

WELCOME TO STORM KING DAM CAMP OUT.



FROM

President & members
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club.

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

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

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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 preceeding the 4th Wednesday.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Single - \$2.00

Family - \$3.00

PROGRAMME

FIELD OUTINGS

NOVEMBER 20th & 21st, 1976 - THERE WILL BE MEMBERS OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB THERE ON FRIDAY NIGHT THE 19th
-- YOU ARE ALLOWED TO CAMP AT STORM KING DAM
FROM 4 p.m. FRIDAY to 4 p.m. SUNDAY.

STORM KING DAM IS OUR BASE CAMP -- WITH PLANNED OUTINGS TO GIRRAVEEN NATIONAL PARK AND BALD ROCK. BE SURE AND COME IF YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS A REALLY GOOD WEEKEND -- AND BE SURE TO WEAR NAME TAGS -- IT SURE HELPS TO CREATE A FRIENDLY FEELING.

SEE YOU AT STORM KING DAM ON THE WEEKEND OF THE 20th & 21st. of N O V E M B E R.

NEXT MEETING - November 24th, 1976 at the C.W.A. Rooms starting at 8 p.m.

Guest speakers will be Mr. & Mrs. McDonagh Senr. who will take us on
"A VISIT TO WEST AUSTRALIA".

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MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING - 27.10.76.

The President welcomed all present.

Minutes - Mr. W. Cathcart moved and R. McCosker seconded that the minutes as published in the October Magazine be taken as read. Carried.

Correspondence - Inward correspondence was received from:
 Toowoomba Nats re campout; Qld. Nats re campout; Press release of Dept. Lands & Nat. Parks; Chinchilla Nats Magazine No.3Vol.10; Down Under.
Outward was forwarded to:--
 D. Donovan; Chinchilla Nats; Gordon Brown; Toowoomba Nats; 4QS; Adult Education Return.

Moved by Mrs. M. Marsden, Sec. W. Newman. Carried.

Financial - Mrs. D. Archer moved that credit balance of \$149.08 be received and accounts to Lees \$50.40; Postage \$10.33; Petty Cash (Secretary) \$10 be passed for payment. Sec. Z. Newman. CARRIED.

Outing Report - Mr. G. McDonagh gave his report on the outing to his property at Nundubbermere to which 50 people in 12 cars attended to be joined there by 11 members of S.G.A.P. Redcliffe members. There were patches of wildflowers including boronia hibertia which were seen before lunch. A ramble through the gorge in the afternoon was quite interesting with tongue orchids predominating. Sighting of a green tree snake was unusual for this area.

Next Outing - This will be the Campout at Storm King Dam on Nov. 20/21 where we will be joined by other Nats Clubs.

Next Meeting - Mr. & Mrs. McDonagh Senr. will be Guest Speakers with a visit to West Australia as their topic.

Business - Members were reminded to leave their slides of the district with Robin McCosker who will compile a programme for the Campout.

Campout:-- The President requested some members to be available to campout on Friday night to welcome early arrivals. Members are to wear name tags. The Committee to meet to meet to finalize programme.
 F. Wilkinson volunteered to check Bald Rock.

Further discussion took place re the Coolnunda wildflower area. It was moved by M. Passmore and sec. by F. Wilkinson that a letter be written to Mrs. D. Donovan requesting she find out the tenure of the land in question and to state just what action she wants from the Club - as a Club petition or just how to act.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50 p.m. after which we were delighted by Mrs. Jean Harsletts slides and commentary on her recent trip to New Zealand.

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Ed.Note - many thanks to Millie for the welcome cuppa after the meeting - the storm kept members from leaving and the cuppa sure cheered.

OCTOBER OUTING REPORT by our Leader Geoff McDonagh.

Twenty eight people assembled in nine cars at Weroona Park for the outing. A brief stop was made at a wildflower location at "Yarrabee" before the convoy arrived at "Upson Downs" and joined the eleven visiting Redcliffe S.G.A.P. members. Flowers in bloom at the meeting point included Microtis, Pterostylis, Diuris, Baekea, Leptospermum, Viola and Hibertia.

Property tracks were ruled as passable, despite the rain, but it was thought advisable to limit the number of cars. No one expressed any opinion of the roads in my hearing, but this may have been due to the fact that car owners were rendered speechless.

Our first stop was at a granite outcrop a couple of hundred metres off the track. Wildflowers in bloom here included Boronia, Baekea, Dampiera, Eriostemon, Hybanthus, Stylidium, Actinotus, Leptospermum, and Galeola. Pleasant views to the west were obtained at this location. The Redcliffe S.G.A.P. remained here compiling a list of wildflowers while the Nats members returned to the cars.

Lunch was taken at the end of the (?) good road. Transport after lunch was by Rolls Royce, Land Rover, Tractor or Shanks Pony. The latter was the most popular.

The afternoon programme consisted of a pleasant ramble along Nine Mile Creek. This flows along the boundary between the Granite and Traprock. The Traprock in this area is regionally metamorphosed marine sediment. Unfortunately few wildflowers were seen. Bird life was noisy but it was mostly unseen too. Two snakes a wallaby and a wild beehive were seen.

Wildflowers recorded during the afternoon included Dendrobium, Calochilus, Pandorea, Swainsonia and Grevillea.

I feel the outing provided a pleasant day for all who participated.

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Zaidee Newman - our "Birdo from Ballandean" reports -

Our last Field Outing to Upson Downs yielded a bird list of forty, this number including birds noted whilst travelling to and from the property. During our walk down the gorge particularly loud and melodious calls from Rufous Whistlers were appreciated and a Grey Shrike-Thrush during lunch time demonstrated that the alternative name of Harmonious Thrush was well deserved. Three unknown calls were heard but the birds were elusive - so remained unidentified. We were also very interested to examine the nest of a Crimson Rosella with one egg right at the bottom of a hollow fence post - a favoured site as it also nested there the previous year.

List of birds seen - Magpie, Sparrow, Crow, Domestic Pigeon, Nankeen Kestrel, Welcome Swallow, Wood Duck, Kookaburra, Whitefaced Heron, Little Grebe, Starling, Strawnecked Ibis, Reed Warbler, Whitenecked Heron, Grey Butcherbird, White Egret, White Ibis, Yellowfaced Honeyeater, Whitethroated Warbler, Jacky Winter, Dusky Woodswallow, Eastern Rosella, Currawong, Brown Thornbill, Rufous Whistler, Whitethroated Treecreeper, Grey Thrush, Blue Wren, Spotted Pardalote, Leaden Flycatcher, Red Wattlebird, Crimson Rosella, Noisy Miner, Peewee, Chough, Spurwing Plover, Willy Wagtail, Brown Goshawk, Dollarbird, Blackshouldered Kite.

THE FOWLYARD MYSTERY

by Zaidee Newman.

When we found that a hole had been dug under the wire-netting, we thought we had identified the culprit responsible for a recent disastrous massacre in our fowlyard. The fence was thoroughly fox-proofed, new fowls installed and we slept sound in our beds confident that no more at 3 a.m. would sounds of alarm and distress from our valued egg-producers disturb our rest. Alas! several nights later one reluctant hen failed to spend the night in the inner fortress - a completely enclosed fowlhouse. All that was left in the morning were a few feathers in the yard, several more on top of the six foot high wire netting - "He went this way my dear Dr. Watson", and a pathetic heap some way off outside. This led us to make enquiries about native cats as surely no fox could climb a six foot fence?


A resident on the western side of Ballandean sets traps for rabbits and he reports that he caught his first Spotted-tailed Native or Tiger Cat - *Dasyurops Maculatus* - twelve years ago. This genus is the largest of the marsupial cats and is distinguished from the Eastern Native cat by having the white body spots continuing along the tail. Another means of identification is a first toe and serrated pads on the palm and sole which indicates its tree climbing habits. Its diet is carnivorous and although able to kill small wallabies it's usual food is eggs, birds, rabbits and reptiles. The head and body of a full grown animal is about two feet and the tail almost the same length. A litter of from four to six is produced in the Autumn. This cat has a reputation for ferocity and courage and the occasional habit of wrecking havoc amongst domestic poultry.

Since that first cat twelve years ago numbers caught have increased steadily each year and it is estimated that between twenty-five and thirty have been caught in the last five years. Captured animals are always released as they are regarded as a useful predator of rabbits which somewhat compensates for their calamitous effect in the fowlyard.

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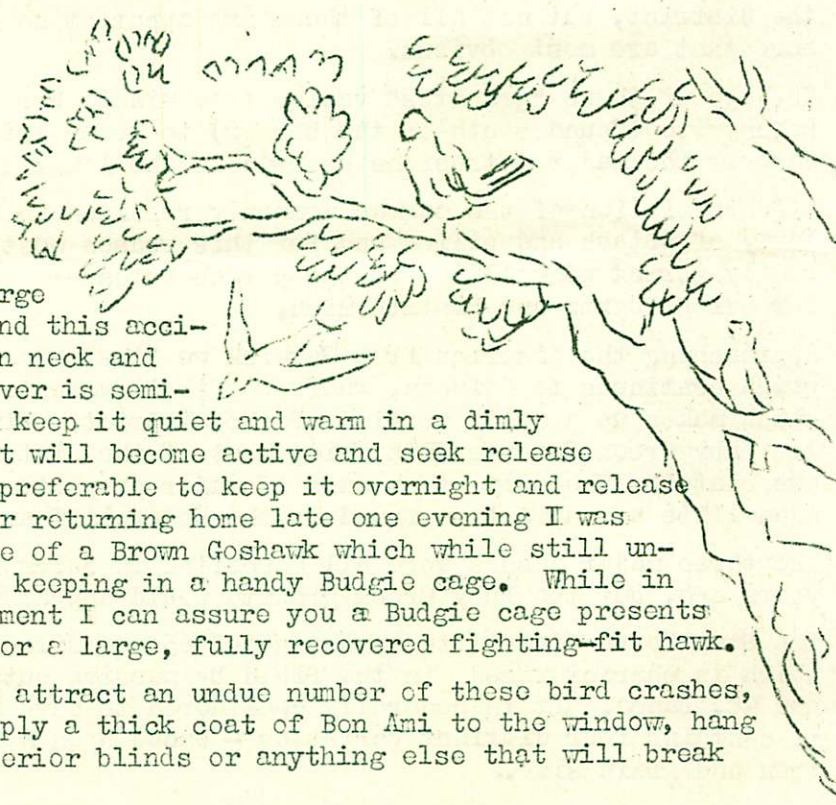
FIRST AID FOR BIRDS

by ZAIDEE



Birds very often crash into the large picture windows of today's houses and this accident frequently results in a broken neck and immediate death. If the bird however is semi-conscious and suffering from shock keep it quiet and warm in a dimly lit box. As soon as it recovers it will become active and seek release but if it is near nightfall it is preferable to keep it overnight and release early the next morning. Once after returning home late one evening I was confronted by the fierce yellow eye of a Brown Goshawk which while still unconscious had been placed for safe keeping in a handy Budgie cage. While in the "Useful things to know" Department I can assure you a Budgie cage presents definite extraction difficulties for a large, fully recovered fighting-fit hawk.

If you have a window that seems to attract an undue number of these bird crashes, preventative suggestions are to apply a thick coat of Bon Ami to the window, hang coloured plastic strips or use exterior blinds or anything else that will break the reflection of the bird.



ZIDEE CONTINUES 'FIRST AID TO BIRDS' - If orphaned nestlings or injured birds have to be fed for any length of time once the bird is identified the usual type of food eaten will be known. For seed eating birds a diet of chopped hard-boiled eggs rolled in crushed sweet biscuits such as arrowroot with an added pinch of wheat germ is suitable. For insectivorous birds suggestions are strips of liver or any other raw non-fibrous meat or scraped raw beef dipped in beaten raw egg. If possible wean to live meal or earth worms. Honeyeaters can be reared on farex mixed to a creamy consistency with a few drops of both pentavite and glucodin and water mixture (1 teaspoon glucodin to 1 cup of water). This can be fed with an eyedropper and later soft fruits and grated apple can be included. As they are nectar feeders raw sugar or honey and water mixture will also be taken but if white sugar is used Pentavite must be added to supplement the lack of vitamin B1.

These hints and many more have been given in a booklet put out by the Geelong Field Naturalists Club and titled "The Care of Sick, Injured and Orphaned Native Birds and Animals". They also advise that as most Australian fauna is protected by law you should contact your own State Fauna Authority and seek their approval to care for any bird or animal which needs your help.

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GEOLOGICAL NOTES ON THE STANTHORPE DISTRICT - by Maurice Passmore.

On first entering the district, the characteristic rolling country with its abundance of granite outcrops, must immediately attract the visitors attention. However most naturalists would want to know more than this, because of the obvious plant, soil, rock relationships.

The "Granite Belt" is in fact part of the huge New England batholith which continues south to Tamworth. There are many different "granites" within in this mass, and most of these separate intrusions have sharply defined contacts with a well defined contact metamorphic aureole. There are seven such masses or types to be found in the district, but not all of these are apparent so I shall only mention the three here that are most obvious.

The age of these "granites" varies from middle Permian for the Dundee Adamellite-Porphyrite (found south of the border) to lower Triassic for the Ruby Creek granite. However the major intrusions occurred in the lower Triassic period.

Differentiation of the magmas commonly resulted in an enrichment process particularly of potash and silica and for this reason most of the granites are more correctly termed adamellites as the potash feldspar content is above 40% - the remainder being quartz and biotite mica.

Approaching the district from Warwick we first encounter the Horries Adamellite which continues to Dalveen, where we first encounter the Stanthorpe Adamellite which makes up a major portion of the district. Finally at The Summit we find the Ruby Creek Granite with which most of the districts mineral deposits are associated. The only other mass of major proportions is the Undercliff Falls Adamellite a coarse type found in the Undercliff area.

The three major masses were all deposited in quick succession about 225 million years ago, but the Ruby Creek granite would appear to be the younger.

The Stanthorpe Adamellite covers some 965 sq. miles and is a coarse grained type which is characterized in the field by massive outcrops, notably the "Bald Rocks" and Mt. Banca. It is generally considered to have been a separate intrusion but it contains four distinct varieties - based upon K feldspar (Potassium) orientation and grain size.

MAURICE CONTINUES HIS STANTHORPE DISTRICT GEOLOGICAL NOTES -

The approximate chemical composition is quartz 25-30%, plagioclase feldspar 25-40%, K feldspar as microperthite 5-35%, biotite 3-8% plus other minerals such as hornblende and sphene. It is interesting to note the paucity of some essential growth elements like calcium and phosphate in the parent rock, and this is of course reflected in the agricultural practice of the district.

The Herries Adamellite has two varieties a fine and a coarse grained type with no distinct boundary however the coarse grained type predominates.

The composition of this type is quartz 20-22%, plagioclase 35-37 %, K. Feldspars as microcline 30-32%, biotite 5%, hornblende 4%.

The Ruby Creek granite, a massive even grained medium to coarse work, is characterized in the field by flatter topography and far fewer outcrops. It is also a homogenous type with a composition quartz 35-37%, plagioclase 30%, biotite 2%, K feldspar 30%.

Secondary Intrusions occur throughout the area and these can be separated into (1) aplites (quartz and feldspar) where water was not present at the time of deposition and it is thus a very fine grained intrusion (Bald Rock).

(2) pegmatites (quartz & feldspar) with big crystals indicating water was present & (3) greisen (quartz and mica) which is an altered pegmatite.

Tin occurred in both pegmatites and greisens but topaz only occurs in greisens.

If anyone wants to study the subject in more detail then they should obtain the geological survey report No. 64 with the accompanying map - Stanthorpe Special.

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NOTE FOR CAMPOUT - STANTHORPE MEMBERS WHO HAVE COPIES OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT No. 64 with MAP - STANTHORPE SPECIAL-PLEASE BRING THEM ALONG NEXT WEEKEND ALSO ANY OTHER TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL MAPS THEY MAY HAVE OF THE DISTRICT.

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OUR CHRISTMAS BREAKUP - AT THE JUNCTION

DATE DECEMBER 19th -

MORE ABOUT THAT IN THE DECEMBER MAGAZINE.

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SEE

YOU

ALL

AT

THE CAMPOUT -

Base Camp Storm King Dam

NOVEMBER 20th and 21st.