

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB

P.O. Box 154, Stanthorpe
Queensland. 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. 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

ACTIVITIESMEETINGS

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 OUTINGS:PLACEDATEORGANISERS

Glen Lyon Dam &
The Pinnacle

23rd March, 1975

Ian Jackson

NEXT MEETING:

26th March, 1975

Mrs. J. Harslett -
Guest Speaker on "The
Channel Country"

OUTING DEPARTURE ON 23RD MARCH WEEROONA PARK AT 9.00 A.M. SHARP!

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 26TH FEBRUARY, 1975:

Meeting opened at 8.15 p.m.

Present 26
Apologies 6

The President extended a welcome to members and expressed pleasure at the good attendance.

MINUTES OF JANUARY MEETING:

Moved Mrs. F. Wilkinson and seconded Mr. I. Jackson that the Minutes of the January meeting be "Taken as Read" and confirmed as published in the Newsletter - carried.

INWARD CORRESPONDENCE:

Press releases from the Minister for Lands as follows:-

1. Kangaroo skins to be tagged - shooters taking kangaroos in Queensland after March 1st are required by law to attach a plastic tag to every skin.
2. Kangaroos not on United States banned list - imports of kangaroo products into the U.S.A. would be permitted once the Australian authorities had agreed to their export.
3. Open seasons for hunting Snipe in South eastern Queensland will be February-March and September-October. Permit required.

Letter from the Board of Adult Education advising approval for Speakers Fee for Mr. E. Walker but advising that application for travelling and Speaker's Fee for Mr. Noel Bonner was not granted due to lack of finance.

Also advice that Advertising cannot be paid by the Adult Education Centre at the moment but that the financial situation may improve by end of February.

Newsletters from:-

The Toowoomba Field Naturalist Club	- No. 258
The Queensland Naturalist Club	- No. 71.

Outward Correspondence:-

Monthly report of Club activities sent to Board of Adult Education along with advertising details of February meeting and outing activity.

Moved Mr. D. Pfrunder and seconded Mrs. T. Archer that the inward correspondence be received and the outward adopted - carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

Discussion on travelling expenses and speakers fees - general feeling of the meeting being that applications for travelling expenses and speaker's fees be in the main confined to visiting guest speakers.

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TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance Brought Forward - Jan 22nd 1975	\$81.15
Income for month - subs.	3.50
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Balance February 26th, 1975	\$84.65

Accounts to be passed for payment -	
Postage for November	\$2.92
" " February	\$2.67
Duplicating costs	\$5.00

Moved Miss G. Lancaster and seconded by Mr. W. Cathcart that the Treasurer's report be adopted and accounts be passed for payment - Carried.

Outing Reports:

Mr. F. Wilkinson and Mr. M. Passmore reported on the outing to Tooloom Falls on Sunday 23rd February. Outing and programme spoiled by the rain and only 10 people went on the outing. Attention of members is drawn to the availability of a Geological booklet and map of the Stanthorpe area - price \$2.00.

NEXT OUTING:

Sunday 23rd March 1975
Leader - Mr. Ian Jackson
Location - Glen Lyon Dam and The Pinnacle
Departure 9.00 a.m. Sharp

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday 26th March 1975. C.W.A. Rooms 8.00 p.m.
After Meeting Programme:
Mrs. Jean Harslett will speak on The Channel Country.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Moved Mr. B. McDonagh and seconded by Mr. W. Cathcart that future outings and meetings be advertised over Station 4 QS - carried.

CLOSURE: Meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

AFTER MEETING PROGRAMME: Guest Speaker - Mrs. T. Archer

Subject: To Canada and a White Christmas

REPORT ON OUTING TO TOOLOOM FALLS ON SUNDAY 23RD FEBRUARY, 1975:

As was the case over half of Australia, it was raining in the morning and most people expected a rather uncomfortable outing on the Eastern Fall. However, Frank (like a Governor on the advice of his Ministers) decided it would be a fine and cool day, which in fact, it was. So a small group of nine "and a half" set off for a pleasant day's outing, notable for the ecological relationships between forests and geology.

The Stanthorpe adamellites (sodium rich granites) extend to the Maryland River, and of course the forest types to that point are similar to those found in the surrounding district. However, from then on there are quite marked changes in the geology, reflected in the forests and also the land usage.

There is quite a significant drop into the Maryland River from the Granite Belt, and whilst the forest species are similar the height of the trees increases, reflecting the higher rainfall and higher minimum temperatures, we also find Ironbarks, which are conspicuously absent from the higher country.

The first major geological change occurs a mile or so to the west of Lower Acacia Creek, where the Stanthorpe adamellites of lower Triassic age are covered by the younger sedimentary deposits of the Marburg Sandstone series, which were deposited in the lower Jurassic (some 60 million years later). Gum Top Box, Grey Box, White Stringybark, New England Messmate, Rough Bark Apple and Smooth Bark Apple, are characteristic of this area. More obvious was the dark hard siliceous rocks on the road side. This is still cattle country, however, reflecting no marked improvement in soil fertility.

The Marburg sandstones give way to the Walloon Coal Measures of the middle Jurassic (30 million years later) where the sharp vertical sandstone faces so characteristic of sandstone country, are much more evident. We examined this series more closely at the Koreelah Bridge, where we found a thin seam of coal amongst the conglomerates, and greywacke associated with the sandstones. The dry sclerophyll forests are not very different from those on the granite, but species such as forest red gum replace Blakely's Red Gum, and the highly coloured bark of the Smooth Bark Apple stands out.

The bridge at Koreelah is also of interest. It is a reinforced concrete lower arch span type, a somewhat unusual design that requires very solid abutments. There was also an odd spider in one of the caves which kept several people counting legs for a while. It had lost one in its travels.

As we travelled on we began to notice the presence of the tertiary basalts which overlie this country, and which we know better from the Darling Downs and Killarney. The dramatic difference in fertility is reflected in the presence of rain forest, but as some of these soil nutrients are obviously leached down into the sandstones, we see much taller and straighter trees in the area. State Forests, where Forest Red Gum, Dean's Gum, New England Messmate, Brush Box, Bloodwood Ironbark, White Stringy and Rose Gum grow to large mill log proportions are to be found, and high quality pastures support dairy and fat cattle in large numbers.

These features were dramatically displayed from the Tooloom Lookout. The spectacular soil change from the Walloon Coal Measure to basalt was noted at the Tooloom Scrub, where the eucalypt forest changes in a couple of hundred metres to dense rain forest with its edge of tall straight white rose gums. These must be amongst the finest representatives of the eucalypts.

After a couple of detours, we finally arrived at the Falls which were not at their best as the water level was low. However, the colours of the hard silica cemented rock produced quite an effect. Unfortunately the rain finally caught up with us as we finished sharing lunch with the ants, so we did not really explore the area.

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One thing of note was the absence of birds. Perhaps it was the dull day but few small birds were evident, especially in the scrub where although hard to see, they can usually be heard on profusion. The open country had its share of crows, eastern rosellas, magpies, kookaburras, peewees, plovers, topnot pigeons, and the dams, especially one outside Wodenbong, were home to wood and teal ducks, waterhens, dab chicks and the like, but not egrets, spoonbills or cranes, which one would expect.

Two pretty faced wallabies also posed for the crowd along the way, while other scrub wallabies bounded across the road. The "perfumo" of a dingo provided evidence of there being more in the area under the protection of the forests. As the habitat is available one can only conclude that the wildlife is around, and that we just did not notice; but always there remains the suspicion of chemical pesticides, and the warnings of Rachel Carson.

M. PASSMORE.

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From President Frank -- Many thanks to Maurice for his excellent notes on our trip to Tooloom Falls.

Displayed at the next meeting will be a pair of SPENEY LEAF INSECTS. (EXTATOSOMA TIARATUM) found by members Mr. & Mrs. John Verri of Fletcher. They are not common, but never fail to induce their finders to make further enquiries because of their bizarre appearance. The adult female is wingless, rather short and heavy and remains more or less motionless amongst the leaves - her green colouration - with lighter and darker blotches matches her surroundings admirably. Her legs are flattened and expanded in a leaf-like manner, while the body is elaborated by "leaf like expansions" or "flaps". The whole body is covered in sharp spines. The head is surmounted by a high mitre like peak, which gives the insect a solemn gnome-like appearance, and its large eyes stare blankly into space.

The male is much more slender, brown in colouring and matching the matchlets. It is equipped with wings adequate for flight and some mobility.

The female at rest in the foliage may hang straight down, but mostly adopts an attitude with the abdomen arched, which affords much greater camouflage. The closely allied praying mantids have spined grasping forelegs for their carnivorous habits, but the spiney leaf insects do not have this and are only equipped for browsing on leaves. Gardeners sometimes find them on their rose, apricot or plum trees.

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NEXT OUTING - 23RD MARCH 1975: Glen Lyon Dam & The Pinnacle -

An area which has been the subject of many a "hot" debate, the Glen Lyon Dam will be the venue for our next outing. Those wishing to take part in this trip are asked to assemble at Weeroona Park at 8.45 a.m. so that we can leave at 9.00 sharp. Latecomers please refer to the map for directions. Glen Lyon Dam signs mark the route to be taken.

Depending on the condition of the weather, I hope to make a short stop at a couple of places of interest along the way. We will inspect the "Glen Lyon" dam village and the dam site and working area, then continue on to the Pinnacle. Lunch will be taken at a suitable place along the road. Please bring water if you intend to boil up as I cannot promise a creek bed site for lunch.

N.B. PLEASE FILL UP YOUR HUNGRY HORSES WITH FUEL, before you leave. This will be all you need as there are no fuel stops along the road. Total distance will be approx. 148 miles the round trip.

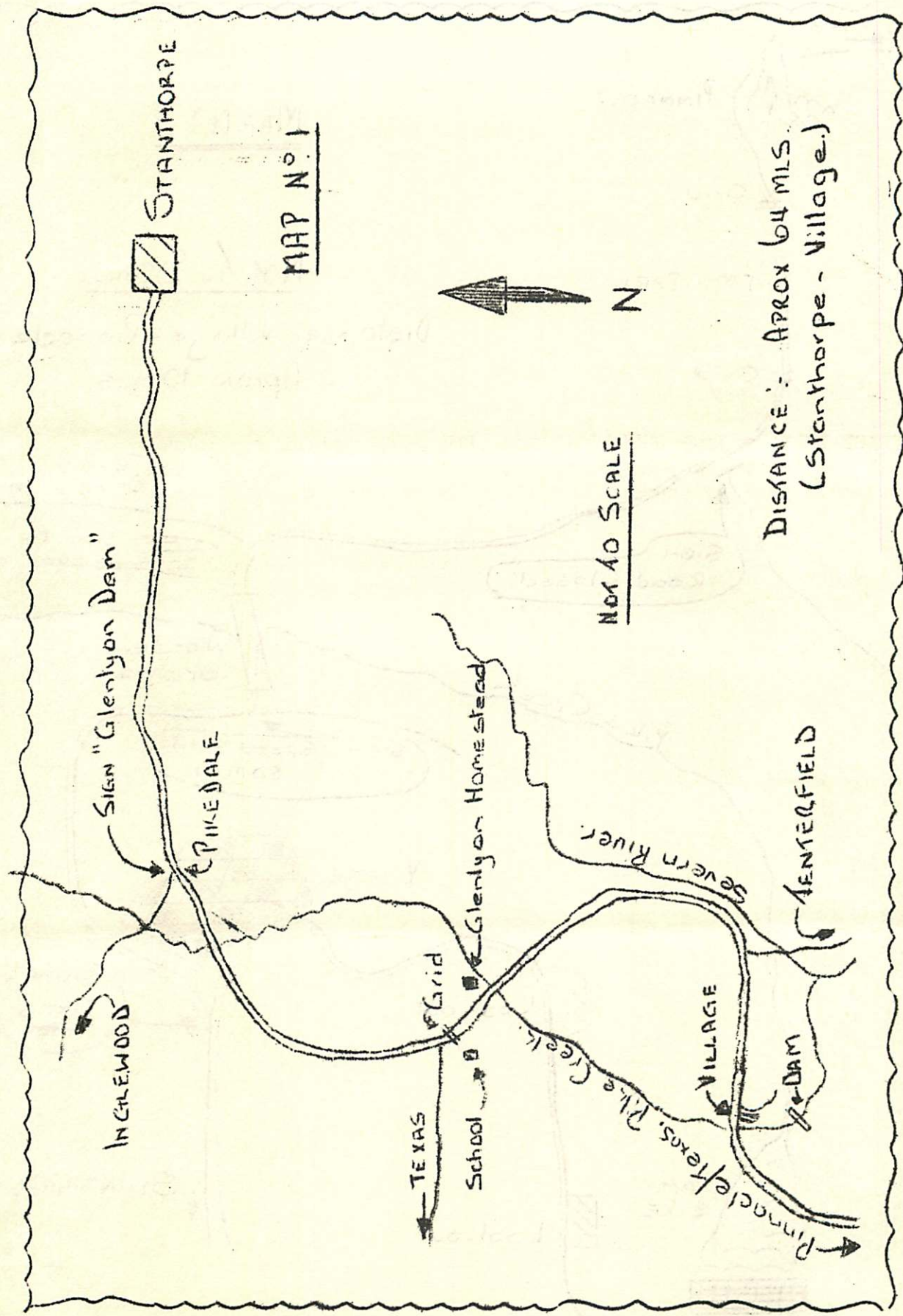
IAN JACKSON.

SEE MAPS ON BACK PAGE FOR
DIRECTIONS



THE AIMS OF THE CLUB

- A. Study all branches of Natural History.
- B. The preservation of flora and fauna of Queensland.
- C. Encouragement spirit protection of Australian birds, animals and plants.
- D. Assist where possible scientific research.
- E. Publish monthly newsletter.



MAP N° 1

NOT TO SCALE

DISTANCE: APPROX 64 MILES
(Stanthorpe - Village.)

TEXAS

Pinnacle.

MAP No. 2

Grid

"EMU PARK"

Grid

NOT TO SCALE.

Distance: Village - Pinnacle
Approx 10 MILES.

Texas
Caves

Sports
oval.

Sign
"Road Closed"

Wooden
Bridge

Pike Creek.

Sign "Speed Limit
30 M.P.H."

Village

Lookout

SIGN
"TEXAS"

Dam
SITE

Lookout

STANTHORPE

