

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

P.O.Box. 154

STANTHORPE Q. 4380.

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Bushwalking.	Mr. Errol walker
Committee.	Mrs. Jean Harslett
	Mr. Tom Chapman.
	Mrs. Irene Chapman.
	Mr. Frank Wilkinson.

MEETINGS. 4th. WEDNESDAY of each MONTH at the C.W.A. Rooms at 8 p.m.
OUTINGS. Each SUNDAY PRECEDING the FOURTH WEDNESDAY.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Single \$2.00

Family \$3.00.

FEBRUARY OUTING.Place. "The Sign Board".Date. Sunday 19th February.Leader Mr. Errol Walker.

"SIGNBOARD " PRE-OUTING REPORT. by ERROL WALKER (outing leader)
 Departing from Weeroona Park at 9 am. 19.2.78 we will

travel through Eukey and via the back road towards Girraween , turning off this road at the Jaycees-Apex Road gateway. Cars will be left on the roadside just through the gate from where we shall walk for one and a half to two hours.

The venue of the "Signboard" will offer a few surprises to those who have not tramped this area of very easy access. Some of the best views of the National Park are to be had from the higher areas which we shall visit. There are plenty of interesting rock weathering patterns and still quite a few wild flowers were blooming on the pre-outing.

You should not need to carry any more than a camera as dinner will be at the picnic area of Girraween after we watch the official opening of the new National Park Information Centre at 12.(noon). This will give us a chance to inspect this fine asset to the Park as well as a chance of familiarisation with the newly proclaimed extensions to the Park. There is an excellent aerial photograph of the park hanging on the wall inside the Information Centre.

After lunch we will have time to walk some of the tourist tracks which radiate from the Park H.Q.

This outing is designed to accommodate the interests of all members of the family and should help to remind us that we have one of the best facilitated National Parks in Queensland.

NOVEMBER OUTING REPORT.

This half day outing took place on the property of 'Mountain Park' and the owner Mr. John O'Donnell joined the party to show us the places of interest. Later in the evening a bar-b-que tea was enjoyed at Mr. and Mrs. Butler's property and in the evening after the Nats. moved to some tall Eucalyptus country to look for wild life by night. Our random search makes us realise we know very little about their habits or signs to look for.

John took us through pleasant open paddocks. Distinctive with deciduous bark hanging from the branches in long ribbons, was Eucalyptus Viminalis which has the common name of 'Ribbon Gum' and is well deserved. Their shape is most attractive & the pink colouring of smooth upper limbs make them very attractive trees. They are both appreciated as picturesque trees for parks & good shade for grazing areas. The timber yields a light serviceable one for indoor work.

NOVEMBER OUTING REPORT. Cont.

John then took us to view a sandstone cliff into which a mine shaft had been sunk. It was done by a German gentleman by the name of Tom Mynch who had travelled the world and came to Australia in the evening of his life. He was an energetic man and had sunk quite a shaft at the junction of sandstone and the neighbouring rock which suggests he knew what he was doing. It is thought it was with the hope of finding gold. It would appear that expectations were never met. Today the sandstone face with its weather worn protrusions and the tiny green plateau below presents a pretty picture. A green and peaceful vale with a few additional plants which tell the story of previous habitation, e.g. Honeysuckle, passionfruit and white cedars. A fine example of the scrub tree *Evodia* sp. guarded the entrance to the shaft. Also nearby were some Scrub Box (*Tristania*). Both showed that the little valley enjoyed a balmy climate comparatively free from frost. Maurice Passmore explained something of the *Evodia* timber. It is a useful timber light yellow in colour close in grain and tough. He also invited members to smell a small piece of freshly chipped off bark. The rather unpleasant smell makes it easy to remember this tree in the scrub when met with. The *Evodia* genus is one of considerable size spread throughout tropical Asia and islands of the Pacific. This particular one which has opposite leaves very distinctly lobed is *Evodia micrococca*. The name refers to the numerous tiny black fruit. A stiff-leaved climbing plant interested several and has since been identified by Mr. David Hockings as *Cissus antarctica* or Wild Grape. The tree which many of us thought had the appearance of an Olive (just over the fence going up the gully.) does indeed belong to the Olive family and is *Olea* sp. so Mr. Hockings relates.

During the search for animals two gliders (*Petaurus australis*) Commonly called the Yellow-bellied Glider ^{were seen} This however ^{is} a bit of a misnomer for the under parts are frequently quite light to white as were these we saw. They were noticeably different from the Greater Glider which we saw on our previous night life outing. Most members had not seen these before. One kangaroo and a few roosting birds were also seen before rain took over.

Jean. Harslett
H

TOM MYNCH(Miner and Inventor.)

A few further notes have come to hand on the late Mr.Mynch since the outing notes were done, supplied by friends of his and by those whose employ he was in for many years. He was an original character and came to the district in 1913 and lived for many years in a small building behind the Dalveen Post Office and later below the Church of England. He is buried in the Stanthorpe cemetery where the correct spelling of his name was located. He spent many years of his life on 'Mountain Park' where the Mackays were very good to him. In his spare time, for many years, he worked on what he called his 'machine' which he had invented for propelling a ship.

He also devised a mixture used as a hair-restorer. This mixture he sold to quite a ready market and some folks swore by its power to restore hair. He was often seen bottling and labling his special line and putting it on rail. He was rather **eccentric** and those **who** seem to remember him well believe that he seriously thought he might locate oil in that locality. Whether he had another inspiration later and hoped he might strike gold at his mine is still a mystery.

GENERAL MEETING. 22.2.78

The programme by Errol Walker who has recently returned from an overseas trip with his family, promises to be quite a treat Titled, "The European Alps" it will include areas of beautiful mountain scenery, from;

Mont Blanc (France)
 Bavarian Alps (Germany)
 Hitler's Hideout Mountain (Germany)
 Swiss Alps (Switzerland)
 Grossglockner in Austrian Alps (Austria).
 Dolomites (Italy).

REPLY TO PELICAN QUERY.

Mr.Cecil Cameron was written to about the strange story of the pelican and leeches. He is a well known bird authority and we quote from his letter, and thank him sincerely for his interest.

" This is a most extraordinary story, and I have never heard anything like it before. Pelicans are highly nomadic of course. In the remote areas where they breed they can apparently assess when local conditions are such to guarantee food supply for nestlings up to the fledging stage. Usually breeding is quite successful, though they often have to wait for years for the time. As soon as the young are on the wing they disperse widely, often to coastal areas and estuaries where food supply is more assured. At times there are thousands in Moreton Bay, many immatures, and this year they are fishing regularly in the Brisbane River up as far as Tennyson and Jindalee. It is tough all over the inland now, and they are widely dispersed. Nearly every dam has one or two for a few days. As you say, they have to leave when they have fished it out.

Over the majority of the pelicans range, leeches would not be a problem, though they have plenty of others. So this is one of the many controls on this species that keeps the overall numbers down, so that their environment does not become over populated.

As leech infested streams and dams are probably only a small part of Pelicans range, the control may not be very significant overall. But to the best of my knowledge, this has not been previously recorded, and it is quite clearly important to do so now. Therefore I urge you to get it in print somewhere, ideally in your own bulletin in the first instance". Mr. Camerons comments were so interesting I felt all members would enjoy them. He went on to say that once in print it is wonderful how other interested parties track down articles and notes no matter how small. Mr. Cameron has recently heard from places from as widely separated as Nevada and Rome, after his articles have appeared. I mention this to encourage and to assure members that their efforts are appreciated in unexpected places.

GIRRAWEE INFORMATION CENTRE OPENING.

This will take place at noon on Sunday 19th. Feb. at the Centre and will be performed by the Hon. T. G. Newbery, M.L.A., Minister for Culture, National Parks and Recreation, with a Barbeque luncheon afterwards for invited guests.

The new National Park brochures Nos.1,2 and 3 are now out are well prepared and full of information. They deal with National Parks in Southern Coastal Queensland, Central Coastal Queensland and Northern Queensland respectively and Naturalist Club Members would find them very useful if visiting any of these areas. They list park facilities, a brief description of each park and its main attractions and a map.

NONSENSE NOTES.

THE FLEA.

by A.P. Herbert.

I never know why it should be
So rude to talk about the _____!
What funny folk we are ?
For if one's nibbled by a gnat
Or harvest bug or something like that
One seldom keeps it dark
One may even enlarge upon the tale,
But if you speak about the bite
Of the abhorred parasite
You are very very rash
None but an entomologist will quite admit
That such things exist
And even men like that insist
On using other names.
For when at night Professors leap
Out of their intellectual sleep
No ! as they fling the bedclothes high
They give a wild but cultured cry
Confound it!! Botheration !!!
Its a *Pulex irritans* !!!

Yours in Nats.
Jean.