

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
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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 Wednesday of each month at C.V.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:PLACEDATEORGANISER

Weekend Campout at Wilson's Peak Saturday, May 24th &
Sunday, May 25th, 1975.

Mrs. Jean Harslett

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, 28th May, 1975

SPEAKER -

Mr. Merv. Fletcher

Subject - Orchids of Stanthorpe District -
illustrated with slides.

MAY OUTING -

SEE NOTES ON THIS BY MRS. HARSLETT ON PAGE "4" of this Newsletter.

May, 1975.

Minutes of Meeting held Wednesday, April 23rd, 1975.

Meeting opened at 8.10 p.m.

Present 25

Apologies 16.

PRESIDENTS OPENING REMARKS - The President welcomed members and visitors and extended a welcome to Mr. John Heaton of the D.P.I., the guest speaker for the meeting.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD MARCH 26th, 1975.

Motion moved by Mrs. T. Archer and seconded by Mr. N. Cathcart that the Minutes "taken as read" in the Newsletter be confirmed. - CARRIED.

INWARD CORRESPONDENCE - Letter from Board of Adult Education acknowledging application for Speakers Fee for D.P.I. Guest Speaker.

Press Release from D.P.I. advising that Queensland Honey tops exports.

Newsletters from:- The Queensland Naturalists' Club No. 73
The Chinchilla Field Naturalists Club, Vol.8 No.8.
The Toowoomba Field Naturalist Club No.260.
The University of Queensland Speleological Society, Vol.14 No.1.

OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE:-

Monthly report of club activities and advertising of April field outing and meeting sent to Board of Adult Education.

Letter to the Board of Adult Education applying for Speakers Fee for D.P.I. Guest Speaker.

Letter to the Regional Manager, A.B.C. Station 4QS, requesting that details of the April field outing and meeting be announced over Station 4QS.

Motion - moved by Mr. D. Pfrunder and seconded by Mrs. M. Flinn that the Inward correspondence be received and the Outward adopted. - CARRIED.

<u>TREASURER'S REPORT:-</u>	Balance brought forward March 26th, 1975	\$ 82.06
	Income for the month - Subscription	1.50
	Balance April 23rd, 1975	\$ 83.56

Accounts to be passed for payment - Postage for March \$3.00 and for April \$3.00

Motion - moved by Miss G. Lancaster and seconded by Mr. W. Flinn that the Treasurer's Report be adopted and accounts be passed for payment. - CARRIED.

OUTING REPORTS

Mr. Wally Cathcart reported on the outing to Mt. Norman held on Sunday, April 20th, 1975. Twenty-three people joined the outing.

Next Outing - Saturday, May 24th and Sunday, May 25th, 1975.

Weekend Campout at Wilson's Peak.

Leader - Mrs. Jean Harslott.

Departure time - Depart Veerooma Park at 10 a.m. on Saturday morning, May 24th.

NEXT MEETING - Wednesday, May 28th, 1975, C.V.A. Rooms 8 p.m.

After Meeting Programme:- GUEST SPEAKER - Mr. Herv. Fletcher.
Subject - "Orchids of the Stanthorpe District" -
Illustrated with showing of slides.

GENERAL BUSINESS - Discussion re Gates encountered on Mats. Outings.
Discussion re publicising locality of Mt. Norman

MAY, 1975.

General Business continued -

Motion - moved by Mr. Tom Spiller and seconded by Mrs. Wiseman that if necessary an extra outing be held to Mt. Banka with the view to include an activity such as perhaps planting a tree to commemorate the memory of Miss Joan Westcott. - CARRIED.

Discussion on possible Road Closure to Mt. Banka and Caves Sanctuary.

Motion - moved by Mr. Tom Spiller and seconded by Mr. W. Cathcart that the Main Roads District Engineer in Warwick be approached re erection of a sign to advise public of road access to the Sanctuary. - CARRIED.

Closure - Meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

After Meeting Programme - Guest Speaker - Mr. John Heaton.

Subject - Plant diseases in the Granite Belt.

An interesting and enlightening lecture illustrated with slides.

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REPORT ON OUTING TO MT. NORMAN ON SUNDAY 19th APRIL, 1975.

On Sunday the 19th we didn't need Weather Prophet Frank to tell us whether the weather was going to be wet or fine. Twenty three members could see that it was a beautiful Autumn morning and assembled at Weeroona Park in eager anticipation of a pleasant day's outing to Mt. Norman, 4,156 ft.

We went via Storm King Dam, through Bukey then along the scenic road to Wallangarra. If by chance you have never driven along this road we can thoroughly recommend it, the road is good and the scenery beaut, there are some very good rock formations to be seen and lots of flowering trees and shrubs.

We could see Mt. Norman through the trees as we proceeded along the road and no doubt some of our members wondered if we would get any where near the Mountain.

Eight miles after turning off the Bukey to Girraween road, we arrived at the Mt.

Norman turn off, after negotiating a slippery, wet patch we made our way up to the Car Park. Everyone was eager to be off, so we climbed the hill close by. All members were very interested in a number of large fault lines in the rock. The formation of these faults was explained to us by Maurice Passmore. From the top of the rock very good views could be obtained of Mt. Norman and the main features of the Park.

After lunch we set out in earnest to conquer Mt. Norman or bust. It is a fair hike from the car park to the bottom of the mountain but fortunately a pleasant one. On our way over, I could not help thinking of the Nats first outing to Mt. Norman, the leader on that occasion was our Foundation President Tom Chapman (hi there Tom and Irene). I well remember that the outing that day was a very successful one too. We puffed and puffed our way up the steep side of Mt. Norman and made our way round to the "Eye of the needle". We were all most interested to watch the Stanthorpe Scouts climbing on the face of the rock. They were descending down a very steep section. President Frank wanted to show us all how to come down without a rope but fortunately we talked him out of it. Some of our more adventurous members climbed to the very top of Mt. Norman, the climber is well rewarded with a very good view of the park.

I was pleased to see Mrs. Wiseman at the "Eye of the needle", I think that it was a very good effort on her part to walk and climb so far. Congratulations Mrs. Wiseman, well done.

After returning to our cars most members made it a round trip by returning to Stanthorpe via Wallangarra.

WAL CATHCART.

May, 1975.

NOTES ON AREA TO BE VISITED FOR CAMPOUT Saturday, 24th May and Sunday, 25th May/75.

HISTORY

There were three major gaps over which road routes were initially made to cross from the Penal Settlement at Moreton Bay to the great expanses of the Darling Downs. The two gentlemen of fame with regards to these were explorers Alan Cunningham and Capt. Logan. Capt. Logan was the first white man to set foot on the Summit of Mt. Barney (2nd highest peak in Q'ld.) and he was accompanied by Cunningham and Fraser. At this time Capt. Logan was under the false impression he was scaling Mt. Warning (of Capt. Cook's fame). When he reached the top he realized his mistake and named the peak Mt. Lindesay after a fellow army officer and the adjacent peak was Mt. Hooker (the Mount Lindesay of today). So many peaks answered to the description of Cook's Mt. Warning and even Mt. Wilson which we plan to climb. Mt. Barney was also misinterpreted as Mt. Warning. By the time official maps appeared, many years later, many names had been misplaced or mislaid!! For further fascinating reading on these many peaks "One Mountain after Another" by Arthur Groom is well worthwhile.

However, our walk on Mt. Wilson and the viewing of some of these peaks, will perhaps help to make us aware of how simply these confusions could arise. Another fascinating story of that period was that Cunningham was camped on one side of the range and at the same time Capt. Logan was on the eastern side. Neither were aware of the fact and both were searching for the same elusive gap and history proves that Cunningham won.

Finally the three first major routes were - via 'Spicers Gap', 'Cunningham's Gap' and 'The Head'. The name The Head refers to the head of the Condamine River - the area over which we will travel. This route followed the Teviot Gap then between Mt. Superbus and Wilson's Peak and then through the Condamine Gorge not trafficable now and present route is on Southern side of Queen Mary's Falls. Mt. Superbus and Mt. Barney being the two highest mountains in Southern Queensland only surpassed by Mt. Bartle Frere in far North Queensland. Mt. Wilson was named after a friend of Capt. Logan's. This route provided a link between Boonah and Darling Downs. The first communication which the settlers enjoyed between the valleys south of the McPherson Range was made in 1853 when James Glennie cut a track and started a mail route from one side of the range to the other. This old road ran between Mt. Glennie and Mt. Lindesay and can still be traced. However, the present Mt. Lindesay Road now runs on the other side of Mt. Lindesay through Collins Gap, named after a pioneer settler. This reminds one that Robt. Martin Collins was the first gentleman to propose the National Park idea in 1896, however, the first Queensland National Park was not reserved until 1908 (324 acres at Tamborine Mt.) In 1930 the National Parks Association of Queensland was formed and it has the honour of being the forerunner of all National Park Associations in Australia.

GENERAL NOTES

Mt. Wilson is part of the Western end of the McPherson Range on the border of Q'ld. and N.S.W. The border fence runs up its spurs right to the top. The fence ceases at the spur or the crests and the rugged rocky escarpment suffices for the border without need of added posts or wire. For those who climb to its higher parts a most original method of erecting a corner post will be seen. A coiled piece of netting wire filled with rocks and firmly pegged makes an excellent strainer post. To climb right to the Summit of Wilson's Peak 4,042 ft. from the rabbit gate follow the fence, and at the base of the cliff near the Summit (if coming from southerly direction) move around to the right a little and access may be found up the rocks. (Reference. Bushwalkers Guide to South Q'ld by M. Hammond and T. Young.)

CONTINUING NOTES RE CAMPOUT -

DIRECTIONS

DEPARTURE TIME - 9 a.m. (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE)

Round trip from Park about 125 miles (I have an old car which only registers miles!)

There are alternate routes - the R.A.C.Q. map is very useful. Proceed either via Liston, Legume and over Queen Mary Falls Road to The Head and across to White Swamp Road - excellent scenery. However, caravans, unless braking systems are in first class order, should proceed via Legume to Old Koreelah and White Swamp Road to the Head turn off. Alternately, those not wishing to traverse gravel road stretch from Liston to Legume could travel via Warwick, Killarney and then over the Head. All roads in the Head area are not recommended in wet weather. I will be contacting Mr. Young at The Head on Friday and perhaps if very wet weather should prevail consideration should be given to cancelling the trip.

Route No. 1. Proceed via Amosfield, Legume along Killarney Road leaving this road at the Queen Mary Falls turn off. If breaks are required, suggest Queen Mary Falls - Kiosk, toilets etc.; Carr's Lookout (on road); or short walk to Hanging Gardens (part way down the Head hill on right and when border fence comes into view. Parking area very limited.) Shortly after leaving the Head village on your left (don't go into village) a road goes to the right. Sign reads "White Swamp, Boonah, Telephone". Take this road and along it will be the campsite on Mr. Keith Young's property and by his kind permission (only if we are WITHOUT GUNS). This border gate is manned by Mr. Frank Marsden - very co-operative. Mr. Roy Peterson, who owns country on Eastern side, does not on any account allow campers on his property. At the Campsite there is running water - no other facilities and there have been frosts this year so come warmly prepared.

Route No. 2. - for Caravans - (and return route for everyone) Depart Stanthorpe, proceed Amosfield, Liston, Legume, Koreelah. Exactly $\frac{1}{2}$ way between Legume and Woodenbong (23 Km. each way) take road to left. Sign reads White Swamp 19 Km. Boonah and P.O. 400m. proceed to turn off on left, signboard The Head adjacent to the road and along it a short distance is the campsite.

Route No. 3. For maximum bitumen proceed Stanthorpe, Warwick, Killarney, Queen Mary Falls and then as for Route 1.

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After leaving Queen Mary Falls National Park area one passes through cleared dairy country then enters a small area of scrub with handsome silvery-white gums, Tree Ferns and abundant bird life. This is one of the most attractive looking scrub sections on the route and probably only stands today for our enjoyment because it was privately owned by brothers Messrs. Stan, Cliff and Jim Pidgeon. They purchased two 160 acre blocks of virgin scrub here and at that stage only the cedar had been cut out of it. The White Gums and Hoop Pine in the top corner are a feature. They harvested some of the gums and Mr. Stan Pidgeon tells me that one tree was so large that four men with arms outstretched could not span around the base. The timber of this gum is more favoured than flooded gum. However they left several stands untouched and the Tree Fern Gullies. The timber and first road used to take a different route but when the Forestry surveyed the Scenic Road it was rerouted through one of these stands of Silver Gums and Tree Ferns which had been preserved, and these are the trees we enjoy today. Thank you to the Pidgeon Brothers.

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Ed. Note - Our grateful thanks to Jean Harslett for the very interesting and comprehensive notes on our coming Campout. We appreciate all the work it entailed.

May, 1975.

"A Little Narrow Gravel Road"

A little narrow gravel road,
Creeping through the trees.
Trees, whose leaves are moving
As they whisper with the breeze.
Trees that join their branches
In a green arch, overhead.
I wonder if they ever sleep
At night, when we're in bed.

A little narrow gravel road
Curling through wildflowers.
I wonder if the Lyre birds
Put some in their bowers.
There's yellow everlastings
And some blue bells over there.
Lots and lots of flannel flowers,
And some dainty maidenhair.

A little narrow gravel road
Turning round a bend.
I wonder just how far it goes,
Or if this is the end.
I'm glad we came out for a drive
And along this way we rode.
It's been a pleasant afternoon
On this narrow gravel road.

A little narrow gravel road,
Winding through the grass.
I wonder what is hiding there;
Watching as we pass.
Perhaps there is a rabbit
Or a fox, that's lurking near,
Or maybe there's a lizard
That's shrinking back with fear.

A little narrow gravel road
Going up a hill
Yonder is a small white house
With a water mill.
See that brilliant colour,
As lorrikeets fly by.
Whisps of clouds are playing,
On the bright blue sky.

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FREE TRANSLATION

Since it hit Britain in the early years of World War II no Australian song has been such a favourite there as Waltzing Matilda. Likely it was the derring-do air about it that appealed to Britons in those dark days, coupled with the thought that it was one of the main marching pieces of the Aussies. Popular as the tune is with them over there, they have always been more or less puzzled by its strange words. The English Women's Weekly once gave this explanation to an enquiring reader: "a swagman is the Australian term for a commercial traveller; a billy is a tin can for boiling water in; a jumbuck is a stock whip used for rounding up sheep or cattle. A squatter is a man on a vacant piece of land." To her regret (and ours), the editor stated she was unable to explain other words of the song. YAMSTICK, N.S.W.

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We need a lot of clever folk to do big things today.
We need inspired leaders who can show us all the way . . .
And kindly folk who seem to be
Concerned about just you and me!

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DON'T FORGET The campout - SATURDAY 24th May and SUNDAY 25th May, 1975
DEPARTURE TIME - 9 A.M. - see Page 4 for details.