.05
Income - Subs.	11.00
	<u>100.05</u>
Less expenditure -	
Floral Tribute Mr.	
Harslett	8.00
September Postage	<u>3.35</u>

Balance as at 23.10.1974 \$88.70

Motion - Moved Mr. D. Pfrunder and seconded by Mr. M. Passmore that the Treasurer's Report be adopted and accounts passed for payment - carried.

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Outing Report:

Mr. Brian McDonagh reported that 40 attended the outing to Girraween National Park in his area on Sunday 20th October. The outing included a walk along Bald Rock Creek before lunch and a climb during the afternoon. The outing embraced a noted wildflower area and between 40 and 50 species of wildflowers were located.

Next Outing:

Gibraltar Range National Park Camp-out.

Leader - Mrs. J. Harslett

Date Sat. Nov. 23rd and Sunday Nov. 24th, 1974.

Departure Time - Sat. morning 10.00 a.m. at Weeroona Park.

Next Meeting:

November 27th, 1974 C.W.A. Rooms 8.00 p.m.

Guest Speaker - Mr. Errol Walker - subject New Zealand.

General Business:

Discussion on Mining Application to mine the Pinnacle, a limestone formation located in the only scenic area and containing some unique flora between Texas and the Glen Lyon Dam.

Motion - Moved Mr. T. Archer and seconded by Mrs. Marsden that the Club object to the proposed mining lease to mine the Pinnacle area - carried. Mr. M. Passmore volunteered to make the objection submission on behalf of the Club.

Discussion on policy of the Club towards conservation issues.

Notice of motion - Submitted by Mr. B. McDonagh that this Club does not give more than moral support to conservation issues which this club has not first hand knowledge.

Closure: 9.15 p.m.

After Meeting Programme:

A lecture by Mr. Robert Simcocks on rock climbing which included a display and explanation of equipment and gear required, and movie film illustrating the techniques of rock climbing.

REPORT OF THE OUTING ON 20TH OCTOBER, 1974.

A total of over 30 members attended all or part of the day. The morning consisted of a ramble up Bald Rock Creek, particular interest being shown in the two spots where the creek travels underground for a considerable distance. The second such place, the limit of our morning walk, is quite spectacular, as the creek seems to come directly out of the face of a mountain into a pool about 40 yards by 15 yards. Wildflowers noted during the morning were Phebalium ambiens, generally seen in higher country, Calytrix tetragona, Pimelea, Conospermum longifolia and Westringia amabilis. In a damp spot on the bank of the creek we found a group of Drosera auriculata, a tiny sundew with attractive red leaves. These were particularly colourful probably because they were in

complete shade. Of fauna, we saw 2 kangaroos, rather rare here, and a yellow-faced whipsnake. We also saw much evidence of wild pigs. After lunch we climbed to a shelf on the mountain and added considerably to our list of wild flowers.

Two ground orchids were seen, *Glossodia major* and *Caladenia carnea*. Some flowers of *Olearia grovis* were seen, but this was a big disappointment, as before the last bushfire there were acres of them in the valley. That area is now almost impenetrable wattle thickets. But what we really came here for was an area of about an acre of mixed *Callytrix* and *Kunzea Capitata*, varying in height from about a foot to over 6 feet, all in full bloom.

The next spot had a wildflower flora of a *Boronia* of an unknown species, *Boronia omebalis*, *Leucopogon biflora*, *Phebalium Stenophyllum*, *Hakea propinqua*, and a mintbush of which we are not even sure of the genus. All of these are very showy plants, and it is a pity that the undergrowth was so thick. Other species of wildflowers seen during the day included *Isopogon Petiolaris* - drumsticks. *Styandra glauca*, *Micromyrtus*, *Baeckea*, two species of *Zeria*, *Stylidium loricifolium* - trigger plants, *Patersonia* - the wild iris, two species of *Hibbertia*, *Clematis aristata*, *Dodonea triquata* - green fruited hops, two species of *Stackhousia* and *Kerandrenia Lillii*. *Kerandrenia* is an interesting plant, a rather small straggly shrub up to 6ft. high. The underside of its long narrow leaves are covered with rusty coloured hairs. It belongs to the *Currajong* family, the petals have almost completely disappeared, and the purple sepals are the showy part of the flower. The only obvious relationship to the rest of the family is in the seed pod. Everybody who was on the trip could add considerably to this list.

One sidelight to the outing was the discovery of the occupied nest of a buff-tailed thornbill. The nest was about the size and shape of a cricket ball, with a side entrance, and placed in a bush a few inches above the ground. The nest was cleverly camouflaged with pieces of bark and contained 3 young.

B. McDonagh.

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THE "GOOD OLD DAYS" - Extract from Brisbane "Truth" 24/8/1902.

"one of the curious results of encouraging export of frozen meat from Queensland is the meat famine which now exists in Brisbane. London consumers have been buying Queensland mutton and beef at 3d. to 6d. a pound respectively, while Brisbaneites are paying from 5d. to 8d. per pound. The mass of the people of this State are suffering in high prices now to find Londoners in cheap beef and mutton."

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GIBRALTAR RANGE CAMP OUT 23-24TH NOV. 1974:

Depart - Weeroona Park 10.00 a.m. 23rd Nov. (Some plan to leave Friday night)

Directions:

Proceed south along New England Highway through Walla Warra Tenterfield, Deepwater, Dundee. (NOT to Dundee Railway Station, but to the small settlement public hall and few buildings on the main highway and Severn River. One mile south of Dundee take bitumen road to the left signboarded Bald Knob. Seven miles further on you will join the Gwyder Highway to Grafton. Proceed in direction of Grafton, passing through the Mitchell State Forest at 10 miles, and about 13 miles from this point you will arrive at the Gibraltar Range National Park Visitors Centre, which is adjacent to the highway on your right. However, some may wish to deviate a short distance off the highway, to right at sign to Raspberry Lookout - to view the vistas of ranges and valleys. From the Visitors Centre we proceed to right, 6 miles (10 km) to Mulligan's Hut - the camping area - tables, toilets, facilities, water and swimming in Dandahra Creek.

Description of the area:

The Gibraltar Range National Park is situated on the Gwyder Highway half way between Glen Innes and Grafton, with a visitors Centre on Dandahra Creek, as the Park headquarters. Mr. Rollie Payne is in charge here and there is a small display of specimens and photographs. Mr. Payne is a well known Naturalist and photographer, author of a recently published Australian wildflower book, and many other natural history writings. He has a magnificent photographic record of the rare Rufous Scrub Bird (photographed in this park), and many other fine bird pictures, and is known for his ornithological work. Some of the interesting birds are Rufous Scrub bird, lyre bird, rifle birds, painted pittas - platypus are not uncommon in the mountain streams.

The Park is 38,000 acres of elevated granite plateau rising above 1220 metres (3000ft) with a large wilderness area, as well as some developed parts. Botanically it is made up of heathlands (rich in wildflowers) heath swamps, (typical New England tableland and very interesting) Eucalyptus forests and on the eastern escarpment where there are very steep slopes - they are clothed with sub-tropical rain forest. Christmas bells are found in the swamps, also the emblem of N.S.W., the Waratah grows here (also currently in full bloom) The waratah had become so familiar in the Hawkesbury sandstone areas and it was quite startling botanical news a few years ago, when the waratah were found growing in profusion and rubbing shoulders with granite boulders. The area has only fairly recently been opened up, when the Gwyder Highway took a new route over the plateau, instead of along the river as it used to. Some waratahs can be seen from the main highway and are at present in flower.

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Proposed Activities:

- (1.) Walk to Anvil Rock. 2 Km. (Bill Goebel tells me it is a good 2 Kms. but a good graded track).
- (2.) Walk from Mulligans Camp into the gorge. (This takes you into the rain forest and is a steep scramble in the nature of Boonoo Boonoo track.)
- (3.) Pleasant short walks or swims along the creek adjacent to the camp.
- (4.) Some may wish to tackle the wilderness areas for longer walks.
- (5.) Mr. Payne will not be available on the Saturday evening but has suggested another member of his staff will be available for a talk and film screening of slides of the area.

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Magpie Chatter:

In the Ballandean area it is reported that a family group of magpies have built three nests, with roughly a hundred yards separating each one. In one nest a bird is sitting but the other two appear to be unused although visited from time to time. Graeme Chapman in "Common Australian Birds of Town & Gardens" states that magpies congregate in non-breeding flocks or in family groups of up to 10 birds. Flock birds spend their days in open treeless paddocks returning at night to wooded areas to roost, but family groups live in territories of up to 10 acres. He notes that males often have more than one mate and more than one nest can be found in their territory. An interesting fact is that the longest movement recorded for a magpie is about 20 miles, although they normally stay within a few miles of their birthplace.

Z.N.

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