

No. 76
AUGUST 1976

1.

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

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

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1976/1977.

President
Vice Presidents

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

Mr. Tom Archer
Mr. Noel Butler
Mr. Robin McCosker
Mrs. Joan Stevensom
Mrs. Dot Archer
Mrs. Dot Archer
Mr. & Mrs. W. Cathcart
Mrs. Ailsa Wilkinson
Mrs. Z. Newman
Mrs. Dorrie McCosker
Mr. Brian McDonagh
Mr. G. McDonagh
Mr. John Stevenson
Mr. Errol Walker
Mrs. Jean Harslett
Mr. Frank Wilkinson
Mr. Ray Marsden

* * * * *

ACTIVITIES

MEETINGS - 4th Wednesday of each Month in the C.W.A. Rooms at 8 p.m.

OUTINGS - Each Sunday preceeding the 4th Wednesday.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Single \$2.00

Family \$3.00

PROGRAMME

FIELD OUTINGS - August

Date - August 22nd, 1976 Place Rokeby Leader - Maurice Passmore
Meet at Weeroona Park at 9.30 a.m.

NEXT MEETING - August 25, 1976 - C.W.A. Rooms at 8.00 p.m.

Guest Speaker - G. McDonagh who will give an illustrated
lecture on "Off Shore Drilling".

* * * * *

September Outing - Day Trip to the 'Coolmunda Dam Area - Wildflowers.

August, 1976

ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON JULY 28, 1976 at 8 p.m.

Present 37 - Apologies 4.

Minutes - The minutes of the previous Annual meeting held on July 23, 1975 were read and moved by W. Newman. Seconded by D. Pfrunder. Carried.Correspondence - NilFinancial Statement - Treasurer reported year ended with a credit balance of \$23.19. Detail of statement as per attached audited sheet. Moved by Mrs. D. Archer that balance and statement be received. Seconded by Mrs. A. Wilkinson. Carried.Audited Balance Sheet

July, 1975 Bank Balance		\$ 64.24
<u>Income for the year</u>		
Subs for	\$102.50	
Donations	17.50	
Camera Club share		
of Post Box 154	7.50	
Sale of Car Stickers	2.40	
Sale of 1 copy of Mag.	.20	
Bank Interest	3.29	
		<u>\$133.39</u>
		<u>\$ 197.63</u>

Expenses for the year.

Magazine costs - Stencils	7.95	
Postage	47.99	
Duplicating costs	22.00	
Stationery &		
Newsraps	43.35	\$121.29
Petty Cash for Secretary		10.00
" " " Treasurer		10.00
Post Office Box charge		23.00 (includes \$8.00 from 1975)
Arts Council Display		4.00
Cancellation Advt.		3.00
Rec't Book		.35
		<u>\$ 171.64</u>
June 30th, 1976 Cash on hand		2.80
Bank Balance	39.54	
Less Outstanding cheques for June/76		
3.00 & 13.35	-16.35	<u>23.19</u>
		<u>\$ 197.63</u>

Audited and found correct (signed) A.T. Baker
22 July, 1976.

Presidents Report - Mr. N. Butler reported that 1975/76 had been a very happy year with good attendance at outings and meetings. Guest speakers at meetings were well received and our thanks to them. Thanks also to leaders of outings but with disappointment that three outings had to be cancelled due to rain. Club was responsible for two displays which were well received. Finances were reasonable but a review of subscriptions is necessary. President thanked office bearers for their assistance.

Mr. Butler moved that his report be adopted. Seconded by Mrs. Jean Harslett who added hers and members thanks to office bearers.

CARRIED.

August, 1976.

Minutes of Annual Meeting continue -Election of Office Bearers -

Mr. Butler vacated the chair and Mr. F. Wilkinson called for nominations.

President:- Mr. T. Archer nominated by W. Cathcart. Accepted

Vice-President:- N. Butler nominated by J. Harslett. Accepted

Robin McCosker nominated by J. Harslett. Accepted

Secretary:- J. Stevenson nominated by N. Butler. Accepted

Treasurer:- D. Archer nominated by M. Marsden. Accepted

Newsletter Editor:- D. Archer nominated by Z. Newman. Accepted.

Newsletter Sub Committee:- W. & N. Cathcart nominated by J. Harslett. Accepted.

Publicity :- A. Wilkinson nominated by J. Stevenson. Accepted.

Librarian:- Z. Newman Nominated by T. Archer. Accepted

Flora:- D. McCosker nominated by N. Butler. Accepted.

Fauna:- B. McDonagh nominated by F. Wilkinson. Accepted.

Geology:- G. McDonagh nominated by J. Harslett. Accepted.

Youth:- John Stevenson nominated by T. Archer. Accepted.

Bush Walking:- E. Walker nominated by R. McCosker. Accepted.

Committee Members:- J. Harslett nominated by A. Wilkinson. Accepted.

F. Wilkinson nominated by W. Cathcart. Accepted.

R. Marsden nominated by N. Butler. Accepted.

Business Nil.

The meeting closed at 9 p.m.

* * * * *

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING - July 28, 1976.

Present 37 Apologies - 4.

Minutes That the minutes as per newsletter be accepted was moved by Mrs. Z. Newman, seconded by Mrs. M. Marsden. Carried.

Correspondence- Outward was sent to:- Adult Education, 4 QS, and Mr. & Mrs. Bennie. Inward was received from:- Granite Pictorial; 4 press statements from Dept. Parks & Wildlife; Beauraba Scouts; Fido; Darling Downs Nats. No. 274; Urinbirra Vol.9 No.11, Vol.10 No.1; N.P.A. Vol.46 No.5; Down Under Vol.15, No.3; Warwick Walker Vol.3, No.12.

That the outward be endorsed and inward accepted was moved by C. Curr and seconded by A. Wilkinson. Carried.

Financial.- As per annual meeting - Cr. \$23.19.

Accounts for payment - Postage \$5.26 was moved by J. Harslett and seconded by F. Wilkinson. Carried.

OUTING REPORT

Mrs. Marsden reported 9 cars and 31 people attended the Lake Broadwater, Dalby Camp. Mr. & Mrs. Bennie had camp well set up with tables, fire etc. After an early lunch the party moved by bus to "Duntroon" where we strolled among distinctive trees - one being a freak smooth bark apple. A visit to "Lakeview" garden where over 400 species of 'natives' including acacias and banksias was a delight. Evening programme very entertaining slides were shown by Mr. & Mrs. Bennie at which we were joined by the Dalby Camera Club, Chinchilla Nats & Dalby Wildlife Club. Sunday morning trip was mainly taken with bird watching around the lake edges and bushland. Camp broke up mid afternoon. Mrs. Newman reported seeing over 70 varieties of birds. NEXT OUTING - August 22nd - This will be decided at special Committee Meeting. NEXT MEETING - August 25th, 1976.

AUGUST, 1976

Minutes of General Meeting - July 28th, 1976 continued -

Business - Mrs. Z. Newman explained a request from The Society for Growing Australian Plants to forward flowers for their Annual Flower Show to be held in Brisbane on September 4th & 5th. Mrs. Z. Newman and Mrs. W. McCosker with club assistance to forward specimens. Moved by Z. Newman and seconded F. Wilkinson. CARRIED.

Discussion took place on suggested subscription fees and it was moved by N. Butler and seconded by R. Marsden that new rating of \$3.00 for family and \$2.00 for single membership be charged. CARRIED.

Sister Klara O'Dempsey spoke of the equipment available to the group at the newly formed Community Centre at the State Primary School.

At the recent campout an invitation was issued to clubs present to join us in a campout in Stanthorpe with venue for camp at Storm King Dam. Mrs. Noel Butler moved and Mr. W. Newman seconded that Committee book hall for suitable date. Carried.

Special Committee meeting to arrange programmes for year and campout arrangements to meet at F. Wilkinson's on Thurs. August 5th at 7.45 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35 after which slides to "Remember Last Year" were shown followed by supper.

* * * * *

ONCE AGAIN Preouting Report to Rokeby - Leader Maurice Passmore - August 22, 1976.

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.30 a.m. SHARP - and any who wish may wait at Dalveen and we will join them there.

Rokeby via Dalveen and the Old Warwick Road - distance being 26 miles from Stanthorpe and 13 from Dalveen. Going this way you just follow the Old Warwick/Stanthorpe road until you come to Rokeby Station. Any coming from Warwick or Toowoomba it is Bitumen all the way. You go to the Sale Yards and follow the bitumen on the Old Stanthorpe Road for 9½ miles to Rokeby Station.

Another reminder that these fossils we are to see are still very important from a scientific point of view - the University use this area a lot - we are asked to be very careful so they will not be broken or destroyed in any way.

* * * * *

LAKE BROADWATER, DALBY CAMPOUT

Perfect weather, a lovely setting and congenial hosts made our campout at Lake Broadwater Dalby one to be remembered. Jack & May Bennie spared no effort to make our visit a happy one and had the camp well set up when we arrived with tables; a fire for cooking B.B.Q. style; Hot water laid on and plenty of firewood to keep the fires burning. The 'Hot Water System' was a gem.

Nine cars and thirty-one people were in camp - two of these were our friends from Brisbane. Some folk planned to sleep in the 'Hall' but tents, a caravan and campervan were also used. Mealtime was always a friendly affair - no one standing on ceremony. After an early lunch we boarded a bus supplied by our thoughtful hosts and went to 'Duntroon' where a pleasant walk was taken through typical Cypress Country. One Smoothbarked Apple tree (Angophora costata) had a most unusual swelling on the trunk which gave the camera enthusiasts an interest as did the pinkish-red colour of the bark. Much interest was taken too in the difference between Angophora which has its leaves opposite while the Eucalypts leaves are single and opposite. Woody Pears were also

Campout Report continues -

of interest but noone volunteered to eat them.

A visit to 'Lakeview', the home of Jack & May was next and in their garden can be found over 400 species of 'natives' including Acacias and Banksias all of which were a delight to see. Jack fed the birds while we were there and some of these were so tame they took food from his hand.

A B.B.Q. at the campsite was enjoyed that evening after which we were joined by members of the Dalby Camera Club, Chinchilla Nats and Dalby Wild Life Club for an entertaining 'Slide Show' by Jack & May which included a visit to the Blackdown Tablelands; Unusual Post Boxes and a very well produced and well received showing of 'Reflections'. The evening concluded with supper which included some delicious 'damper' baked fresh that evening in a camp oven. by Millie.

Sunday morning saw some campers out with their cameras taking advantage of the beauty this broad expanse of water offered with its graceful trees along the shoreline. Before breakfast could be cooked a Blue tongued Lizard, who had found a good spot to keep warm near the cooking fire, had to be forcefully removed and didn't like it one bit.

After Breakfast we were joined by some interested local folk and travelled to the other side of the Lake by bus and we walked down to the Lake through the bush and along the shore of the Lake. On our way we passed through typical Brigalow (Melon hole) Country where the Brigalow, Wilga and Belah form the typical scrub. Around the Lake a strip of Murry Grey Gums grow - some of these actually were growing in the water. Geologically this lake is a bit of a mystery for there seems no apparent reason for its formation and it would not appear to be caused by a meteorite. Bird Watching on the other side of the Lake completed a very enjoyable morning. Our 'Ballandean Birdo' will report more on that.

After Lunch we broke up camp and headed homeward - our grateful thanks to May and Jack Bennie for a very memorable weekend.

BIRDING AT LAKE BROADWATER by a Ballandean 'Birdo'.

The invitation from Jack & May Bennie to camp overnight at Lake Broadwater near Dalby was accepted with happy anticipation by a large and representative group of our club members and even the most optimistic hopes for an enjoyable and informative weekend were more than fulfilled. The only disappointment of any kind was suffered by those members unable to make the trip.

The Campsite right at the water's edge was quite delightful and the tranquil beauty of the broad expanse of water in the golden glow of late afternoon was only disturbed by the waterfowl, who swimming, diving or poised watchfully were seeking their evening meal. Overhead a veritable chorus of bird-song also heralded the coming of night. The scaly-breasted Lorikeets screeched happily as they wheeled through the trees, a Pied Butcher-bird fluted his musical song in the distance, magpies carolled and the twittering and chirping of smaller birds was eventually drowned in a late evening Kookaburra chorus.

The bird list supplied by our hosts were most helpful and the company of several other bird watchers who shared with us their local knowledge as well as their interest and enthusiasm made our birding most enjoyable.

The brilliant colour of the Red-capped Robin, an excellent view of a bird new to us, the Chestnut-tailed Thornbill, the poised stillness in the dusk of a white Egret, the song of the Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, the interest of seeing a Blue-winged Shoveler and Hoary-headed Grebe and the majestic flotilla of fifty-four Pelicans fishing in

Lallandean 'Birdo' continues -

close formation are memories we will long cherish.

The complete bird list for the weekend follows:-

Pelican	Crow	Redwinged Parrot
White-faced Heron	Galah	Mistletoe bird
Darter	Grey Butcherbird	Yellowfaced Honeyeater
Little black Cormorant	Little Grebe	Bar-shouldered Dove
Black-headed Pardalote	Golden Whistler (F)	Grey-crowned Babbler
Cockatiel	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Redtailed Black Cockatoo
Magpie	Scaly-breasted Lorekeet	Crested Pigeon
White Egret	Grey Teal	Blue-faced Honeyeater
Pale-headed Rosella	Kookaburra	Coot
Spurwinged Plover	Yellow-tailed Thornbill	Black Swan
Whistling Eagle	Brown Thornbill	Straw-necked Ibis
Royal Spoonbill	Little pied Cormorant	White Ibis
Spotted Pardalote	Rufous Whistler	White-breasted Sea Eagle
Peewee	Sacred Kingfisher	White-necked Heron
Grey Fantail	Yellow Robin	Wood Duck
Little Thornbill	Weebill	White-headed Stilt
Fantailed Cuckoo	Orange-winged Sitella	White-eyed Duck
Noisy Miner	Chestnut-tailed Thornbill	Currawong
Pied Butcherbird	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	Yellow-billed Spoonbill
Willy Wagtail	Grey Thrush	Blue-winged Shoveler
Double-barred Finch	Brown Honeyeater	Hoary-headed Grebe
Jacky Winter	Peaceful Dove	
Red-capped Robin	Blue Wren	
Striped Honeyeater	Black Duck	
	Nankeen Kestrel	

* * * * *

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.

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.

Edward Hunt.

* * * * *

SEE YOU ON THE 22nd of AUGUST

The Rokeby outing is on - - - - -