

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
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Mr. Tom Archer
Mr. Noel Butler
Mr. Robin McCosker
Mrs. Joan Stevenson
Mrs. Dot. Archer
Mrs. Dot. Archer
Mr. & Mrs. W. Cathcart
Mrs. Ailsa Wilkinson
Mrs. Zaidee Newman
Mrs. Dore McCosker
Mr. Brian McDonagh
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

DECEMBER OUTING -- Our usual Christmas get-together at the JUNCTION.
Dec. 19, 1976 Starts anytime in the afternoon with the B.B.Q. to
begin about 5 p.m. followed by a sing song.
Music in the form of cassettes for the sing song required.
Christmas and any other well known songs for singing.

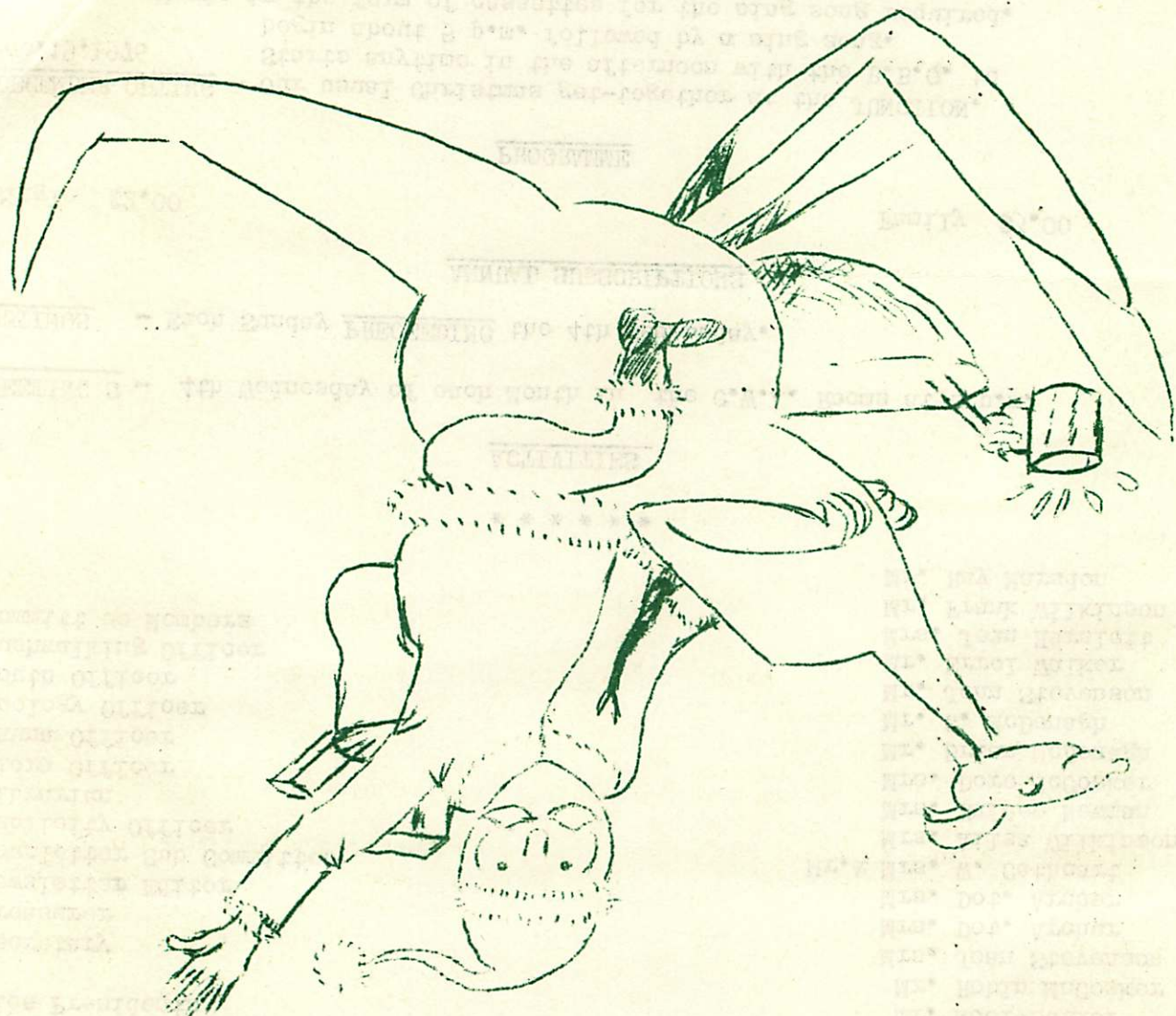
THERE IS NO MEETING IN DECEMBER.

JANUARY - 1977 -- NO OUTING

JANUARY 25th -- MEETING IN THE C.W.A. ROOMS 8 P.M. AN INTERESTING PROGRAM
IS BEING ARRANGED.

Male

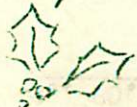
From President Tom



A Happy New Year

A Merry Christmas

and



MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING - held on November 24, 1976.

The President welcomed all present with a special welcome to previous members Bill and Margaret Flynn.

MINUTES - That the minutes be taken as read was moved by W. Newman. Seconded by Ian Jackson. CARRIED.

CORRESP. - Inward was received from:- (2) D. Donovan, Adult Education, Q'ld. Nats. Dalby Photographic Soc., Press Release Dept. Lands, Journals - Moonby 30, Q'ld Nats 89 & 90, NPA Vol 46 No.7, Warwick Walker Vol.4 No.3 & 4,

Outward was forwarded to:- Q'ld. Nats (2), D.Donovan, 4QS, Adult Education return.

That the inward be received and outward endorsed was moved by H. Stevenson Seconded by C. Curr. CARRIED

FINANCIAL - Mrs. D. Archer moved that credit of \$78.35 be received and a/cs to S.Lee & Co. \$3.70, Scouts \$6 be passed for payment. Seconded by Z. Newman. CARRIED.

OUTING REPORT - President, Tom Archer, reported on the most successful campout held at Storm King Dam on Nov. 20 & 21 to which members of Chinchilla, Toowoomba, & Q'ld. Nats, Dalby Photographic Society joined with us. As the Hall was available on the Friday about 30 people took the opportunity of settling in early. Slight rain on Sat. Morn did not deter members and an inspection of Wilf Newmans vineyard was arranged. Rock formations and the ducks on the dam were added highlights. After lunch a visit was made to the Junction where wildflowers were plentiful. Energetic ones climbed the Pyramids. With an overcast sky we could not avail the services of Mr. Gordon Brown to look at the stars through his telescope. Instead slides were shown of the district followed by ones of rock formations. Highlight of the evening was the cutting of the cake to celebrate Toowoomba Nats Club 25 years of activity. Sunday was an early start for Bald Rock where most climbed to the top while others were content to explore the base areas. It was estimated about 150 people joined in the weekend activities and all expressed their satisfaction of it having been most successful where knowledge was freely given & received.

NEXT OUTING - This will be our usual get together at the Junction anytime during the afternoon followed by a barbeque and sing song. Music is required please.

Jan. Outing & Meeting - Members indicated they did not favour an outing for January but the monthly meeting will still be held.

BUSINESS - Letter from Adult Education re sponsorship was discussed. As there is nothing definite to date nothing could be finalised but members present favoured continuation of meetings at the CWA rooms.

Mr. Peter McKechnie is to be approached on several matters. One deals with the area in question at Coolmunda Dam re wildflower area. Two Adult Education sponsorship. Three A suitable night is to be arranged for him to be guest speaker at our monthly meeting.

Moved by Mrs. Z. Newman, Seconded G. McDonagh. CARRIED.

MINUTES continued - Business

The Committee agreed to meet following this meeting to arrange the programme for the next 6 months.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9 p.m., after which Mr. & Mrs. McDonagh Sen. entertained us with their commentary and slides of their visit to West Australia.

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CAMPOUT REPORT by our Publicity Officer Ailsa Wilkinson

Members of several Field Naturalists Clubs of South East Queensland spent a memorable weekend camp at Storm King Dam with Stanthorpe Club as host. Sixteen members came from Chinchilla, Dalby had two representatives, Queensland Naturalists mostly from Brisbane had 41, Toowoomba 16 whilst 47 Stanthorpe members attended. Other visitors : from Melbourne, Rhodesia, Canada, Nambour and Warwick, were also present.

The base camp was the Fred Rogers National Fitness complex. Members began arriving after 4 p.m. on the Friday and the scene was soon one of great activity. Many camped in tents, several caravans arrived later, while others used the excellent facilities in the hall. Friday night was a get together for over 30 of the earliest arrivals.

Saturday morning was rather dismal, but nothing daunted, several carloads set off for the Wilf Newman Orchard at Ballandean. Here they enjoyed a conducted tour of the vineyard.

The highlight of the morning was the feeding of numbers of birds. These fly in each morning and evening to be fed. Spoonbills, finches and wild ducks were the most numerous.

The visitors were then shown trickle irrigation at work and tomato plants growing in paper pots in a plastic igloo.

All members assembled at 1 p.m. at Girraween National Park and when organised some moved off to climb one of the Pyramids under the leadership of Cec Curr and Bill Goebel, with Tom Chapman assisting them. The climbers were captivated by the Grandeur of the scenery especially from the summit of the Pyramid. Bill guided some of the more venturesome over the top and along a rocky ledge which was described as "rather hair raising". They also tried their skill at "Running Rock". The other party journeyed along the track to the Junction with Dorie McCosker, who was ever ready to assist with identification, names and habits of the numerous varieties of wild flowers which were in abundance. The visitors were greatly impressed by the beauty of the Junction track and the number of varieties of wild flowers, the views of the creek, Pyramids, rocks etc. and by the explanations given by Maurice Passmore on life cycles of ferns and mosses, also his excellent talk on xenoliths and secondary inclusions of aplite veins in the granites of the area.

An excellent programme was arranged for the Saturday night, but owing to the weather the talk and viewing of the heavens by telescope had to be abandoned, but the slide show of views of the Granite Belt was enlarged. The arranging and showing by Cec Curr and Robin McCosker with commentary was much appreciated and whetted the appetite of many to come again to see more of this area, especially of the Sundown Area which is Cec's domain.

President, Tom Archer, thanked Cec and Robin and welcomed all the guests and in turn received the thanks of the various clubs for the enjoyable camp out they were participating in. Noel Butler then spoke.

As it was the 25th Anniversary of the Toowoomba Club, Dot Archer had organised a "birthday cake" lighted with the appropriate 25 candles which was presented to the Toowoomba Club. The Toowoomba people were pleasantly surprised at this gesture. Supper was served and the cake sampled.

During the evening Dot Archer played the piano and community singing took place.

Sunday morning dawned fine and clear and members were up early to breakfast and away to Bald Rock National Park, where most climbed the rock accompanied by more 'one day' trippers. This was a most enjoyable day, and young and old were able to climb this magnificent rock and sign the book at the top. The visitors were enthralled at the splendid view of 360° obtained there. South Bald Rock, West Bald Rock, Mount Norman with the Eye of the Needle clearly visible through the glasses, Mt. Lindsay, Mt. Barney, Wilsons Peak all easily seen. The beginning of the Denon Fault, which stretches as far as Kempsey was pointed out by Maurice.

After descending, most stayed for lunch, gradually the numbers declined as car after car departed to pack up and leave the base camp for home.

Organisers of this campout, President Tom Archer and Secretary Joan Stevenson and Treasurer Dot Archer, with various committee and club members are to be congratulated.

It was suggested that this be an annual affair with other clubs maybe acting as Host.

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CAMPOUT LOST PROPERTY

The following items were left behind at the camp site. Anyone recognising an item as theirs can have same by contacting the Secretary, Mrs. Joan Stevenson, Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club, P.O. Box 154, Stanthorpe.

- † Frying pan (9") with short handled egg lifter
- † green handled s.s. desert spoon
- † knife cum bottle opener from a camping set
- † small saucepan lid
- † Tupperware (green) container of butter and tomatoe
in Frig.

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MEMBERS - CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER AT THE JUNCTION December 19th

BBQ to start at 5 p.m.

NO OUTING IN JANUARY

but MONTHLY MEETING ON January 25th 1977

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BIRD NOTES FROM CAMPOUT -- by ZAIDEE NEWMAN

With so many keen bird observers in action at our last outing the bird list was a very large one, particularly as it was compiled over two days and in such varied localities as Storm King Dam, Ballandean, Girraween National Park and in the vicinity of Bald Rock. Quite a number of our visitors appreciated the sightings of birds not common in their own districts and some unfamiliar bird calls were also noted.

Cuckoos were very much in evidence in all localities and their calls were both loud and insistent particularly at Bald Rock. One of the Birdos from the Chinchilla Club demonstrated such skill in reproducing the various cuckoo calls that even the cuckoos themselves may well have been confused. Heard or seen were the Koel, Palled Cuckoo, Brush Cuckoo, Golden Bronze Cuckoo, Horsfield Bronze Cuckoo and the Fantail Cuckoo.

Other birds of particular interest were the Redbrowed Treecreeper, Redtailed Black Cockatoo, Flame Robin, Musk Duck, Yellowtufted Honeyeater, Leaden Flycatcher, and what was thought to be a Cicada Bird.

The Black ducks at Ballandean were a small bonus highlight. They come in night and morning to be fed and will come at anytime in answer to a call. They were quite happy to stand around and produce conversational quacks and the soft hissing sounds of the drakes. They permitted the closest scrutiny in appreciation of the extra and unexpected meal.

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THAT YELLOW FLOWER -- by our Flora Officer, Dore McCosker.

A long time ago when I was a little girl at Boarding School at Bishop, visiting from Brisbane, used to comment on a few plants of yellow flowers that seemed to thrive in the hard ground beside stringy bark gums along the driveway. There was always a controversy over the name. Some said coryopsis, some collyopsis, callyopsis etc. A seed catalogue listed coreopsis or calliopsis so I have always stuck to coreopsis.

A year or so later a few straggling plants made a gay splash of colour in the drain beside the roadway towards the town. They spread through the playing grounds across the footpaths (no kerbing & channelling then) and into nearby yards. In no time, it seemed, aided and abetted by admirers, the whole southern side of the town appeared in a sea of gold.

Jacksonia scoparia (dogwood) blooming at the same time extends the golden tones right into the hills.

I feel sorry for people prone to hay fever or asthma at this time of the year and also alarmed when I hear of enthusiastic people carrying seeds to areas like our National Parks where there are no motor mowers or grazing animals like cattle to keep the plant in check.

BALD ROCK

When going to Bald Rock we travelled on probably the oldest highway in this area connecting the New England Tableland with Warwick. The first telegraph link between Brisbane and Sydney followed this route.

Before the Second World War the road was listed by the Australian Automobile Society as the best gravel surfaced highway in Australia. Perhaps that is why it has never been sealed. During the war the highway was built through

Dome continues -

Wallangarra and that now carries the bulk of the traffic.

In the earliest days sheep were grazed in the care of shepherds and "folded" at night on chosen sites. Rainfall is fairly high and much of the land swampy and unsuitable for sheep and they were replaced by cattle. Down through the years the long dry grass has been burnt off at the end of winter to encourage the fresh growth of new grass to feed hungry stock in the spring.

Continuous grazing and some indiscriminate fires have depleted the natural pasture over the years but the myriads of hardy "native flowers" that grow through the grass never fail to appear each summer. However they can no longer compete with our newest form of land management. Each year more acres of land are being cleared, ploughed and planted with improved pasture which provide us with superior steaks. We can't do without the steaks but let us always support our National Parks where these plants can be conserved and provide pleasure for future generations.

FLOWERS ALONG THE JUNCTION TRACK

- | | | | |
|------------|-------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| (Camp) | Isotoma anethifolia | | Melaleuca alternifolia |
| (Camp) | Wahlenbergia | | Micromyrtus sp |
| (Comp) | Brachycome sp. | (Orch) | Duiris (yellow sp) |
| | Helichrysum diosmifolium | | punctata |
| | obcordatum | | Lyperanthus suavedens |
| | bracteatum B | | Microtis parviflora |
| | acuminatum | (Pittosp) | Billardia scandens |
| | apiculatum B | (Prot) | Banksia collina |
| | Podolepsis longipedata | | Conospermum taxifolium |
| (Dillen) | Hibbertia linearis and others | | longifolium |
| (Gooden) | Dampiera purpurea | | linifolia |
| | Goodenia stelligera | | Grevillea (creamy) |
| | hederacea | | Isopogon anemonifolia |
| (Guttif) | Hypericum gramineum | | renanad petiolaris |
| (Labiata) | Westringia sp (blue) | (Ranunc) | Ranunculus lappaceus |
| (Legum) | Daviesia latifolia | (Rhamn) | Cryptandra scortechini |
| | Dillwynia retorta | | formerly Stenanthemum sc |
| | Jacksonia scoparia | (Rutac) | Eriostemon 2 species |
| | Lotus australis | | Zieria aspalathoides |
| (Lentibul) | Utricularia dichotoma | | laevigatum |
| (Lil) | Bulbine bulbosa | (Santal) | Choretrum candollei |
| | Dianella laevis | (Sapind) | Dodonaea filifolia |
| | Lomandra | | hirsuta |
| (Lobel) | Lobelia gracilis | | triquetra |
| (Myrt) | Backia densifolia | (Stackh) | Stackhousia viminea |
| | Callistemon rigidus (red) | (Stylid) | Stylidium graminifolium |
| | flavovirens) | | laricifolium |
| | sieberi)yellow | (Thymel) | Pimelea linifolia |
| | pallidus | (Euphorb) | Bertya pinifolia |
| | Calythrix tetragona | (Umbell) | Actinotis helianthi |
| | Kunzea bracteolatum | (Polygal) | Coinesperma ericinum |
| | Leptospermum arachnoides | (Violac) | Viola betonicifolia |
| | flavescens | | Hybanthus monopetalus |
| | minutifolium | | |
| | brachyandrum | | |
| | lanigerum | | |

BALD ROCK FLORA

Brachycome sp
 Helichrysum elatum
 Hibbertia dentata
 Orylobium trilobatum
 Bulbophyllum
 Thelymitra
 Grevillea — prostrate red
 Boronia microphylla
 Craspedia (billy's buttons)
 Hybanthus monopetalus
 (or filiformis)

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FOX IN THE HEN HOUSE sent in by Mrs. Gochel.

On a cold frosty morning in June I woke just at daybreak to hear a commotion in the hen yard. Grabbing a coat and slippers I dashed out to see a fox madly chasing a hen around the yard.

On hearing my shouts he made a run at the fence. At first attempt he fell back but at the second he just ran up the seven foot netting fence and over the top. He had eaten one hen and twenty two (22) lay dead around the yard, all killed the same way — one bite across the middle of the back.

As I could not find a hole anywhere in the fence I guess he came in the same way as he went out — OVER THE FENCE.

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D O N ' T F O R G E T T H E C H R I S T M A S B B Q A T T H E
 J U N C T I O N

S U N D A Y D E C E M B E R 19th , 1 9 7 6

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M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S

A N D A H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

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