

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALISTMONTHLY NEWSLETTER

of

THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUBP.O. Box 154,  
Stanthorpe, Q., 4380.OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1976/1977

|                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
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| Vice-President s         | Mr. Noel Butler        |
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| Bush Walking Officer     | Mr. Errol Walker       |
| Committee Members        | Mr. Frank Wilkinson    |
|                          | Mr. Ray Marsden        |

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MEETINGS 4th Wednesday of each Month in the C.W.A. Rooms at 8 p.m.OUTINGS Each Sunday PRECEDING the 4th WednesdayPlease Note - June Outing - Bunya Mt. Campout June 11, 12, 13/77  
NOT the weekend preceding the 4th Wednesday.

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Single - \$2.00

Family \$3.00

PROGRAMMEJUNE OUTING - CAMPOUT AT BUNYA MOUNTAINS - June 11th, 12th & 13th.NEXT MEETING - June 22nd, 1977 in the C.W.A. Rooms at 8 p.m.Guest Speakers will be Jan & Colin Hockings who will take us on a trip to  
"Hinchinbrook".

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RE BUNYA MT. CAMPOUT - it has been suggested that those planning to go on the Campout  
contact Dot Archer the day before leaving re weather etc.CHANGE OF DATE FOR STORM KING DAM CAMP - it will now be held on October 8th & 9th -  
access from October 7th at 4 p.m.

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MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON May 25th, 1977.

Present - 23

Apologies - 3.

The President extended a welcome to all present.

Minutes - That the minutes be taken as read as per May Magazine was moved by Mrs. J. Harslett and seconded by Mrs. D. McCosker. CARRIED.

Corresp. - Inward correspondence was received from Mrs. J. Hammond; Mrs. B. Rogers; Mr. P. McKechnie, M.L.A.; NPA Bunya Mts.; Press Statements from Dept. N. Parks and Wild Life; Magazines from NPA Vol. 47 No. 4; Urimbirra Vol. 11 No. 5; Wck. Walker Vol. 4 No. 10; D. Downs May; Down Under Vol. 16 No. 2.

Outward was forwarded to Adult Educ.; Bunya Mts. National Park; Tmb. Nats; It was moved by M. Passmore and seconded by Mrs. M. Marsden that the outward be endorsed and the inward received. CARRIED.

Financial - Mrs. D. Archer moved that credit balance of \$59.41 be received and a/cs. Lees \$29.20, Postage \$5.74, Rover Scouts \$3.00 be passed for payment. Seconded by W. Cathcart. CARRIED

Outing Report - Mr. N. Butler reported an attendance of 38 to the outing at the Goldfields West of Dalveen. Our sincere thanks go to Mr. Perry Butler and Mr. Bill Rozer for their help and information given to us. It was interesting to see what small outcrops of gold bearing reefs lured many to the area last century. Mines visited were the Rise & Shine and the Cameronia.

Next Outing:- Weather permitting this will be the week preceding our normal outing to enable us to have a campout at the Bunya Mountains. Days of camp will be June 11, 12 & 13. Members may either take their camping gear to camp on the Dandabah camp area or an early booking would be necessary at the Mowbullan Guest House. (Phone Bunya Mts. 1)

Guest Speakers - For our June 22 meeting we will have the pleasure of hearing from Jan and Colin Hockings on "Hinchinbrook".

BUSINESS

With reference to the letters from Mr. McKechnie, M.L.A. and Dept. for Lands, Forestry, National Parks & Wildlife re the Coolmunda Dam area:- Members discussed the issue and it was moved by Mrs. J. Harslett and seconded by Mrs. A. Wilkinson that a letter be written to Mrs. D. Donovan, Texas, requesting her to make investigation into an uncleared area in close proximity to the area in question as to whether it could be resumed and reserved. CARRIED. This area also had various wildflowers and could substitute quite well at lesser expense. A letter is to be forwarded to Mr. McKechnie to inform him what moves the Club proposed.

Re STORM KING DAM CAMPOUT:- As the date booked was not suitable for some clubs the Secretary was requested to change date.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9 p.m. after which Mrs. Jean Harslett gave a most inspiring talk (with slides) on how aware we can be of all around us and to stop and ponder on the wonders and life styles of both common and rare things.

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Re BUNYA MOUNTAIN CAMPOUT - if you don't wish to campout there are the following  
O/Site VANS - Albert Koehler Phone Bunya Mts. 9; Mowbullan Guest House - Phone  
Bunya Mts. 1.

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MAY OUTING REPORT by our Publicity Officer Ailsa Wilkinson

Our May outing to the Goldfields West of Dalveen was most interesting and informative. To most members, the inspecting of the mine shafts made by miners including many Chinese was a new experience.

Our Leader was fellow member Noel Butler with Mr. Perry Butler and Mr. Bill Rozer acting as Guides. Perry and Bill journeyed from Warwick especially to conduct the tour of the Goldfields and we are indeed indebted to them for making our day so enjoyable.

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And from Jean Harslett we have a very comprehensive history of the Pikedale Goldfields - these are extracts from Mines Records and Border Post Records and we thank Jean very much for all the time she put into getting this information to pass on to us -

A brief history of the Pikedale Goldfields may add some animation to our thoughts about our May Outing.

The discovery of gold dates back to early times. Donald Gunn in his book "Links with the Past" refers to helping his mother in the Station Store and that odd miners of N.W. Pikedale made their purchases in gold, hence some knew of its whereabouts in the area long before the real activity took place. Next came Salidy McDonald, a scalp hunter (i.e. shooting Kangaroos for scalps at 6<sup>d</sup> each, the skins in those times were valueless). He found signs of gold in the vicinity of the area later known as the "Rise and Shine" - He pegged his claim and designated it "The Scalp Hunter" - other claims soon followed.

Discoveries of reefs in 1877 were more or less in the following order Cameronian, Guiding Star, Lady Mary, Royal Standard, Blackfellow, Dan O'Connell, Kaffir Chief, The Star, The Wanderer, Good Hope, Dawn of Hope and several other "shows". The Blackfellow yielded 3 oz. gold to the ton to about 90 feet (one rich leader 2" wide yielded 10 ozs.) These workings were abandoned. The Cameronian opened very hopefully with 12 ozs. to the ton but soon fell to 1 oz. and the shaft was abandoned at 80 feet.

In 1878 there were several new reefs and a number of changed ownerships. The <sup>25</sup> Mile creek crushing machine of Messrs. Hutchinson & Co. was in full swing - Kaffir Chief Proprietary Messrs. Wray & Stanton, The Good Hope (Prop. Messrs. Anderson, Meyenberg & McDonald), Lady Mary (Bostock, Standley, Watson & Knehr), The Prodigal Son (Brown & Hugill) The New Jersey (Munson & Party) The Royal Standard (McLean & Baldwin) They were down to 60 feet indefatigable, plucky, and persevering holders, The Dawn of Hope (near One Eyed Gully, a lovely land) Props. Bagden, Hutchison & McGregor, Cameronian (Hutchinson McGregor & Morgan), The Dan O'Connell (Lynch & Joyce), Carnody Reef (Carnody & party) The Wanderer (no proprietors previously Kelly) The Old Pikedale (Benjamin & Webb) The Rise & Shine shaft to 85 feet - some good specimens from the heap at grass. The two best claims on the field 14. 1878 were "The Rise & Shine" and the "Pikedale Amalgamated" occupying the extreme outside positions on the East & West respectively, 8 miles apart with "The Mill" about midway, which speaks well for the extent of the field.

However, spirits were low. - - In 1875 the Border Post reports "The oldest mine on the field that of Webb & Party, "The Rise and Shine" is on the market for auction in Warwick." In March 1878 the Border Post editorial claims "Prospects of the place are not fully utilised" - distance lends enchantment - 8 of the reefs at Pikedale were situated in an outlandish place beset with dangers and difficulties of every kind, capital and labour would march hand in hand to the development.

Perhaps some of the postal arrangements etc. tell a story - In 1878 a Post Office opened at Pikedale Reef attached to the Eureka Hotel in the Machine Township - Proprietor Mr. E. Lynch Postmaster for 1 month - Then Mr. J. Stanley appointed as Postmaster. In 1879 the Postal Service between Stanthorpe and Reefs was discontinued. In 1880 Stanthorpe - Pikedale Reefs Mail Service No. 208 was recommenced by horse -



Goldfields history continued- distance 25 miles. 1882 M/S 208 discontinued --  
 1895 seeking mail service to recommence and effort to call village "Kaffirville" --  
 1878 Twenty children on field -- meeting held to establish a school -- at Eureka Hotel  
 -- S.W. Griffiths Minister for Education to inspect.

In 1895 The Rise & Shine, Independent Homeward Bound, Good Hope & P & O were all working. Rise & Shine had a shaft to 120 feet -- Mr. Baron Mills & Sons working it with pluck, energy, perserverance and economy. Kaffir Chief shaft to 190 feet -- yielding 1 oz. per ton -- after all working expenses paid proprietors C. Clark, Aeneas McDonald & Jas. Goodwin received £2 per week.

1903 - Wardens report - Blackfellow Claim 1 man employed.

1904 - Pikedale reef only prospecting work done.

1905 - McDonald Provisional Goldfield proclaimed - 50 men arrived on ground but for want of a battery work soon ceased.

GENERAL REPORT -- over years 14 major shafts sunk from 60 feet to 190 feet -- general despondency and so the story of the Pikedale Goldfields has fluctuated throughout the years -- and no Eldorado to date.

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BUNYA MOUNTAIN CAMPOUT -- June 11th, 12th & 13th, 1977.

See the bottom of Page 2 for O/Site Vans & Guest House phone numbers for any persons interested.

A note to our Secretary from the Ranger -- "If you arrive after hours please abide by the camping rules on display in the camping ground information alcove at the entrance, and obtain your permit from the Ranger on duty next morning."

A few quotes from the BUNYA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK information sheet --

WHAT TO DO - CAMPING - Your first task will be of course, to set up your camp. See the Park Ranger for a camping permit and any advice or assistance you require.

PHOTOGRAPHY - There are a number of lookouts on the parks which, with the special lighting effects of the early mornings or afternoons provide a special challenge for the photographer. Ferns, tall trees and the wildlife ensure that there is a never ending amount of suitable photographic subjects.

THE BUNYA PINES - The pines in the park seem to have a "wise old man" nature about them. They are tall and straight and yet their foliage and crown form often seems haggard and thinning. Some have probably been around for centuries -- if they could talk what stories would they tell? They would undoubtedly tell of the cold winters, the chill of low cloud and the resultant harshness of their environment.

THE VEGETATION - Bunya Mountains National Park consists of a mosaic of rainforests, grassy eucalypt forest, low vine scrub, and grassy plains. It is the latter that have raised much discussion and interest by ecologists and visitors to the park in general.

The "balds", as they are commonly known, have by some people been attributed to the effect of regular firing by Aborigines during "Bunya Bunya" festivals when the crop of bunya nuts were collected and eaten. However, recent ecological studies have cast doubt on this hypothesis. Commonly such regular firing results in the regeneration of certain fire indicators which do not dominate the balds. In addition, the balds are to be found within rainforest or adjacent to it and not within eucalypt forest alone. This means due to the dampness within a rainforest, firing would be almost im-



Bunya Mountain information continued - 'possible over the number of years needed to create such open grassy areas. Present thinking favours the theory that the balds are the remnant of a steppe climate; with dry cool winters following a moist cool period. The grassland areas produced by this climate have slowly been invaded, as the climate warms by eucalypt woodland and rain forest. Today the cold climate, fire and man perhaps all assist in preserving the balds.

THE ANIMALS - There are very few of the larger marsupials to be found on the park. This is probably due to the presence of the rainforest areas (an unsuitable habitat for most macropods). Other members of the marsupial family are to be found - the possum especially the brushtail possum which often shows no sign of shyness when raiding your camp. There are a number of marsupial mice - these are rarely seen but a quiet, observant visitor is usually rewarded with a sighting. Snakes are relatively common - the carpet and red bellied black snake are most common.

A torch and a good eye can make a quiet walk by any stream at night a most interesting one; for many frogs will be seen.

TICKS are another animal to be encountered. A mild Anti-hysteramine and antiseptic cream on the bites will help remove discomfort & (orally) infection.

- REGULATIONS -
1. Obtain a permit.
  2. Do not interfere with the vegetation in any way.
  3. Likewise do not interfere with or harm any of the native animals.
  4. Dogs, cats and other domestic animals are not allowed on the park.
  5. Sharp instruments (except for domestic articles) and weapons are banned from National Parks.
  6. Rocks, soil or any other substance of a geological nature must not be interfered with or removed.
  7. Littering as anywhere is an offence in a National Park.
  8. Finally we request that while on the park you have consideration for your fellow visitors; drive slowly and carefully. Vehicles of any sort are not allowed on walking tracks.

Any further enquiries should be directed to the Resident National Parks Overseer -  
Mr. Les Rice Phone Bunya Mt. 7 - A/Hrs. Bunya Mt. 3.

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MORE OF CHRISSIE PLANTS: "Old Recipes" from 'The Old Cookbook' -

WATERPROOF PAINT. -

Hot water, 1 gallon; soap, 2 pounds. Dissolve, then add boiled oil, 3 gallons; linseed oil and turpentine, each one gallon. Mix well and grind or mix your colours in it.

This paint is very suitable for canvas, by omitting the linseed oil and using less water.

and another one is

To Fireproof paper.

Take a solution of alum and dip the paper into it, then throw it over a line to dry. This is suitable for all sorts of paper, whether plain or coloured, as well as textile fabrics. You must try a slip of the paper in the flame of a candle and if not sufficiently prepared dip and try it a second time.

The book was published by Houlston & Sons, Paternoster Square, London 1894.

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June, 1977.

This poem was given to me by Ailsa Wilkinson and we think it well worth a spot in our magazine -

I'M FINE! THANK YOU!

There is nothing the matter with me,  
I'm as healthy as I can be.  
I have arthritis in both my knees  
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.  
My pulse is weak, and my blood is thin,  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

Arch supports I have for my feet,  
Or I wouldn't be able to be on the street,  
Sleep is denied me night after night,  
But every morning I find I'm alright.  
My memory is failing, my head's in a spin  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

The moral is this as my tale I unfold -  
That for you and me who are growing old,  
It's better to say "I'm fine" with a grin  
Than to let folk know the shape we are in.  
How do I know that my youth is all spent?  
Well, my "Get up and go" has got up and went.  
But I really don't mind when I think with a grin,  
Of all the grand places my "Get up" has bin.  
Old age is golden I've heard it said,  
But, sometimes I wonder as I get into bed.  
With my ears in the drawer, my teeth in a cup,  
My eyes on the table until I wake up.  
Ere sleep overtakes me, I say to myself,  
"Is there anything else I could lay on the shelf?"

When I was young my slippers were red,  
I could kick my heels over my head.  
When I was older my slippers were blue,  
But I could still dance the whole night through.  
Now I am old my slippers are black,  
I walk to the store and puff my way back,  
I get up each morning and dust off my wits  
and pick up the paper and read the "Obits",  
If my name is still missing I know I'm not dead,  
So I have a good breakfast and go back to bed.

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NOMINATION FORMS FOR OFFICE BEARERS

The Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club  
Nomination Form - July, 1977.

I nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
for the position of \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to accept the above position if elected.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date / / 77.