

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 & Typist	Mrs. M. Flinn
Newsletter Sub-Committee	Mr. & Mrs. W. Cathcart
Librarian	Mrs. Z. Newman
Flora Officer	Mrs. D. McCosker
Fauna Officer	Mr. B. 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 Wed. 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:The Junction
XMAS BARBEQUEDATE :

15th December

ORGANISERS

Mr. & Mrs. McCosker

NEXT MEETING:Wed. 20th January,
1975Members are requested
to bring specimens
tapes of bird calls
etc. for after meeting
activity.JANUARY 1975 OUTING:Third Crossing in
Ballandean area.

Sun. 19th January

Departure time is
9.30 a.m. from
Weeroona Park.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 27th NOVEMBER, 1975.

Meeting opened at 8.05 p.m.

Present	40
Apologies	6

The President extended a welcome to members and the number of guests present at the meeting.

MINUTES OF OCTBER GENERAL MEETING:

Moved Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. I. Jackson that the minutes be "taken as read" in the newsletter be confirmed.
Carried..

INWARD CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter from Stanthorpe Shire Council re National Estate.
Letter from Mr. M. S. Moulds, Greenwich, N.S.W. expressing his wish to join the Club and receive the Granite Belt Naturalist.
Letter from Mr. M. Passmore enclosing \$2.00 sub. from Mr. P. Higgins.
Letter from Mr. E. Miles enclosing cheque for \$2.00 sub.
Invoice and account from S. Lee & Co. for 1000 printed magazine covers and 500 plain white, with a note that the full quantity ordered was not available. Cost for quantity supplied \$19.40
Newsletters from: Q'land Nats. Club No. 70
Toowoomba Nats. Club No. 256
Univ. Speleological Society Vol.13 No.. 4

OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter to Board of Adult Education applying for Speaker's Fee for Mr. E. Walker.
Monthly report of Club activities and the advertising of the meeting and monthly activities submitted to Board of Adult Education.
Motion: Moved Mr. D. Pfrunder and seconded Mrs. J. Harslett that the inward correspondence be received and the outward adopted. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

Motion. Moved Mrs. J. Harslett and seconded Mr. W. Cathcart that the letter from the Stanthorpe Shire Council re National Estate be studied by a meeting of the Committee.
Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance B/Fwd. 23.10.74	\$88.70
Income for month - Subs.	18.00
	<u>106.70</u>
Expenditure for month - Oct. postage	1.65
Balance, 27th November, 1974.	<u>\$105.05</u>

ACCOUNTS TO BE PASSED FOR PAYMENT:

S. Lee & Co. Covers for Magazine \$19.40

Motion - Moved Mr. N. Butler and seconded by Mr. D. Pfrunder that the Treasurer's report be adopted and accounts be passed for payment. Carried.

OUTING REPORT:

Mrs. J. Harslett reported that the weekend Camp out held on 23/24th November at the Gibraltar Range National Park was particularly successful with 45 attending.

The President extended thanks to Alex and Jean Harslett for their efforts in arranging such as successful camp-out, and also thanks to all who turned up.

Motion - Moved Mrs. J. Harslett and seconded Mrs. R. Marsden that letters of thanks be sent to the Park Ranger, Mr. R. Payne, for his help in arranging the outing and to Mr. J. Riepon, to thank him for showing slides of local orchids. Carried.

NEXT OUTING:

Motion - Moved Mr. W. Newman and seconded by Mrs. N. Butler that the Christmas Barbeque be held on December 15th. Carried. Organisers for Christmas Barbeque - Mr. & Mrs. McCosker, to be held at the Junction.

JANUARY OUTING:

Scheduled for Sunday 19th January, 1975.

Motion - Moved Mrs. N. Butler and seconded by Mrs. R. Marsden that the venue for the January, 1975 outing be the "Third Crossing" in the Ballandean area. Carried.

Departure time 9.30 a.m. from Weeroona Park.

NEXT MEETING:

January, 22nd, 1975. C.W.A. Rooms 8.00 p.m.

Motion - Moved Mr. F. Wilkinson and seconded Mr. N. Butler that the After Meeting Programme for the January meeting take the form of a "Members Night" where members are requested to bring and discuss specimens, tapes of bird calls etc. Carried.

NOTICE OF MOTION:

Submitted by Mr. B. McDonagh at October meeting:- That the Club does not give more than moral support to conservation issues of which this Club has not first hand knowledge.

Seconded by Mr. N. Butler. After considerable discussion the notice of motion was carried by 21 to 9 with a few abstentions.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Discussion on Membership Drive.

Reminder that car stickers are still available from the Club.

VENUE AND DATE FOR COMMITTEE MEETING:

January 8th, 1975 at Mr. F. Wilkinson's home. 8.00 p.m.

CLOSURE: 9.05 p.m..

AFTER MEETING PROGRAMME:

New Zealand Holiday by Mr. E. Walker. A wide selection of outstanding slides depicting New Zealand taken by Mr. Errol Walker and Mr. W. Cathcart

EDITOR'S COMMENTS:

During our weekend at the Gibraltar National Park it was observed that a series of posters has been printed by the National Parks Service in N.S.W. depicting wildflowers, birds, flora and fauna in the Gibraltar area. There is a series of 5 of these, for approx. \$3.00 the set. As they were unobtainable at the time the Ranger suggested we write as a Club to obtain our requirements. Would all those interested in having this excellent colour series please phone the Editor at 177 and this will be followed through.

WEEKEND OUTING 23RD - 24TH NOVEMBER: A party of 46 visited Gibraltar Range National Park. Some journeyed down on Friday and had the pleasure of waking to a beautiful morning. Bill and Zadie Newman were up at the crack of dawn to track down lyre birds and have a splendid recording of the superb lyre bird, made in Hakea Picnic Grove. One of the birds had a splendid repertoire. Nests of the Weaver bird (local vernacular name) for the large-billed Scrub wren were found. These have a side entrance and are hooded with rootlets and lichen, which swing from a slender branch. The dainty wine-glass shaped nest of a Rufous Flycatcher was also found. The Rufous Flycatcher, russet in colour, has the greatest "sail area" of wings, in ratio to its body weight of any bird in Australia. A ctually 55½ sq. inches to an ounce of bird, hence it is as mobile as a butterfly and a sheer joy to watch in action. The guiding of the party was shared by my family, beginning with a trip to Anvil Rock on the Saturday afternoon - wasn't that an awful long 2Km by the way? However, there was so much to see we were kept occupied - how many waratahs was that you photographed? As well as many groups of waratahs we saw quite a lot of Boronia Microphylla and other small flowering Boronia species. Purple match-heads (Comesperma Ericinium and Comesperma Retsum) brightened the trail, plus the large Golden Yellow Pea (Gompholobium Sp). Lots of Dampiera was in bloom (Blue D. Stricta & Purple D. Peirpurea) and scarvola, and a robust Solanum grew on the edges of the scrub.

I wonder who the featherhead was who managed to take along all the hot water, sugar and milk but forgot the coffee? What a let down after hiking so far and looking forward to that nice long drink at the end. I feel that more film was used on waraths than any other items of interest and it would be difficult to rate which was the greatest attraction, these or the beautiful tree fern forest, along with the very fine specimens of silver eucalypts (Mountain Ash)

Some members seemed disappointed that their blood was scorned by local leeches, but most came up to scratch!.

((to scratch a day or two later at least) A few ticks were also collected (even tho' in a National Park!)

Some of you queried the stringed off sections in the swamps and unfortunately we omitted to ask the Ranger about this point but doubt very much it was Real Estate Developers or American Buyers. Apparently Armidale University often conducts species population experiments by stringing off squares counting plant populations at regular intervals, so this is possibly the explanation. Saturday evening the party journeyed up to the Visitor's Centre where the Acting Ranger, Mr. John Riepon gave a programme on "Orchids of The Park". The slides were of a very high standard as was the photography, as Mr. Riepon has a Diploma from the London Institute of Photographers. The slides were in great detail depicting all salient points of even the tiniest orchids and had been collected by Mr. Riepon over a period of years in the area, in many cases following up Forestry clearing before the species became extinct. Quite a number of the orchids are still not yet positively identified as the Herbarium in N.S.W. has previously only found some of them coming from W.A. Mr. Riepon took most of the slides with a macro-lens with the aid of twin flashes run from a motor bike lamp battery. It would be really interesting to know just how many miles he has hiked to obtain these photographs, apparently 10 miles per day is quite common. We also learned quite a lot about how some orchids are very erratic in their blossoming and as yet the reasons for this are not fully explained.

The "pet" in the Visitors Centre was a small Sugar-Glider which sleeps on one of the shelves and after the meeting was over Frank and Ailsa Wilkinson were able to observe it at very close quarters, quite tame of course. Wallabies and bandicoots were quite plentiful in some areas and spotted by car lights was a marsupial mouse. Not to mention of course the Currawong who very smartly chewed through the plastic bag to sample Zadie Newman's loganberry tart - he really knew a delicious dish! During the Friday night we were disturbed by what was apparently native cats scrounging in the rubbish bins.

Saturday morning the bird watchers were abroad at 5.00 a.m. but were well regarded for their efforts at that hour and recorded many beautiful bird sounds. When they returned the camp was on the move and so were the mountain mists and low cloud. Nothing daunted the various parties set out for Tree Fern Forest and "The Needles", whilst others made the steep climb down to the Falls. On arrival at the spur from which the Needles were viewed, the low cloud was lifting and a memorable view of them was seen. A very deep valley closed in by steep hillsides, with a fast moving stream way down in the bottom. The solid granite tors had wisps of low cloud sweeping around them in a playful manner, and as a little sunshine streaked through, the scene was transformed into a really magnificent one.

We were pleased to have the Nielsen family and Merle Tonkin with us for the first time - thanks to the Stevenson family. There were a number of other members who regularly attend day outings, but had ventured, with a little trepidation, on a Camp Out - we enjoyed having you and hope you will try it again sometime.

Perhaps I should mention that members were so stimulated by the programme on orchids that they were really alert and on the lookout for them next day and amongst those seen were - Duck Orchids (*Caleana Major*), Pencil Orchids (*Dendrobium Teretifolium*) The purple flowering *Dendrobium Kingianum*, Orange Blossom Orchids (*Sarcochilus Falcatus*) and in the swampy areas the beautiful blue Sun Orchids (*Thelymitra Ixiodes*).

After the main party had departed on the Sunday afternoon, eight of us took a very interesting walk along the creek until we came to the Cascades, what a joy these were and again we found some very interesting *Callistemons* and *Melaleucas* and even some of the white flowering *Kunzea* still blooming. Lots of rock roses to and some great rock climbing for the more hardy in the group. Monday morning proved to be very warm so there was no doubt that the cloudy and misty conditions on Sunday were really ideal for the long hikes we did.

For those who went the full distance on the Sunday walk, our President, ever mindful of our needs, gave us each a small drink and some of Ailsa's rock cakes, but not including the large rock found in the bottom of his bag, which he had carried to the top of the mountain over those "long" kilometres. The moral is "NEVER LEAVE A HAVERSACK HANGING ON A TREE WHERE THE "BIG" BOYS LURK".

ooo000ooo

J. Harslett.

"GIRRAWEEEN" by Dorothy Thouard

High up in the Granite Belt,
Where the air is cool and clean
Nature has spread granduer
At a place called Girraween..
Rocky tors rise skywards
Like pyramids so high,
With granite boulders balancing
Just how, you'd wonder why.

And way back in the Dreamtime
When black men first did roam
Nature gathered great big rocks
To make their king a home.
Then built this mighty Castle
of granite rocks so tall,
It really is majestic and
Looks down over all.

And beyond that regal castle,
If you glance towards the sky
Mt. Norman has a Needle,
Which, of course, must have an eye.
And then there are the Ramparts
which stand on guard allday,
And there is an Aztec Temple
Where nature goes to pray.

In springtime there are blossoms,
Of many wildflowers bright,
And everflowing streamlets
Tinkle day and night;
As O'er the rocks they ripple
Until they do cascade
Down those graceful waterfalls
We know that God has made.

The beauty at the Junction,
Of those two creeks which flow
from the mighty Castle Rock
and the Pyramids also,
Is granduer at its very best
A most unusual sight
Is that expanse of well worn stone
In colours dark and light.

GIRRAWEEEN (Cont'd.)

Amongst the apple orchards
And pastures that are green
Is this place called Girraween.
'Tis a place of peaceful beauty
Where animals roam free
And birds sing joyful music
Just for you and me.

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THE BELLS ARE RINGING:

The bell is ringing. It hangs from a rough, wooden frame in front of the little church in the desert. The church, of whitewashed adobe, gleams like a jewel in the crisp, clear light early Christmas morning.

Many suns, many rains and many cycles of weather have aged the bell and the wooden frame holding it. The music of the bell is warm and mellow as it calls to those who will come out of the desert to worship on this Holy Day at the little church so proud and regal there in the desert.

The music of the bell goes beyond the desert, beyond the hills surrounding the desert, beyond the mountains, far, far beyond all creation, far beyond the boundaries of time, because other bells are ringing in other lonely little churches and in great cathedrals in great cities and the song of all the bells together is a mighty paean of praise proclaiming "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men." A million voices in hymnals raised cannot better honour the name of cherished our Lord Jesus born so long ago in a manger in Bethlehem and whose name grows in lustre with each passing year. May all the bells of Yule ring out for you and yours.

M.F.

On behalf of all Committeemembers for the Nats. Club I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all members and their families a Joyous Festive Season and a Prosperous and Happy New Year and to extend to all readers of our magazine Season's Greetings.

THE PRESIDENT.