

1976

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF

THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB P.O. Box 15 4
Stanthorpe, Q., 4380.

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE 1975/1976.

President	Mr. Noel Butler
Vice Presidents	Mr. Frank Wilkinson
	Mr. Maurice Passmore
Secretary	Mrs. Joan Stevenson
Treasurer	Mrs. Dot Archer
Newsletter Typist	Mrs. Dot Archer
Newsletter Sub-Committee	Mr. & Mrs. W. Cathcart
Publicity Officer	Mrs. Ailsa Wilkinson
Librarian	Mrs. Z. Newman
Flora Officer	Mrs. W. McCosker
Fauna Officer	Mr. B. McDonagh
Geology Officer	Mr. M. Passmore
Youth Officer	Mr. John Stevenson
Bushwalking Officer	Mr. R. McCoasker
Committee Members	Mrs. Jean Harslett
	Mr. Errol Walker

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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 - MARCH

Campout Weekend - Girraween National Park Date 20th & 21st March, 1976

Leaders - Mr. Robin McCosker

APRIL FIELD OUTING - Jolly's Falls - Donnelly's Castle. Mr. Errol Walker

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, March 24th, 1976. No Guest Speaker - instead a Specimen Night by club members - bring along anything interesting you have.

See Pre Campout Weekend report by Robin McCosker for all information regarding this outing.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE BEFORE THE CAMPOUT - THAT IS THE WEEKEND OF THE LOCAL ELECTIONS
SO PUT YOUR ABSENTEE VOTE IN AND COME TO THE CAMP SITE ON FRIDAY NIGHT.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETINGWednesday, February 25th, 1976.

The President welcomed all to the meeting.

MINUTES The minutes of the January meeting as published in the magazine were confirmed by Mrs. D. Archer and seconded by Mrs. A. Wilkinson. CARRIED

Inw. Correspondence - Inward Correspondence was received from:-

Dr. Kirkpatrick,
6 press releases from National Parks & Wildlife Service
Magazines from - N.P.A. Vol 46 No. 1
Warwick Walker Vol. 3 No. 7
Q.N.C. No. 81
Chinchilla Nats Vol. 9 No. 7

Outward Correspondence - Letters were forwarded to:-

Dr. Kirkpatrick,
4 Q.S.
Apple & Grape Festival Committee
Adult Education Return

That the Outward Correspondence be confirmed and the inward received was moved by W. Cathcart and seconded by B. McDonagh. CARRIED

TREASURER'S STATEMENT - Mrs. Archer moved and Mrs. McDonald seconded that credit of \$91.95 be received and accounts to Border Post for \$3.00 and Postage on Feb. Magazines be passed for payment.

OUTING REPORT - Mr. Cec Curr reported that weather conditions were very dubious for the outing to Jibbenbar Arsenic Mine and it was postponed to a future date.

Next Outing - This will be a Campout on March 20/21 to Girraween National Park. Final arrangements are to be made with Errol Walker. The Ranger at the Park, Mr. Grimshaw, has offered to show slides etc. on the Saturday Night and also to ensure suitable camparea for the Club.

APRIL OUTING - To keep ahead with outing arrangements, the April Outing will be held at Jollys Falls/Donnelly's Castle area. As this falls on Anzac Day the Departure time will be 1 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKER - No guest speaker has been arranged and a Specimen Night by club members is to be held. All are asked to participate.

GENERAL BUSINESS - The offer of a window in Central Motors for a Club Display by the Club is much appreciated. This will be attended to by Mrs. J. Harlett, Mrs. D. Archer, Mrs. J. Stevenson, Mr. N. Butler, F. Wilkinson and M. Passmore. - meeting at the garage on Monday, March 1st at 7.30 p.m.

Postage on Magazines was much discussed with the general feeling being a postponement of action till after the annual meeting when a review of costs will be made. It is possible an increase will be made on annual subscriptions.

A proposal to form an Education Centre will be the subject of a meeting to be held at the Civic Centre on Monday March 15th at 8 p.m.

A request was made for a Club representative.

The Editor has made an urgent appeal for material for the magazine. Wishes for a speedy recovery were to be forwarded to Mr. C. Burton.

GENERAL BUSINESS - February Meeting Minutes continue -

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 p.m. after which Mrs. Jean Harslett spoke and illustrated with slides on the Identification of Wildflowers in her usual informative and entertaining style.

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PRE OUTING REPORT ON CAMP OUT AT GIRRAWEEEN NATIONAL PARK - March 20th/21st, 1976.

Campout at Girraween? - But that's only 20 miles away - we can drive there in about 30 minutes - Why Campout?

Why indeed!!

Well the reasons are simple - Firstly, sometime ago at a Committee Meeting it was decided that in order to further our aims as a Naturalist Group, our members should be encouraged to participate in camping trips in order to widen the scope of their study in the varying fields of Natural History encompassed by our Naturalists' Club. To do this we need some camping experience where we can learn from some of the "Old hands" a few of the tricks which make camping out a pleasant and relaxing activity, with time to enjoy the surroundings and make the most of the time available. We decided on Girraween, because of its excellent facilities, and being so close to town we should feel more at home to do the things outlined above, and hopefully from the knowledge so gained be better prepared for future camping trips, such as the June outing to Dalby .

Another reason for choosing Girraween is that, although the main features of "our" wonderful park are generally well known to most members, there are places of great interest to which few have visited. One of these is the "Sliprocks", a very scenic area to the north east of the Pyramids. Errol Walker has kindly agreed to lead a party to this area on Saturday. Errol and I, having had a little experience in camping and bushwalking will be more than happy to pass on the knowledge gained from our experiences to newcomers; (even though Errol is going to use his caravan at Girraween for the weekend!)

On Sunday it is my intention to lead a party to an area behind the Pyramids, well off the normal walking tracks, where a large mass of rock stands in an unusual formation some 15 metres high. There are three or four vertical columns eroded in such a way that morning sunlight shades the western sides giving strong relief to the Eastern sides and creating a cathedral-like effect. Of course, in the evening sunlight, the effect is the same, but in reverse. The walk will be quite long and strenuous, as the formation is high on a ridge, with a steep gorge between it and the Pyramids.

Stout walking shoes, lunch and water will be required (not to mention plenty of energy) for both the Saturday and Sunday walks. The Saturday walk will start from Goebel's property, and we will drive to there from the camping ground. Departure time will be 9.30 a.m. from the camping ground, to return hopefully, in plenty of time to prepare the evening meal in daylight. On Sunday the walk will have to leave the Camping Ground no later than 8.30 a.m. to allow enough time to return and pack up.

We would like to see people of all ages camping-out for the weekend, so for those who feel they may not be up to a hard full day walk there will be shorter trips morning and afternoon, both days, (if there are sufficient numbers) along the excellent walking tracks through the Park, without the need to carry lunch.

Our host for Saturday night will be the Park Ranger, Mr. Paul Grimshaw, who has

PRE CAMPOUT REPORT continues:-

kindly offered to show slides at the park including some of the recent floods.

Directions to the park are - (perhaps unnecessary) travel south from Stanthorpe to Wyberba and turn left off the bypass road at Girraween Signpost. Follow this road to the Park where NATS signs will direct you to the camping ground.

Though it is not essential to campout, I would urge members to do so and also to drive out and set up camp on Friday night, if possible, to enable you to prepare for Saturdays walk at your leisure.

Leader - Robin McCosker.

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P.S. - DON'T FORGET TO VOTE BEFORE THE WEEKEND SO THAT YOU CAN COME AWAY WITH NO WORRY ABOUT MISSING OUT ON THE 9.30 a.m. START FROM THE CAMP.

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"TO ONE WHO NEEDLESSLY CUT DOWN A TREE" given in by Ruth Lomas.

As I passed by, I looked and saw what you had done.
You had cut it a foot above the ground; all around lay the chunks of its white flesh, spattered from the axe.
It fell so easily. It did not fight back at all.

Its pride and majesty were so easily humbled, flung at your feet, a wreckage of broken branches and mangled leaves.

Did you see the long shudder before its fall. I wonder?

Did you hear the sigh of leaves, the wrenching cry as it strained, then crashed before you? And looking now at the hideously mauled stump, do you see the slow death-struggle of the roots.

Its destruction is utter. You burnt it. You leave it to rot.

It exists no longer.

But all around it, in the earth and in the air,
War has been declared against you.

The air for your breathing is less sweet than before. The birds have forsaken you, leaving insect pests and rodents to their work of destruction.
The wind will batter you more harshly.

The rain will pelt the earth more pitilessly. Its fall unbroken by that leafy screen.
The anchored soil will be stolen away by the rivulets of wasted water.

That tree did not fight back, but its friends will fight for it.
And long after the needless felling of trees has been forgotten their revenge will continue.

* * * *

Anon.

FLORA SECTION by Jean Harslett.

Notes on a programme given in lieu of one by Dr. Kirkpatrick (22/2/76). The slides and commentary were designed to assist members to recognize local wild flowers. The programme commenced with a quotation on trees, to promote thoughts on the need to preserve trees and the natural canopy they provide. A few groups or genera were selected, with an endeavour to show each species of the genera represented in this district. A short description of the special characteristics of each species was given.

Jean continues - The quotation was thus: "Among the trees are to be found the tallest, heaviest, and oldest plants of the world, and for mankind perhaps the most beautiful of living things. From the substance of trees we derive food, fuel and shelter; from their grace and enduring beauty we draw inspiration and a sense of spiritual renewal .

The greatest force in the natural world is growth, the noblest example of that force is a tree springing from a trifling seed. It draws against gravity and in transpiration the pull is felt in the tiniest veinlets of a leaf and is communicated back to the root hairs.

A hundred year old beech with a $\frac{1}{4}$ of a million leaves gives off 50 quarts of water a day into the atmosphere. This creates a force strong enough to pump up in six months 10 tons of water from the soil, sending it forth into the air in a quiet refreshing breath." Incidentally the average larger gum tree gives off moisture into the air daily at the rate of about 10 gallons a day. Therefore there is not the slightest doubt that because of tremendous cleared areas our weather patterns have altered. The removal of a tree means the destruction of the whole canopy of the life below at the same time, which can never be replaced without first achieving another similar canopy.

The first group of flowers depicted were the Boronias. The plants are distinctive in the bushland for the pungent aroma of their leaves when brushed or crushed. This emanates from the special characteristic they have of oil glands. The plants belong to a large family of Rutaceae as do also the oranges, which share the oil glands. The Boronias can be recognized from their closer relatives by possessing eight stamens which close the pistil in a small "cage". The four petals are star like and locally are all pink or white (with a pink tinge). There are nine species recorded locally. The generic name of Boronia is in honour of a well known Italian botanist, Francesco Borone.

Following will be the botanical names of the local species. The reason for giving these, is not to forget the 'local' vernacular, or even your own pet names, which all have a place, but to widen your field of interest when you see these plants elsewhere, and enable you to converse with others, with a common interest, on a common ground of nomenclature. For example picture the confusion when "Blue Gum" applies to 8 species; "Red Gum" to 10 species and "White Gum" to 15 species of Eucalypts.

- 1....Boronia granitica - the most widespread of our local pink flowering species and the most often seen. Its specific name describes its liking and need for granitic soils. Occasionally one finds a bush which throws white flowers.
- 2....Boronia repanda - flowers Sept.-Nov., well represented at Jolly's Falls, also found at Amiens and Passchendaele. The flower is deep pink and star like. The leaves are so full of oil glands that they have an almost 'granulated' appearance, 'repand' meaning having an uneven or waved appearance.
- 3.... Boronia Amabilis - This species is basically found at Girraween National Park with isolated recordings in the Amiens area. It is the most robust of local species, the leaves are very shiny, the flowers large pink and open. The specific name means 'lovely'.

Continuing Jean's Flora Section on Boronia -

4. • *Boronia microphylla* - A neat and compact low bush, very prolific in flower, frequently seen at Cottonvale and in the Eastern section of the National Park. The flower tends not to open fully until the end of its flowering season. However, the buds are full and attractive. The foliage is noticeably fine hence the name 'microphylla' meaning small leaves.
5. • *Boronia polygalifolia* - A diminutive plant growing low in the grass in damper areas and usually not noticed until it is flowering, when the typical *Boronia* flower is noted. It is so called because it is 'polygala-leaved' and it is ubiquitous in the district.
6. • *Boronia bipinnata* - This name to be treated with reservation, but the most recent information (from the Sydney Herbarium) states that it is often confused with *B. falcifolia* and *B. bipinnata*. It is an erect shrub with delicately pink flowers and is very beautiful and only known at the moment on Mr. Brian McDonagh's property. A few examples of a very similar species have been located at Blue Mt. and Dalcouth but there is every likelihood that there is yet another species involved.
7. • *Boronia anethifolia* - A very early flowering species and white in colouring, widespread though not over abundant anywhere in this district. The flowers never fully open and are small and like tiny white bells, but they have all the other family characteristics.
8. • *Boronia anemonifolia* - Perhaps this one should not be included as I have only seen it at BoonooBoonoo Falls. It is very similar to the above but it has leaves exactly like dwarf garden anemone leaves and the botanical name tells you this.
9. • *Boronia bipinatifida* - This is the rarest one I know in the area. It has not become rare because of its showy appearance, for one can overlook it quite readily. As far as I know it is represented by a dozen or so plants on Zannatta's property at Pozieres. The flower is white, very small and opens only slightly, flowering in September.

These observations are only for the Stanthorpe District and others could be made of these species and others in adjacent areas.

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Thank you Jean for this interesting article. Jean is going to give us more in the future on other Flora Family Groups, and we will all be looking forward to them.