

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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 Vice-Presidents

Secretary
 Treasurer
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 Mrs. Dot Archer
 Mrs. Dot Archer
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 Mrs. Zaidee Newman
 Mrs. Dore McCosker
 Mr. Brian McDonagh
 Mr. G. McDonagh
 Mr. John Stevenson
 Mr. Errol Walker
 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 WEDNESDAY.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Single \$2.00

Family - \$3.00

PROGRAMME

JULY OUTING -

Place "UNDERCLIFF" Date July 24, 1977 Leader - Una Rickard
 Leave Weeroona Park at 9.30 a.m.

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MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD June 22nd, 1977.

Present 21

Apologies 7.

The President welcomed members to the meeting.

Minutes - It was moved by Mrs McDonald and seconded by W. McCosker that the minutes as per June Magazine be taken as read. Carried.

Correspondence - Inward correspondence was received from :- Q'ld. Nats re proposed Campout; Adult Education re rent of hall. Press Release from Dept. of Lands Nat. Parks & Wildlife (3).

July, 1977

Correspondence continued:- Magazines from Q.N.C. (95-96); D. Downs, June; Warwick Walker Vol. 4 No. 11; Urimbirra Vol. 11 No. 6.

Outward was forwarded to:- Adult Education return; M. Thornton, Mr. P. McKechnie M.L.A.; Mrs. D. Donovan; 4QS; Adult Education re rent of hall.

It was moved by Mrs. J. Paskin and seconded by Mrs. J. Harslett that the inward be adopted and the outward endorsed. CARRIED.

Financial - Mrs. D. Archer moved that credit of \$30.47 be accepted and a/cs Rover Scouts \$6; Shire Council \$5. Hall rental Storm King) be passed for payment. Seconded by Miss D. McDonagh. Carried.

Outing Report - It was disappointing that members were unable to attend the proposed Campout at the Bunya Mts. but Pres. Tom reported on his and Dot's attendance. He was pleased the weather improved and so they thoroughly enjoyed the area which provided both excellent camping facilities and scenery. A night programme was arranged and part was contributed by Dalby Camera Club.

Next Outing - This will be on July 24. As no plan was made the Committee was left to arrange a suitable area.

Next Meeting - As this will be the Annual Meeting members are asked to bring slides of "Remember last year" but request they be left with secretary or Robin McCosker, 1 week before the meeting. Supper will be served and members are requested to provide same. Remember nominations also for Wednesday July 27 at 8 p.m.

Business - As the Adult Education will not now pay the Clubs rental - as from March 1977, the onus now falls on us to meet this commitment. Moved by Mrs. D. Archer and seconded by Mrs. M. Prentice that the C.W.A. be paid for rent owing - Mch, Apr. May, June, 1977 \$12.00. Carried. Proposals for Storm King Dam and Campout on Oct. 8-9, 1977 were put forward. Invitations to be sent to member clubs as per last year. Q'ld. Nats, Chinchilla Nats, Tmba. Nats with possible extensions. The meeting requested the Secretary to write to Q'ld National Parks and express their regret on the possible tragedy that occurred on their June Campout in Tenterfield area. Information of Dos and Don'ts for bush walking and camping were also requested. Moved by Mrs. J. Harslett, seconded by Mrs. J. Paskin Carried.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9 p.m. after which Janet and Colin Hockings took us to the little known area of Hinchinbrook Is.

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DON'T FORGET OUR ANNUAL MEETING -

"REMEMBER LAST YEAR" slides to be handed in a week prior to the meeting which is on Wednesday July 27th - slides are to be given to Robin McCosker or our Secretary before this date.

We will be having a cuppa after the meeting so please bring a plate of something. SOME MEMBERS ARE LEAVING NEXT MONTH FOR TRIPS OVERSEAS SO JUST IN CASE THEY DON'T MAKE OUR MEETING MAY I WISH AILSA AND FRANK WILKINSON AND MR'S. FINCH A HAPPY AND ENJOYABLE TRIP ALSO NES AND WAL CATHCART. HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME AND COME BACK WITH PLENTY OF INFORMATION AND SLIDES - WE'D LOVE TO HAVE THE THRILL OF SHARING YOUR TRIPS AT OUR MEETINGS SOME TIME. GOD BLESS AND COME BACK SAFELY.

TO OUR FRIEND AND FELLOW MEMBER 'BILL MCCOSKER' VALE.

It is with much sorrow and love that the club extends to Dore McCosker, Robin and family, Leon and family, Jan, Julie and family and Mr. & Mrs. C. Burton our deepest sympathy on the passing of our fellow member 'Bill McCosker'.

Bill was a wonderful friend and a gentle person who loved the Bushlands and gave us much pleasure and help on the many outings we had together with him. Bill and Dore made our Christmas get-togethers at the Junction very happy events.

He will be missed very much by all of us who knew him and we Thank God for the privilege of calling Bill our friend.

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"When SOMEONE does a KINDNESS it always seems to me
That's the way God up in Heaven would like us all to be . . .
For when we bring some pleasure to another human heart,
We have followed in HIS FOOTSTEPS and we've had a little part
In serving HIM who loves us - for I'm very sure it's true
That in serving those around us WE SERVE and PLEASE HIM, too."

RAINBOWS

By Maurice Passmore.

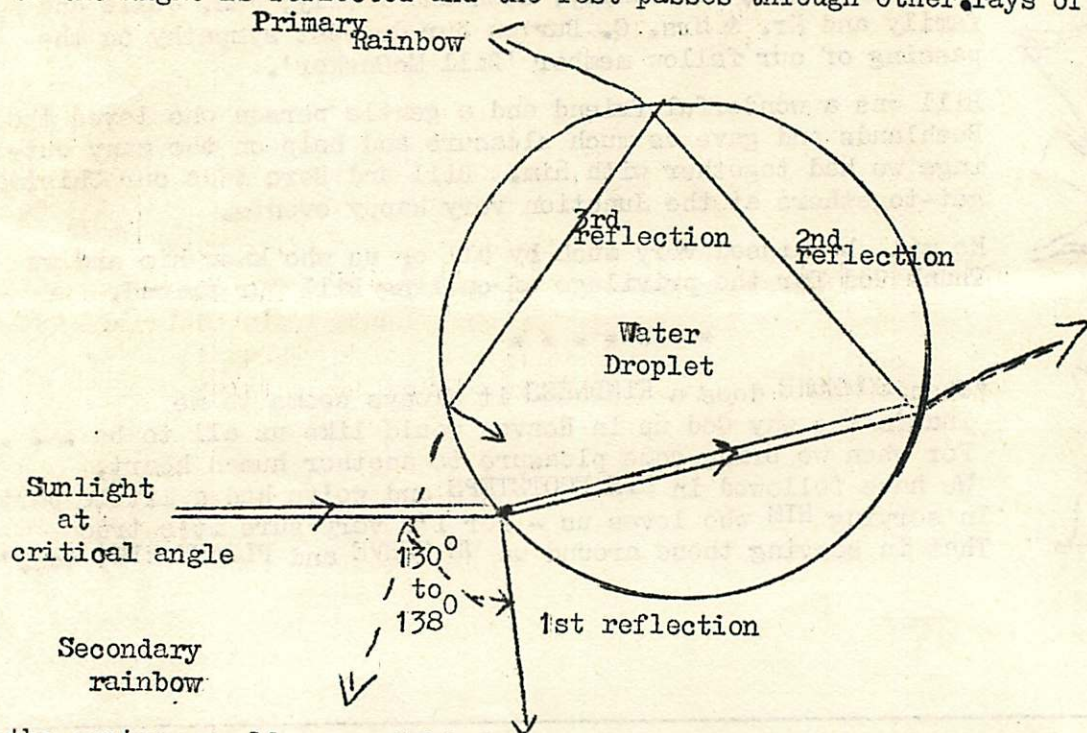
When sunlight is scattered by raindrops, why do those colourful arcs we know as 'rainbows' appear where they do? To answer this simple problem has taxed all our knowledge of the physics of light for centuries.

Although we have all seen many examples of a rainbow I'm sure that few have observed all its peculiarities. The primary conspicuous rainbow is obvious but the pattern of the colors from violet to red may not as is the fact that the red is always on the outside. Then there is the fainter secondary rainbow where the sequence of the colors is reversed, this subtle difference takes explaining. However when we consider these facts we remember having seen them but now we must consider the ones we probably haven't seen. Alexander's dark band (no not his ragtime one) and the faint pink and green bands that sometimes occur inside the primary bow (and rarely outside the secondary).

If we look at the primary rainbow then we see it has a bright inner and a dark outer side. This dark band was first described by the Greek Philosopher Alexander about 200 A.D. - hence the name - but the reason for it is not obvious. However when it comes to those pink and green bands we really have to understand the very nature of light itself, which has indeed changed dramatically in the last 10 - 15 years.

So let's leave the particle physics alone and start with the primary and secondary rainbow. Those are in the first place reflections and thus the source of the light comes from behind us (when viewing the rainbow). That is why it always moves

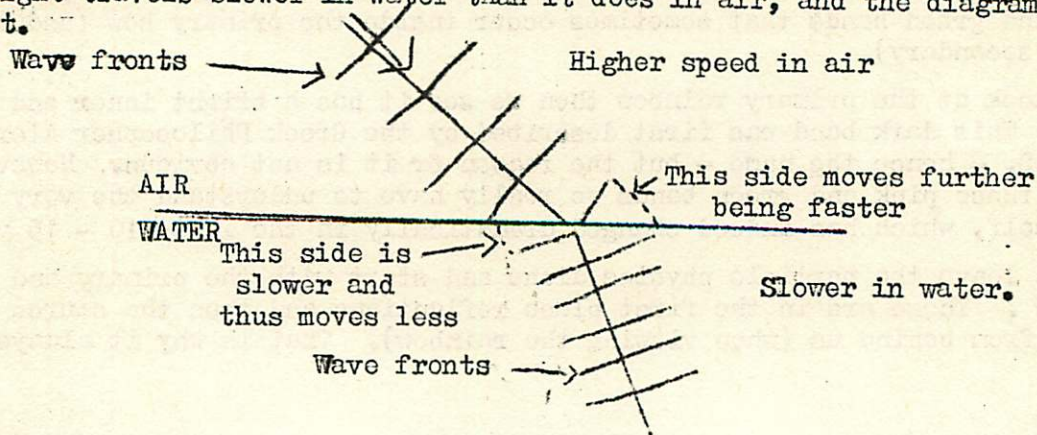
away as we advance towards these arcs. The reflections occur within the water droplets in the air, but as these are spherical only that light that falls at a very critical angle is in fact reflected (If all the sun's light were reflected we couldn't look at it.) This angle is from 130° to 138° and several reflections are involved, two for the primary rainbow and three for the secondary thus where part of the light is reflected and the rest passes through other rays of light, say at



the centre, would pass right through without reflection and we can observe this by looking at a still pool of water.

Alexanders dark band occurs between these two reflections where no light is reflected. The reversal of the colors also occurs because of these reflections where the secondary arc has one more reflection. We have all observed this reversal when looking in a mirror, especially if we try to back a vehicle whilst looking into the rear vision mirror.

You will also notice that as the light passed from air to water (or vice versa) it is bent, this is known as refraction, and is the basis of all lense design. If you don't believe it try poking a stick into a hole under the water, or spearing a fish. As each color is bent to a slightly different degree they are gradually separated hence the rainbows colors. The reason is simple enough and relates to the fact that light travels slower in water than it does in air, and the diagram shows how it is bent.



Maurice concludes -

As for the final analysis of the pink and green bands I'd suggest you read the April 1977 edition of the 'Scientific American'.

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A TRIP TO RIVERTREE

by Irene Chapman.

On Sunday 5th June we drove to Rivertree for a picnic. This has long been one of our favourite winter drives and we were anxious to see how much regeneration had taken place since our last visit in August '76. Then the river bed had presented a rather dismal sight with all the devastation wrought by the February floods still very much in evidence. Nature has been at work in the meantime and all the torn and twisted trees are now covered with shoots of soft fresh green.

Unfortunately there has been a prolific growth of weeds on the flats along the banks of the stream and the stream itself is still very choked with debris. One wonders what will happen when next the flood waters sweep down the valley for, given another season, there will be a veritable jungle of tangled growth among the callistemon and silky oaks.

The afternoon was overcast and bird life very quiet but we were lucky enough to observe an Azure Kingfisher diving and skimming over the water. His jewel like colours of azure blue and deep gold were a feast for sore eyes. We stopped at a shadowy stretch of water where last year we saw a large water rat but he did not seem to be at home. While watching the water intently for signs of fish I became aware that what I had taken to be a fairly thick stick lying over a patch of pale sand was undulating slowly and before I could point it out to the others it had moved into the shadows and disappeared. From its shape I would judge it to have been an eel.

The highlight of the drive however came on the way home. We were driving very slowly watching the river as we went, when I caught a glimpse of movement on the opposite bank. We pulled up and were treated to a grandstand view of a most interesting boxing match. Two black wallaroos were trying out their paces and through binoculars we were able to watch their tactics. Certainly they owed nothing to the Marquiss of Queensbury as no holds were barred and scratch, kick, bite and attempts to strangle seemed to be part of the game - wrestling with overtones of karate in fact. Obviously though this was not a serious struggle, more in the nature of a friendly bout, as from time to time they broke off to browse or gaze around and they finally left the arena together on the friendliest of terms. At the height of the excitement another spectator arrived on the scene. A wallaby hopping down the hillside for his afternoon drink suddenly became aware of the fight and literally screeched to a halt with sand and gravel flying. He sat back on his haunches watching but made no attempt to move closer. From the expression on his face I think he found it a vulgar display but Tom thinks he kept out in case they both turned on him. At any rate for us it was one of those rare cameos of nature that remain in the mind for years to come.

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Ed. Note - many thanks to Irene Chapman and Maurice for two very interesting articles - we are always in need of items for the magazine and hope to receive some from other members of our club.

July, 1977.

NEXT OUTING - SUNDAY, July 24th - Destination - "UNDERCLIFF"

Una Rickard is looking forward to welcoming the members on this day and showing us around this beautiful area.

Cars will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.30 a.m.

We are hoping there will be a good turn out for the visit to Undercliff as Una is certain take us on an interesting 'look around' the area.

DON'T FORGET - SUNDAY, July 24th - CARS WILL BE LEAVING WEEROONA PARK AT 9.30 a.m.

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BUNYA MOUNTAIN CAMPOUT

Due to the weather and the fact that so many members were ill and others unable to attend the planned campout was cancelled. However Tom and I went on the Sunday morning and we are very glad that we did. The weekend turned out to be very pleasant - cool at night but we were snug in our sleeping bags - and by 7 a.m. were enjoying breakfast in bright sunshine and the frost had disappeared on the camping Area.

The Camping area is extremely good with excellent facilities. During the weekend numerous activities were posted on the notice board near the Amenities Block and the walks range from gentle to the more strenuous for the more energetic type. All the walks are interesting and you see the scenery change from Rain Forest to grassy eucalypt forest, to low vine scrub and out onto grassy plains. The Bunya Pines are tall and straight and as the brochure states "The pines in the park seem to have a 'wise old man' nature about them" and how true this is. The markings on these trees are very interesting and one wonders at their origin - was it made by man or not???

A night program was organised complete with a very large campfire. The ranger spoke first about the area and the flora and fauna that could be seen here and this was followed by an interesting Pictorial program by the Dalby Camera Club on the Bunya Mountains and surrounding areas and also on New Zealand.

Tom and I enjoyed the walks we went on including a trip up Mt. Kiangarow on the Monday before heading home. I do hope we'll plan another campout to this area as it is well worth seeing.

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SETTING OFF

A long, hard tramp on a perfect day,
What could be better fun ?
The miles fly past when the heart is gay
And the world laughs in the sun.

David Hope.

