

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB

P.O. Box 154, STANTHORPE  
Q'LAND. 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. McSosker
Fauna Officer	Mr. B. McDonagh
Geology Officer	Mr. M. Passmore
Youth Officer	Geoff Marsden
Bushwalking Officer	Robin McCoskor
Committee Members	Mrs. J. Harslett
	Mr. E. Walker

ACTIVITIESMEETINGS:

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 OUTINGS:

<u>PLACE:</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>ORGANISER</u>
MT. NORMAN	Sunday 20th April 1975	Mr. W. Cathcart

<u>NEXT MEETING:</u>	Wednesday 23rd April 1975	Speaker - Mr. J. Heaton from the D.P.I.
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APRIL OUTING:

Mt. Norman      Departure time is 9.30 a.m. - if roads inaccessible an  
alternative "Mystery" trip will be arranged.



April 1975

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 26TH MARCH 1975:

Meeting opened at 8.15 p.m.

Present 46

Apologies 4

President's Opening Remarks:

The President welcomed members and extended a welcome to Sister Joan - Geology Teacher from the Convent, Mr. W. Fleming, Mr. Goodwin, Mr. & Mrs. West from Brisbane, Dr. & Mrs. Howden from Canada, both entomologists and authors of several books; also Mr. & Mrs. Kelly.

The President expressed condolence to Mr. Errol Walker and his family at the passing of Errol's Grandfather.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 26TH 1975:

Moved Mr. Ian Jackson and seconded Mrs. J. Paskin that the minutes taken as read in the newsletter be confirmed - carried.

INWARD CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter from the Queensland Naturalists Club advising their change of Secretary.

Receipt from Stanthorpe Rover Scouts for payment of duplicating magazine for Dec. Jan and Feb.

An account from the Stanthorpe Rover Scouts for \$3 for printing of March issue of the magazine.

An account from the P.M.G. for \$8 being annual fee for private P.O. Box shared with Camera Club.

Newsletters from:-  
Toowoomba Field Naturalist Club No. 259  
Queensland Naturalists Club No. 71  
National Parks Assoc. of Q'land. Vol. 45 No. 2  
Chinchilla Field Naturalists Club Vol. 8 No. 7  
Photo Report on Q'land from D.P.I.

OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE:

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

Letter to the Regional Manager, A.B.C. Station 4 QS requesting that details of the Club's March Field Outing & Meeting be announced over Station 4QS in their morning programme.

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



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TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance Brought forward - Feb. 26th 1975	\$84.65
Income for month - Subs.	<u>9.00</u>
	\$ 93.65
Expenditure for Month - Nov. Postage	\$2.92
Feb. "	\$2.67
Duplicating	<u>\$6.00</u>
	\$ 11.59
	<u>\$11.59</u>
	<u>\$82.06</u>

Accounts to be passed for payment:

Stanthorpe Rover Scouts - Duplicating March newsletter \$3.90  
 P.M.G. Dept. - P.O. Box Rental (shared with Camera Club) \$8.00  
 Moved Mr. F. Wilkinson and seconded Mrs. T. Archer that the  
 Treasurer's Report be adopted and accounts be passed for payment.  
 Motion carried.

OUTING REPORT:

Mr. I. Jackson reported on the outing to Glen Lyon Dam and "The Pinnacle" held on Sunday 20th March. 20 joined in the outing.

NEXT OUTING: Sunday 20th April, 1975.

LEADER: Mr. W. Cathcart

LOCATION: MT. NORMAN - Departure time 9.30 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday April 23rd 1975.

After meeting programme - guest speaker from the Department of Primary Industries - Mr. John Heaton. Subject - Plant diseases in the Granite Belt (including Garden plants)

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Discussion on suggestion of South Bald Rock for July outing.  
 Mr. Ray Marsden invited members to join Warwick Walkers Club in their outing to Red Rock Gorge - date not yet notified. Mr. Ian Jackson requested a list of financial members for magazine. The President announced that the Biological books are now available for those who ordered them. Cost per book \$ 2.33.

CLOSURE:

Meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

AFTER MEETING PROGRAMME:

An outstanding presentation of colour slides on the Channel Country by Guest Speaker, Mrs. Joan Harslett.



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OUTING TO GLEN LYON DAM AND THE PINNACLE:

Approx. 20 people took part in our last outing, to Glen Lyon Dam and the Pinnacle. We were blessed with an excellent day, which helped to add to our high spirits.

The first stop was at the Glen Lyon Bridge near the Glen Lyon Homestead. When the Glen Lyon dam is completed it has been stated that this bridge will be approx. 2 feet under water. Upon arriving at the village we made an inspection of the site and the many amenities provided for the people, e.g. school, shop, sporting complex, halls, fire station etc. A lengthy inspection was made of the working area of the dam where progress was noted. Upon leaving the site we drove through the village and on to a shady spot for lunch.

We arrived at the Pinnacle about 2.00 p.m. and some of us attempted to reach the top, but were unsuccessful. However, some interesting plant life was seen, especially in "prickly pear" plants, and also an interesting "rare" plant about which Mrs. Harslett has written an article. A short "cuppa" and we set off, some returning the way we had travelled out, others on to Texas and the remainder travelled through Silverspur and back to Stanthorpe.

FLORA IN THE PINNACLE AREA (A Limestone Area):

Prior to the Club visit to the Pinnacle, Messrs. Frank Wilkinson and Maurice Passmore visited the area on behalf of our club, and on that occasion collected the most prominent plants and sent the samples to the Herbarium for identification. The list returned was thus "S upple Jack", *ventilago viminalis*, "Wonga Vinc", *pandorea pandorana*, *eremocitrus glauca*, *alectryon subdentatum*, "Naked Lady Vine" *sarcostemma australe*, "Currant Bush" *carissa ovata*, "Myrtle Tree" *canthium oleifolium* and *alacordadon australe*. Having these identifications greatly aided the botanical interest on this latest outing.

All will remember the Currant Bush, *carissa ovata*, with its round shiny green leaves. The bush was well armed with prickles and made its presence known during the ascent. The specific name of "ovata" describes splendidly the shape of the leaf. Those that sought the "Naked Lady" found some surprises. Firstly it is also known as the "Caustic Vine" and its smooth succulent stems covered with "bloom" hide a less pleasant character of toxicity. Cattle, sheep and horses can all be affected, the symptoms being restlessness, followed by staggering and collapse. The plant has great resilience and is found in such wide ranges of habitat as rainforest, scrubs of the east, to rocky regions of the inland. The most attractive vine seen was the "Wonga Vine", a woody climber with pinnate leaves and masses of cream bell shaped flowers which have purple spotted throats. The plant belongs to the *tecoma* family, many of which have been cultivated for their beauty.



Large fruit on a tree proved to be the seed cases of yet another vine, commonly called the Kapok vine. This particular vine is host to one of our indigenous species of fruit fly.

The large trees first mistaken for a Wilga, were Supple Jacks, *ventilago viminalis*. The specific name refers to the flexible willow like branches. The timber of these trees was used by the aborigines for making boomerangs and fire sticks. Of interest, it starts life as woody scramblers twined around one another, and then grows into a shapely spreading tree. Another small tree with greish foliage and a few branchlets developing into spines was the Myrtle tree, *canthium oleifolium*, the specific name meaning olive-leaved. It is regarded as one of the best inland tree for sheep fodder in drought.

Other species noted were four species of *Acacia*, including *Ac. deanii* and *Ac. decora*. Mr. Flemming recognised "Budda" a form of sandalwood, and ther other sandalwood "*Eromophilia Mitchelli*" was also present. A cassia and a species of hibiscus were found in bloom, accompanied by the shiny round leaves of the poplar box, (*euc. populifolia*), Native cypress, tree pears in full fruit, wild orange (*Capparis Mitchelli*) and two species of alpine daises were seen in flower. Both white flowering species, the common one called Mock Orange (*Olearia viscosa*). The name comes from the viscous or sticky appearance of the leaves. The other species much rarer had very grey coloured foliage blending charmingly with the yellow centred white flowers. It is found on hard dry ridge country and is *Olearia canescens*. (*Canescens* in latin means grey, and the foliage is distinctly grey).

The Herbarium also identified *Alectryon Subdentatum* for us. This is a small tree with irregular toothed leaves and bright red fruits. The plant is rare and found in a few localities on the north west slopes of N.S.W. Another *Alectryon*, *A. forsythii*, also a small tree was recorded from Mt. Donaldson in May 1966 and was the first Q'land record. This limestone area seemed limited but the change in flora was dramatic and most interesting and the area very accessible, and it is hoped it will remain for many more people to enjoy.

Jean Harslott.

#### ABOUT BIRDS:

This has been a great season for birds. Almost any morning I can look out of my kitchen window over a dam which is little more than a tennis court's width away, and see a small flock of black duck which we have bred and now feed, a stump cap full of milo and peaceful doves, a pair of wagtails chasing breakfast for their second brood, a female diver, a little pied cormorant, a pair of white necked herons - impressive birds with a wingspan of 1.6 metres, a pair of dusky moorhens with at least four young just hatched, a little grebe setting high on her raft nest right out in mid-stream with her mate close by keeping



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an anxious eye on passers-by and often a white faced heron. Add to this a host of finches, cheese-loving silver-eyes and blue wrens and various honey eaters probing for nectar in the grevillias and you have a lively scene. However, these regular pleasures are somehow taken for granted and fade into the background when a new and exciting experience comes along. When we had our weekend camp at the Gibraltar Range National Park we were lucky enough to hear lyre birds calling almost non-stop for 3 hours. I taped a lot of this and I am going to play a small segment. Both the Superb and Albert lyre birds are listed from this area, so its anybody's guess which this is as I only had two very fleeting glimpses of the birds. Quoting from "Birds of Australia" by J. D. Macdonald - "Lyre birds are found only in Australia. They are a unique group and their closest affinity is with another unique Australian family, the scrub birds. They have long been noted for the lyre shaped tail feathers of the male, but it is only in recent years that it was recorded how they are used in graceful dances performed on specially prepared mounds or scraped on the forest floor. These displays are usually accompanied by a rich variety of loud clear notes many mimicking the voices of other birds and animals." Incidentally our local lyre birds - *rae edwardi* - differs slightly from the fact that it is found amongst granite outcrops in open country and rarely nests on the ground as the others do.

Z. NEWMAN

Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.

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It is difficult to take advice from some people - they need it so badly themselves.

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