

No.63.

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST

JULY, 1975.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB

P.O. Box 154, Stanthorpe,  
Q., 4380.

Officers & Committee 1974-1975

President  
Vice-Presidents

Mr. F. Wilkinson  
Mr. N. Butler  
Mr. M. Passmore  
Mr. D. Pfrunder  
Miss G. Lancaster  
Mrs. D. Archer  
Mr. & Mrs. W. Cathcart  
Mrs. Z. Newman  
Mrs. D. McCosker  
Brian McDonagh  
Mr. M. Passmore  
Geoff Marsden  
Robin McCosker  
Mrs. J. Harslett  
Mr. E. Walker

Secretary  
Treasurer  
Newsletter Typist  
Newsletter Sub-Committee  
Librarian  
Flora Officer  
Fauna Officer  
Geology Officer  
Youth Officer  
Bushwalking Officer  
Committee Members

ACTIVITIES

MEETINGS:

4th Wed. of each month in  
C.W.A. Rooms at 8.00 p.m.

OUTINGS:

Each Sunday preceeding the  
4th Wednesday.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Single - \$1.50

Family - \$2.00

PROGRAMME

FIELD OUTINGS

PLACE

DATE

ORGANISERS

Hike from South Bald  
Rock to West Bald Rock

Sunday,  
July 20th, 1975

Mr. Errol Walker

DEPARTURE TIME - 9.30 a.m. from Weeroona Park.

NEXT MEETING - Wednesday, July 23rd, 1975. C.W.A. Rooms at 8 p.m.  
ANNUAL MEETING & GENERAL MEETING.

AFTERMEETING PROGRAMME - "Remember Last Year" - slides from club  
members - programme organised by Errol Walker and  
Robin McCosker. Cup of Tea after programme.

DON'T FORGET TO GIVE ERROL & ROBIN YOUR BEST SLIDES FOR SHOWING.



JULY, 1975.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25th, 1975.

Meeting opened at 8.25 p.m.

Present - 12

Apologies - 14

PRESIDENTS OPENING REMARKS

The President welcomed members and the guest speaker for the evening, Mr. Errol Ardron.

The President expressed condolence on behalf of the club to Mrs. Bessie Harslett on the passing of her mother.

Mrs. Archer was thanked for carrying out the complete duplication of the June Magazine.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD MAY 28th, 1975.

Moved by Mr. D. Pfrunder and seconded by Mrs. T. Archer that the Minutes "Taken as Read" in the Newsletter be confirmed. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

The Secretary advised that Mr. Peter McKechnie's Secretary had been contacted re cancellation of newspaper advertising by the Board of Adult Education.

INWARD CORRESPONDENCE

Account from Samuel Lee & Co. - Hire of Typewriter Apr. 11th \$2.00  
An invitation from the Warwick Bushwalker's Club to the Office Bearers and members of the Stanthorpe Nats. Club to attend their Annual & General Meeting on 16th July at St. Marks Church of England Hall, Warwick.

Press Statements from the Minister for Lands & Forestry

1. That intending duck shooters must obtain a permit.
2. An appeal to people to conform with regulations covering National Parks.
3. Advice that the National Parks and Wildlife service has begun examining proposals for the preservation of parts of the Great Dividing Range.

NEWSLETTERS FROM: The Toowoomba Field Naturalist Club - No. 262  
The Queensland Naturalist Club No. 75  
The National Parks Association of Queensland Vol. 45 No. 4  
The University of Queensland Speleological Society - Vol. 14 No. 2  
The Chinchilla Field Naturalist Club - Vol. 8, No. 11.  
The Warwick Bushwalkers Club - Vol. 2. No. 11.

OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE

Monthly report of club activities sent to Board of Adult Education.  
Letter to Mr. & Mrs. Flinn expressing thanks and appreciation for their contribution to the club.  
Letter to the Regional Manager, ABC Station 4QS, requesting that







JULY, 1975

MINUTES continued - After-Meeting Programme - An interesting and informative discussion on the subject of Bees with guest speaker for the evening, Mr. Errol Ardron.

- - - - -

TASMANIAN VISIT - by D. McCosker.

During a brief visit to North West Tasmania in January masses of wild flowers along the road would have made travelling a delight if only I could have forgotten that travel sickness!

Rounded clumps of Dolly Bush contrasted with the straight trunks of exotic pines. Lovely Prostantheras weighed down with blossom spilled their flowers down the steep banks and on the roadway.

At one place a low hill was completely carpeted with a dainty Shasta Daisy. I wonder if it escaped from some home garden of the past like the Corriopsis in Stanthorpe. Long spikes of garden lupins were "at home" in the most unexpected places. Odd late flowers on Broom and Gorse bushes don't let us forget these rogues that have over-run large areas of the Island.

In the roughest heathy areas, spikes of Sun Orchids like lush garden larkspurs were common and also lovely red and gold Christmas Bells. Clumps of small blue Iris stood out amongst Trigger Plants of a very bright pink and carpets of white Iris.

A brief walk through the heath revealed species of Calochilus, Cryptostylis, Prasophyllum, Spiranthes and other ground orchids.

There is always a flower or two on the leatherwood tree which yields Tasmania's most widely advertised honey. A low growing, large flowered Leptospermum, its red stems gracefully bowing with the weight of its blooms, could take pride of place in any garden. Plants of interest everywhere - but no time to enjoy them.

- - - - -

SOUTH & WEST BALD ROCK OUTING REPORT -

Sunday, 20th July, 1975.

The usual departure time (9.30 a.m. sharp) from the usual place (Civic Centre) and with the weather in our favour we will be on the road to South Bald Rock.

We have the kind permission of the property owners and their only request was that we leave the gates as we find them.

The preouting trip, which was the day after a wet spell was a little 'sticky' at times but with two weeks of sunshine on the track these problems will be alleviated.

We should be at South Bald Rock before 11 a.m. This will allow us just enough time to sharpen our appetites on the granite slopes before an early lunch.

After lunch it is planned to head west to West Bald Rock diverting about half way to appreciate the best example of a balancing rock on the Granite Belt.



South & West Bald Rock Outing continues -

West Bald Rock is easily climbed and the views are marvelous, taking in Mt. Norman, the Pyramids and Bald Rock to mention a few features.

Some of the most spectacular granite formations in the district will be seen on this outing and we should only be walking for about two hours.

What to bring - sandals or boots  
- Camera and/or binoculars  
- Torch for caving

Stanthorpe to South Bald Rock is 20.8 miles and a round trip home through Walla ngarra can be taken if time permits.

Leader for Outing - Errol Walker.

- - - - -

Pre notice for a film evening at the C.W.A.

C.W.A. are studying New Zealand and they have invited Jack and May Bennie from Dalby way to be their Guests of Honour and they will give a Slide showing with Commentary on New Zealand.

Date - Saturday evening, July 26th, 1975 in the C.W.A. Rooms.

- - - - -

NOMINATIONS

Don't forget them for the Annual Meeting.

- - - - -

WARWICK NATS CLUB ANNUAL MEETING - Wed. July 16th, 1975 at the

St. Marks Church of England Hall, Warwick.

- - - - -

SLIDES OF PAST YEAR NATS OUTINGS - Be sure and let Errol and Robin have these as soon as possible.

Also for the Annual Meeting - a cup of tea will be served and a plate of something to eat would be nice to have with the cuppa.

- - - - -

SETTING OFF by David Hope -

A long, hard tramp on a perfect day,  
What could be better fun?  
The miles fly past when the heart is  
gay  
And the world laughs in the sun.



The top of a mountain was bull-dozed off into the valleys and the mining town of Savage River was built on the levels so provided. The soil,—if it can be called that,—consists of a flakey rock that grows native heath plants to perfection in the high rainfall, but tomatoes and kindred cultivated plants just rot off and die. However when industrious gardeners bring in soil from the surrounding dense scrub land they can achieve some startling results.

Raddishes (the long variety) planted in one such garden grew as raddishes can grow when conditions are favourable. Each root went straight through the rich soil but when it hit that base rock it turned about in horror and came towards the top again. When half way up it realised roots should grow down so made another about turn, returned to the bottom of the bed, became utterly discouraged and divided into feeder roots.

The tubers (or whatever they are called) of all the plants were thick and juicy and quite long — if you measured around their quaint shape.

