

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB

P.O.Box 154, Stanthorpe,  
Q'ld. 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 Typist	Mrs. D. Archer
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

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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

PROGRAMMEFIELD OUTINGS:Place:DATEORGANISER

Dalveen Area

Sunday, June 22/75

Mr.Noel Butler

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, June 25/75

SPEAKER: Mr.Ardron  
Subject - Bees &  
Eucalypts.

JUNE OUTING: Departure time 9.30 a.m.



JUNE, 1975

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 1975.

Meeting opened at 8.10 p.m.

Present - 30

Apologies - 5

PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS:

The president welcomed members and visitors and extended a particular welcome to the guest speaker for the evening, Mr. Merv Fletcher.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD APRIL 23rd, 1975:

Moved by Mrs. T. Archer and seconded by Mr. Ian Jackson that the minutes "taken as read" in the Newsletter be confirmed. CARRIED.

INWARD CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter from Mr. Merv Fletcher accepting our invitation to be Guest Speaker for the May Meeting.

An account from Samuel Lee & Co. for \$2.50 being hire of typewriter

Accounts from Stanthorpe Rover Scouts for printing April Magazine \$3.00 and May Magazine \$3.00.

Cheque received from Stanthorpe Camera Club \$4.00 being their share of P.O.Box rental.

Received a further supply of forms from the Board of Adult Education for monthly return of activities.

Letter from Board of Adult Education advising that they have cancelled all newspaper advertising due to sharp increases in cost.

NEWSLETTERS RECEIVED FROM:-

The Toowoomba Field Naturalist Club No. 261

The Chinchilla Field Naturalists Club - Vol 8. No. 9 & Vol 8. No. 10

The Queensland Naturalists Club - No.74

The National Parks Association of Queensland Vol 45 No.3. together with copy of "History in Queensland National Parks".

OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE: Monthly report of Club activities and advertising of May Meeting and Field Outing submitted to Board of Adult Education.

Letter to the Regional Manager, ABC Station 4QS requesting that the week-end campout and details of the May meeting be announced over Station 4QS.

Letter to Mr. Merv Fletcher inviting him to be guest speaker at our May meeting and a following letter thanking him for accepting our invitation.

MOVED by Mr. D. Pfrunder and seconded by Mr. M. Passmore that the inward correspondence be received and the outward be adopted. CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

It was suggested that the local member for Carnarvon, Mr. Peter McKechnie be approached re the decision of the Board of Adult Education to cancel all advertising.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance brought forward, April 23/75	83.56
Income for month	2.00
	<u>85.56</u>
Expenditure for month - Postage	<u>6.00</u>
Balance at May 28th, 1975.	<u>\$79.56</u>

Accounts to be passed for payment: S. Lee & Co. - Hire of Typewriter \$2.50

Stanthorpe Rover Scouts, April & May Duplicating \$6.00

Frank Wilkinson reimbursed for payment of \$8.00 for P.O. Box Rental.



JUNE, 1975

MOVED by Mr. F. Wilkinson and seconded by Mr. Noel Butler that the Treasurer's report be adopted and accounts be passed for payment.  
CARRIED.

OUTING REPORT - Mrs. Jean Harslett reported on the weekend campout at Wilson's Peak on Saturday May 24th and Sunday May 25th, 1975. The eight campers enjoyed a most rewarding weekend outing. The President expressed thanks to Mrs. Harslett for her effort in arranging and leading the outing, and also for the historic background to the area provided for the newsletter.

NEXT OUTING: Sunday, 22nd June, 1975 - Location Dalveen Area  
Leader - Mr. Noel Butler Departure Time 9.30 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 25th June, 1975 - C.W.A. Room s 8 p.m.

AFTER MEETING PROGRAMME: Guest Speaker - Mr. Ardron. SUBJECT: Bees Eucalypts.

GENERAL BUSINESS: The President expressed condolence to Mr. D. Pfrunder and family members on the passing of Miss Vera Pfrunder. The President extended congratulations to Miss Gloria Lancaster on her success in winning the Stanthorpe Rural Youth Dressmaking Contest. The President thanked Mrs. T. Archer for typing the May newsletter at short notice.

Moved by Mrs. Newman and seconded by Mrs. Wilkinson that Mrs. T. Archer be appointed Official Typist. CARRIED

Moved by Mrs. F. Wilkinson and seconded by Mrs. J. Harslett that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. & Mrs. Flinn for their work with the Newsletter. CARRIED.

Members of the Nats. Club were encouraged to assist the local Historical Society in their fund raising ventures.

Thanks was acknowledged to Mrs. Thouard for her Poem "A Little Narrow Gravel Road" which she kindly contributed to the Magazine.

Closure 8.45 p.m.

AFTER MEETING PROGRAMME: Guest Speaker - Mr. Merv Fletcher  
Subject - Orchids of the Stanthorpe District  
An outstanding presentation of colour slides depicting a fascinating study of a selection of local orchids.

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Don't forget our ANNUAL MEETING is in July, so give some thought to Nominations for Office Bearers and Committee members to be elected at the Annual Meeting.

ALSO

keep in mind our programme "REMEMBER THE PAST YEAR" which will follow the Annual Meeting. Now is the time to have a look through your Nats. Outing Slides and pick out your favourites for showing at the Annual Meeting.

Errol & Robin will be organising the programme and they would like to have your selection of slides at least a week before the meeting which is on July 23rd.



JUNE 1906

MAY CAMPOUT REPORT BY Jean Harslett

A small party set out on the May 'Camp Out', in perfect weather. Enroute we called at Queen Mary's Falls, and had morning tea there. A stop was made at Carr's Lookout which enabled us to become orientated and also view Mt. Wilson, the peak of our labours for Sunday. Another stop and short walk to the Hanging Fern Garden and White Swamp Lookout. After lunching at Mr. Young's property we proceeded to the Koreelah Gorge, and walked downstream to the rugged rocky area where the Koreelah Creek has carved deeply through the volcanic rock, creating quite spectacular scenery.

Mr. Young's absense from home (he has since rung and apologised) occasioned us some confusion re camping, but finally a site was selected under large silver gums and adjacent to a running stream. The site was very beautiful by moonlight and almost ethereal in the morning mists at sunrise. No platypus were seen though they are common in the streams hereabouts. Dore and Bessie found the rare cucumber orchid (*Dendrobium cucumerinum*) so called because the foliage resembles small cucumbers of the gherkin type. They were found in their favourite habitat, growing on Casuarina trees.

We gleaned that the White Swamp area was part of the original Koreelah Station taken up in 1842, and this particular part was called White Swamp because of the prolific white seed heads of the Foxtail grass. This grass has become less common since the introduction of *paspalum* to the valley. Wilson's Peak stands guard over the valley, 'Jiramon' was the aboriginal name for the peak.

Messrs. Edward Young and W.H. Fletcher camped beneath Mt. Wilson in 1872. Dingoes howled all night and reminded Mr. Young, a Canadian, of the wolves of his homeland, so he selected the block, surely an unusual reason for the selection. However the choice proved sound and his descendants still own the pick of the valley and produce prize Devon cattle. It will be of interest to Stanthorpians to learn that Mr. Fletcher, a Tasmanian with a knowledge of fruit culture, established a large orchard. Plums, peaches, apples, pears etc. were planted. The orchard was a success. His sons took the fruit out in bullock waggons for sale, but an end came to their success at the turn of the century when fruit fly invaded the valley. Edward Watson, another pioneer, grew quinces and dehydrated them, but he suffered the same fate in the 1900's. For our part we enjoyed the rich autumn tones of the Persimmon trees, some of which were growing wild in the valley.

To answer some of the questions asked, the first tick and border fence was erected in 1898. The Rabbit Fence in 1906. The first rabbit (a doe with four young) was seen in the valley in 1907. Snow has fallen twice in the area. It was delightfully warm at the 'Camp Out', rain only fell on some tents!!

Brief notes on some of the observations made on Sunday's walk are as follows. The giant land snail is *Panda falconeri*, empty shells were particularly found caught in the fence where they were



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Jean's report continues:- trapped. These snails sometime s grow to the size of a man's clenched fist, and they often feed on fungus. The interesting seeds picked up, which were rough and spiney on the outside and opening into five boat shaped valves, were those of the Crows Ash which belong to the Flindersia genera. Both Flindersia australis and Flindersia oxleyana occur in the area, and since the seeds did not open very widely they probably belonged to the latter. F.australis is a 'greasy' timber and sought after for making dance floors, Flindersia oxleyana celebrates both our explorers in name (Flinders and Oxley).

Ailsa Wilkinson had the thrill of seeing a Satin Bower Bird at its playground not more than 8 or 10 feet from where she sat. The play was decorated by a solitary piece of blue plastic and one blue parrot feather. The play was in excellent order but the lack of quantity of items collected suggested it was a new venture. On our return the plastic which had had pride of place was removed and a small round leaf in its place, the change of decoration to green suggesting a visit by the lady. Others noted a large newly emerged moth on a post drying its wings for the evening flight. It had silver and grey upper wings and deep pink under wings and was one of the Swift Moths (Hepia lidae). The unusual orchid noted by Wal and myself near the top of Mt. Wilson was the Yellow Rock Orchid (Liparis reflexa.) The description suggests that the species is found in dense clumps on rock crevices flowering from March-May in Tableland areas and this description fits perfectly. When we reached the plateau, there was a fascinating change in plant varieties, which were very numerous too. Tea-trees (Leptospermum Sp.) with immense butts were seen, which must have been a great age. Also prevalent was the Mint Bush (Prostanthera ovalifolia) found always on mountain tops, and it must be a beautiful display later, with its very prolific purple flowers. Members also saw some of the largest specimens of the Giant Stinging Trees (Laportea gigas) ever seen. We estimated one to be 100 to 120 feet in height, 6 ft. in diameter up the tree a bit and at ground level where it flanged out to be 18ft. wide.

On the return trip everyone was expecting to see the full moon pop over the horizon, and real surprise was registered when only half a moon appeared. Camped away in the valley, away from news, we had not heard of the eclipse, but it was a rewarding weekend for those who braved it.

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#### WHERE NOW? by David Hope

Shall we take this road, shall we take that?  
There's fun and adventure wherever we choose.  
One way is hilly, another is flat,  
The valleys for streams and the uplands for views.  
So much to be seen, so much to be learned,  
Till happily homeward our faces are turned.



June 1975

Sighting of Two Greater Gliders (Schoinobates Volans)  
by M. Passmore.

Although these gliders are probably fairly common in the district, it is quite rare to actually see one and I therefore think it is worth recording the sighting of a pair on our Ruby Creek Property. They were somewhat rudely disturbed in a dead tree whilst we were clearing a fence line. Dad left via air immediately but his mate didn't evacuate so smartly and was a bit bruised by the encounter, however, she appeared quite ok later that afternoon in another tree but her comments were unrecorded.

These attractive animals are nocturnal and feed mainly on leaves and shoots of eucalypts, but they tend to camp in old dead trees. These old stags are quite a fire hazard and we often tend to overlook their importance as nesting and camping sites for many birds and animals.

Finally I'd urge other members to use the magazine to record such unusual sightings as these can be of great interest to others who read it. It may be of scientific importance to those who are studying ecological effects on the environment both now and in the future.

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A REMINDER -

Don't forget our next outing under the leadership of Noel Butler

Place:- DALVEEN AREA

Date:- SUNDAY, JUNE 22nd

Departure time :- 9.30 a.m.  
Weeroona Park.

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS

(From our Constitutions)

"Officers of the Club and 5 Councillors to be elected annually by ballot of members at Annual General Meeting."

Nominations for Officers & 5 Councillors signed by a member and accompanied by nominees consent to serve shall be delivered to the Hon. Sec. not later than the date of the June ordinary meeting in each year and such nominations shall be published in the July issue of the Clubs newsletter.

NOMINATION FORMS FOR OFFICE BEARERS ON NEXT PAGE