

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OF

THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB

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

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1976/1977.

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Mr. G. McDonagh
Mr. John Stevenson
Mr. Errol Walker
Mrs. Jean Harslett
Mr. Frank Wilkinson
Mr. Ray Marsden

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ACTIVITIES

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

OUTINGS - Each Sunday preceding the 4th Wednesday.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Single - \$2.00

Family - \$3.00

Please note increase for 1976/1977 Subs.

PROGRAMME

FIELD OUTING - OCTOBER

Date - Sunday, October 24, 1976. Place - Upson Downs Leader - G. McDonagh

Cars to assemble at Weeroona Park at 9.30 a.m.

NEXT MEETING - Wednesday, October 27, 1976 - 8 p.m. C.W.A. Rooms -

Guest Speaker - Mrs. Jean Harslett will take us "Travelling in New Zealand".

NOVEMBER OUTING - Camp Out at St orm King Dam at which we are looking forward to being joined by other Nats Clubs.

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF CLUB - September 22nd, 1976 at 8 p.m.

Present: 30

In the absence of President Tom Archer, the Vice President Robin McCosker welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies: 11

Minutes - That the minutes as per September Magazine be accepted was moved by Mrs. M. Butler and seconded by G. McDonagh. CARRIED.

Corresp. - Inward was received from: F. Wilkinson; Chinchilla Nats (re campout), Q'ld. Nats. (re campout), Adult Education (re financial assistance), A C F, Press release from Dept. Lands & wildlife, D. Donovan, Magazines from N.P.A. Vol 46 No. 6, Darling Downs Nats. No. 276, Warwick Walkers Vol. 4 No. 2, Chinchilla Nats. Vol 10 No. 3.
Outward was sent to: Society for growing Aust. Plants, J. Wyatt, D. Donovan, Mrs. J. Bennie, 4QS, Adult Education.

That the inward be received and the outward endorsed was moved by N. Butler and seconded by Sister Joan McGinley. Carried.

Financial Report - Mrs. D. Archer moved that credit of \$134.63 be received and accounts to Rover Scouts \$9.00 and Postage \$5.55 be passed for payment.
Seconded by M. Prentice. Carried.

Outing Report - Mrs. Jean Harslett gave the report for our outing to Coolmunda. About 60 people attended which included about 20 from Texas. Forty-six species were recorded which shows the profusion of the wildflowers and the success of the day. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Donovan for organising the day and our appreciation is to be expressed by a years membership and magazine to be forwarded to her. This was moved by Mrs. Harslett and seconded by Mrs. D. McCosker. CARRIED.

Next Outing - This will be held at Mr. Geoff McDonagh's, Nundubbermere on Sunday, October 24. A trip to the gorge will be made and it will facilitate the entry if four wheel drive vehicles are available.

Next Guest Speaker - Mrs. Jean Harslett will be Guest Speaker at the October 27th meeting at which she will give an illustrated talk on New Zealand.

BUSINESS - CAMPOUT Nov. 20 & 21, 1976. - A special meeting was held and the weekend is planned as follows.

Saturday, 20th, Leave Storm King at 12.30 sharp for the Junction.
Tea at the Dam to be followed by a programme. Mr. Gordon Brown of Warwick to be contacted to request he "explains the stars" to us. To supplement this if necessary the club has requested members to bring their ten best slides of the district and from these Errol Walker and Robin McCosker are to compile a programme.

Sunday, 21st. - Leave at 8 a.m. for Bald Rock and lunch there.
Departure can be at own suitable time. Return to Storm King to break camp.

Coolmunda Outing - The Club is still considering what action will be most effective in furthering the cause of preserving the wildflower area. Thanks to be sent to Mrs. Donovan & an invitation to attend any outings etc. This was also made verbally to Texas folk present.

October, 1976.

Minutes of Sept. meeting continue:-

Camera Club has issued an invitation to anyone interested in attending a lecture on "Composition" by Mr. Mathers to be held in the C.W.A. Rooms at 8 p.m. on November 9th - date to be approved.

That a rubber stamp & pad be purchased for the Club office bearers be purchased was moved by N. Butler and seconded by W. McCosker. Carried.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9 p.m. after which Sister Joan McGinley introduced Sister Joan Hooper who spoke on Missionary work on the Sepic River.

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OCTOBER Pre Outing Report - G. McDonagh, Leader.

Cars to assemble at Weeroona Park at 9.30 a.m. For those who wish to come direct, Upson Downs is immediately right after the third (3rd) grid on the Nundubbermere Road. It is anticipated that a party from the Redcliffe S.G.A.P. will be camping out there for the weekend.

Although wildflowers will be the primary objective for the outing, you will also be seeing excellent views of the granite to the west, and hopefully some rugged scenery along the granite/sediment boundary.

Would anyone with a 4 wheel drive vehicle please bring it along. The property tracks are mostly impassable to cars, and to achieve maximum interest in this outing we will have to drive some of the distance.

Should there be heavy rain in the preceding week, the outing will have to be restricted to visiting areas of interest within walking distance of the road.

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DATE CLAIMER FOR THE CAMERA CLUB -

On November 9th (Date has been confirmed) Mr. R. Mathers, a lecturer with the South East Queensland Association of Camera Clubs, will be giving an illustrated talk on "Composition". Anyone who owns a camera will find Mr. Mathers talk very informative and will I'm sure gain much to help them take better pictures in the future. Remember the date, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9th, at 8 p.m. in the C.W.A. Rooms. All are welcome.

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MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE -SLIDES OF THE STANTHORPE DISTRICT

Members are asked to bring their best 10 SLIDES of the STANTHORPE DISTRICT TO OUR NEXT NATS MEETING, on OCTOBER 27th. These are to be organised into a slide program for possible use at the NOVEMBER CAMPOUT Evening Programme. DON'T FORGET - YOUR 10 BEST SLIDES OF THE STANTHORPE DISTRICT.

October 1976.

The He SheOak

"Why do you call me sheoak?
 I want to be a he-oak
 I won't be a girl"
 Cries the knobbly imp
 'Neath the branches limp
 That sway and swirl.

"I'm not soft and fluffy,
 I'm a little roughy,
 I will be a he.
 I am round and tubby,
 And I'm black and grubby,
Not like a she.

"It's enough to rouse us,
 Us chaps in trousers,
 To throw things at y ou.
 If we're ever men --
 Just you wait till then --
 Boo-hoo! Boo-hoo ! "

From "A Bunch of Wildflowers" --
 a delightful book for children of
 all ages by Ida Rentoul Outhwaite.

Wild Flowers at Coolmunda

by D. McCosker our Flora Officer.

For the people who want to see lots of wild flowers without leaving their cars the area near Coolmunda Dam that we visited on our last outing is just the place. Acres (sorry, hectares) of flowering shrubs mingled their colours of gold, pink, magenta and white on green to resemble a patchwork quilt of muted colour tossed over the landscape.

There must have been a dozen different wattles of which a few particularly showy catkin flowered species attracted much attention. The snowy white "wedding bushes" were much admired. The pink boronia was a delight.

One of the most interesting plants there is a tree -- the casuarina that looks as if one of its ancestors was a stringy bark gum. "Sheoaks", "river oaks" etc. -- all the casuarinas I was acquainted with had rather similar hard rough bark until I met this hairy specimen -- *Casuarina inopala*.

The trunk is not round but grooved -- like a railway line and, I was assured, it is almost as hard and resists the forester's axe just about as stoutly as steel.

The species is said to have the largest medullary rays of any protacea and so the wood is beautiful when polished. Like other so-called "oaks" the wood makes a very hot fire.

Some of the fifty odd species of flowers that we noted are --
Acacia -- (*cunninghamii*, *conferta*, *serilunata*, *juncifolia* and *decora*)

Boronia -- 3 species; *Baekia densifolia*; *Calythrix* (white and pink);
Dampiera -- a very free flowering prostrate bush; *Dodonaea squarrosa*;

October, 1976.Coolmunda Dam Wild Flowers continued:-

Kunzea pauviflora; a pale yellow Melaleuca; one of the three Hibbertias
 was a very handsome plant; Styphandra glauca; Indigofera australis;
 Pimelea linifolia (a pretty pink; a blue Prostanthera; and the "wedding bush".

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This outing was enjoyed by about 60 people - twenty of these were interested folk from Texas and we did enjoy their company. Our grateful thanks to Mrs. Donovan for putting so much thought into the plans for this outing - showing us various interesting spots and many interesting and very beautiful specimens.

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C A M P O U T

DATES - November 20th and 21st

VENUE - Base Camp at Storm King Dam.

PROGRAMME

Saturday - November 20th - It has been planned to start our weekend by having an early lunch at Base Camp and leave Storm King Dam at 12.30 SHARP for a wildflower excursion to the Junction in Girraween National Park, leaving the cars at the picnic area in the park.

We will return to Base Camp at Storm King Dam for tea where facilities will be provided for both Barbeque and stove cooking. After tea a programme for the night is being arranged.

Sunday - November 21st - After an early breakfast we plan to leave Base Camp at 8 a.m. SHARP for Bald Rock. This will allow us time to explore Bald Rock and the surrounding areas. There are Barbeques at the parking area so we will have lunch there. We will return to Storm King Dam to break camp.

Please Note - Each person is to provide their own food and eating utensils. The camp is set up with single and double decker beds (mattress only) and campers also may use hall facilities and hot showers. For all staying at the camp area a fee of 65c per person per night is charged. Camp admission is from 4 p.m. Friday to 4 p.m. Sunday.

SEE YOU ALL IN NOVEMBER .. - - - - -

Map of November Camp Out Programme -