

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD  
NATURALIST CLUB

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

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE 1975-1976.

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ACTIVITIES

MEETINGS - 4th Wednesday 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 - Nundubbermere Road Area      Date 19th OCTOBER, 1975

Organizer - Brian McDonagh

Departure Time - 9.30 a.m. from Weeroona Park.

NOTES FOR THE OCTOBER OUTING TO THE NUNDUBBERMERE ROAD AREA.

Leave the Park at 9.30. We expect to have an outing of varied interest, some wildflowers, some geology, some rambling and some magnificent rock formations.

Directions for those who will arrive late, proceed along the Texas road to Nundubbermere Road, then 7 miles. Immediately after the third grid (count them) turn right through a gate at a stockyard then follow Nats Signs. BRING YOUR OWN DRINKING WATER. In the event of excess rain this trip will have to be postponed but we have another ready.



October, 1975.

October outing notes continued:

We will leave the park at the same time.

SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING SUBSCRIPTIONS

As Annual Subscriptions were due as of the JULY Annual Meeting it was decided at the last monthly meeting (September) that after this month's edition of the Nats Magazine only paid up subscribers will receive copies of the magazine in future. Dot Archer, the Treasurer, will be only too happy to receive any unpaid subscriptions and her address if you wish to mail them to her is "Post Office, Applethorpe, Q., 4378".

EXTRA WILDFLOWER OUTING will be held at the end of October or early November under the leadership of Mrs. Dorrie McCosker

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

September 24th, 1975.

Present 19.

Apologies - 6.

The President, Mr. N. Butler, welcomed members and visitors to the meeting.

MINUTES - It was moved by W. McCosker and seconded by T. Archer that the minutes published in the Sept. Newsletter be taken as read. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE - Inward correspondence was received from:-

Mrs. H.M. Donovan - Texas  
Warwick Walker Vol. 3 No.2  
Toowoomba Nats No.265  
Q'ld Nats. No.78  
N.P.A. News Vol. 45 No.6.  
Dept. of Forestry Warwick  
Outward was forwarded to:-  
Adult education -  
4 QS  
District Forester - Warwick

It was moved by W. Newman and seconded by Mrs. McDonald that the inward be received and the outward adopted. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Mrs. D. Archer moved that credit balance of \$123.15 be received and account for postage \$3.28 be passed for payment. Seconded by N. Butler. Carried.



OCTOBER, 1975.

MINUTES continue:-

OUTING REPORT -

Mr. T. Lancaster reported on the Wildflower Outing in the Amiens Area. An attendance of approximately 10 cars and 35 people was very pleasing. First stop was Cowies Lookout where over 3 doz. varieties of wildflowers were noticed. A very pleasant stop at Mrs. Bessie Harslett's for lunch was followed by a walk up the Sow and Pigs where more wildflowers were observed and a very pleasant view was seen.

NEXT OUTING - This will be on October 19th and will be led by B. McDonagh. Weather permitting it will be in the Nundubbermere area and promises to be a very interesting day of varied interests. If too wet the alternative area will be Wyberba.

GUEST SPEAKER - Owing to a delay in the reply from Dr. Kirkpatrick it is not certain whether he can attend. Failing this we will be pleased to have Mr. McDonagh as guest speaker.

GENERAL BUSINESS - Following the formation of a branch of the Arts Council in Stanthorpe they have requested we send a delegate to this next meeting. Mrs. D. Archer volunteered.

With the substantial increase in postage of the magazine, we request that members check whether they are financial. We regret that if subs aren't paid after the receipt of this magazine that no further newsletters will be forwarded.

Discussion on the contents of Mrs. Donovan's letter re the preservation of the wildflower area at Coolmunda Dam, Inglewood took place and although we are very sympathetic to her cause we feel we cannot do any more than give moral support until the area is viewed. As our programme for this year is full we suggest that she may be willing to lead us in an outing in the wildflower season next year.

Members note that a special outing at Wyberba for Wildflowers will be held toward the end of the month (Oct.) Mrs. McCosker will advise most suitable date So watch for date.

CLOSURE - As there was no further business the meeting closed at 8.55.

SPEAKER - "What makes our Weather" was explained very capably by Mr. T. Archer after the meeting.

PROGRAMME CONTINUED from Page 1.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, October 22nd, 1975

Speaker - Dr. Kirkpatrick or Brian McDonagh.

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October, 1975.

FALSE IMPRESSION submitted by Nats. Member Joan Stevenson.

Sitting on the cement of a type of breakwater with your fishing line set and the seagulls overhead sounds so familiar that you imagine yourself down at the beach on a perfect day. Yes, the fish were biting extremely well too but they weren't flathead, mullet or whiting. Golden perch were the fish and the scene was the outlet to the Main Weir of the complex of inlets and outlets which guide the Darling River through the Menindee Lakes.

Normally the lakes are used as part of the water supply for Broken Hill and to ensure permanent water they have diverted the Darling to supply fresh water for these huge inland lakes.

When on holiday last May the Darling was going through a series of "freshes" which kept it flowing at almost peak height. This meant that it was a good chance to drain the lakes and allow space for the new water to refill them. By opening the weirs on the canal system the fish also were let through and fishermen for miles were lined up to reap the harvest of the lakes. When professional fishermen tell you its easier to catch them by hand you have to see it to believe it. But true it was. Yes, over forty fish before lunch and another twenty after lunch and still only 2.30 p.m. and all over 2 lb. or more than 10 inches long - no tiddlers. As the floodgates had been opened for a month and this a regular catch you can imagine the wealth of the lakes. Only one regret on our part and that was we had to limit our catch to what we could eat.

On moving to the quieter backwaters of these huge lakes it was a different paradise watching the herons, seagulls, ibis, ducks and waterfowl of many species as they made use of the tree lined edges and shallows for their feeding and nesting. Oh! to return someday.

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A Surprise Visitor -



I was watering our garden the other week and had just transferred the hose to another tap up the back when suddenly something flashed past me from the bank near the tap. It wasn't a bullet even if it travelled like one but was a spotted Pardalote (Pardalotus Punctatus - also called spotted diamond bird). This little visitor had chosen the bank back of the tap for its nest as the favourite position for a Pardalote to place a nest composed of bark fibre is in a hollowed chamber at the end of a tunnel in a bank or in the ground. On closer examination I located the opening.

Since moving to our home on Caves Road with the lovely bush surroundings I am enjoying seeing and learning about the Australian birds that are new to me. We encourage them to remain by feeding them what they like to eat and making sure they have plenty of fresh water to drink and bathe in - however I do draw the line at catching bugs and insects for them.

How lucky we are to have so many of nature's treasurers to enjoy!!  
"Dot Archer"



And from our Club Flora Office, Mrs. Dorrie McCosker, we have the following very interesting item on the Flora seen on our last outing to the Amiens Area on Sept. 21st.

Another enjoyable day was spent at Amiens where many of the Acacia species were still at their golden showiest while red seed pods were colouring others. We saw at least a dozen different varieties in bloom from prostrate ground hugging varieties and rounded shrubs to slender trees.

Also when that neat little eye-glass appeared there were prostrate ground hugging Nats for whom a whole world of beauty opened up as we admired the varied shapes and patterns within many of the minute flowers and plants.

The "False Wattle" *Notelaea* attracted interest with its fresh green foliage and tiny bell shaped flowers.

Everyone loves *Boronia* so we were able to "Oooh" and "Ah" at the pink acres through the fence in one area. The delicate shell pink and white *Zierias* were quite insignificant beside their showy cousins. There were a few plants of snowy white *Boronia* which I think would be the same variety as the pink and most attractive because of their rarity.

Two varieties of *Phebaliums* were admired. *P. rotundifolium* which grows abundantly through many districts and *P. stenophyllum* which prefers the Amiens area.

In heathy areas two *Epacris*, four *Leucopogon*, *Calythrix* and graceful lacelike *Micromyrtus* were plentiful with *Caladenia* and *Glossodia* ground orchids for colour surprise. Showy *Mirbelia* and *Hoveas* were still evident while *Iris* (*Patersonia*) and *Styphandras* are just starting to flower.

At lunch, in Bessie Harslett's garden setting, we admired the cultivated beauty of the flowers that grow wild in Europe - Bluebells (*Scyllas*), Iceland poppies, Pansies, Stocks and Primroses while petals from Almond blossoms floated around us on the green lawns.

After parting from the rest of the party we drove a few miles along the G Oldfields Road to admire the magnificent Mugga (red flowering iron bark) that grows beside the road. Although it was a month since we last admired this tree in bloom it was still worth the drive. Birds fed happily high in the branches and the ground was carpeted with the showy blooms.

Acres of *Kunzea capitata* at Passchendaele are always worth a visit, so we called in. Another *Phebalium* claims this area as its own. I noticed plenty of evidence of wild pigs rooting in this area. It is good to see eye catching *Kunzea* shrubs blooming in more gardens each year in town.

Most plentiful amongst the "Eggs and Bacon" were *Pultenaea*, *Daviesia* and *Bossiaea*. *Choretrum condollei* - a parasite - deserves its common name of Nature Broom.

And of course I recalled the outing vividly all the following week, especially each time that bull ant bite started itching!

(Ed. Note - Many thanks Dorrie for recalling the lovely Flora to us that we saw on our outing.)

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DON'T FORGET THE NEXT OUTING WITH BRIAN McDONAGH ON OCT. 19th TO NUNDUBBERMERE AREA.

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The Bushman - I walk beneath the gums and find serenity and peace of mind,  
And by the creeks I wend my way to gain refreshment day by day;  
For I believe that nature's page has words of truth for every age.

(continued on Page 6.)



"The Bushman" continued from Page 5.

I walk in rain or golden sun and trade old doubts for faith new won,  
As sunshaft, splint'ring on the hills, with vital zest my spirit fills;  
For I believe that nature's light can guide my falt'ring steps aright.

I walk in harmony with trees that fling their songs upon the breeze,  
Exulting in each pleasant sound with which the bushland haunts abound;  
For I believe that nature's voice can make the saddest heart rejoice.

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# WHAT DO YOUR "BUSH BIRDS" LIKE TO EAT?

Was chatting the other day with a fellow "Caves Area" resident on the various Bush Birds that we enjoy here and the subject of "what to put out for them to eat" came up.

I was very surprised to learn that the following birds are very partial to "cake" (no chocolate thank you - we have to watch our waistlines!)

Honey Eaters, Wattle Birds, Silver Eyes, Kurrawongs, Noisy Friar Birds  
(Leatherheads)  
Crows,\*Koels.

Occasionally the Grey Thrush, Northern Yellow Robin, Satin Bower Birds and Peaceful Doves will have some too.

Of course the Laughing Kookaburras, the Noisy Magpies and the Butcher bird enjoy their feed of mince, but for dessert will join the cake eaters. Double Bar Finchs, and gay little Firetails look for their ration of seed each day (and on weekends I'm sure they must have an influx of visitors, (relations no doubt from other areas) for their number at feedtime seems to double.)

The perky little Blue Wren and Jenny Wren go eagerly for the Bread Crumbs.

Do you know of any other 'likes and dislikes' in the eating habits of Bush Birds around your Place?

An item for our magazine on this subject would be very welcome.

Of course if you have any other subject you would like to write about, that too would be very welcome. News Snippets; poems anything you think we'd enjoy reading. If you'd prefer to draw something - I'd be only too happy to let you have a stencil to use. DON'T FORGET - ARTICLES ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

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Next Month I'm hoping to be able to publish a further article on the Continental Drift by Maurice Passmore. I had it in time for this publication but it will require quite a few pages as there are numerous maps etc. - so watch out for it in the near future if I don't get it in November's Magazine.