

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

P.O. BOX. 154.

STANTHORPE. QLD. 4380.

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	MR. TOM CHAPMAN
	MRS. IRENE CHAPMAN.

MEETINGS 4th. WEDNESDAY of each MONTH at the C.W.A. ROOMS.
AT 8p.m.

OUTINGS Each SUNDAY PRECEDING the FOURTH WEDNESDAY.

SINGLE. \$2.00. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS. FAMILY. \$3.00.

AIMS OF THE CLUB.

1. TO STUDY ALL BRANCHES OF NATURAL HISTORY.
2. PRESERVATION OF THE FLORA AND FAUNA OF QUEENSLAND.
3. ENCOURAGEMENT OF A SPIRIT OF PROTECTION TOWARDS NATIVE BIRDS, ANIMALS AND PLANTS.
4. TO ASSIST WHERE POSSIBLE IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.
5. TO PUBLISH A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER.

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JULY 1978

MEETING... WEDNESDAY..... 28th. JUNE 1978.

Present 19.....

Apologies 8.....

Due to the Presidents temporary absence, the Vice-President, Colin Lockings welcomed all present with a special welcome to our guest speaker Mr. Don Vernon and a visitor Mr. Doug Binns. It was moved by Mr. Don Lightfoot and seconded by Mr. R. Archer that the minutes as per the June magazine be taken as read..... Carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS. INWARD.

1. Billions more to Feed'. Hunter Publications.
2. Mr. J. Corbett M.P. re survival courses.
3. Mr. J. Webb (Dept. Geology Qld. Univ. re Crustaceans.
4. Press releases National Parks.
5. Magazines, 'Urimburra' June Vol 12, Q.N.C. Journal Vol 22 Nos 1-4

OUTWARD

1. TQS

2. Mr. D. Binns

It was moved by Mrs. J. Harslett and seconded by Mrs. J. Stevenson that the inward correspondence be adopted and the outward endorsed..... Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT. Mrs. D. Archer moved that the credit of \$44.52 be received and the following accounts be passed for payment C.W.A. rent \$4.00.; S. Lee and Co. \$30.10.; Rover Scouts \$15.00. Aileen Mc. Allister \$11.78. (postage) Hunter publications \$2.40. Seconded by Mrs. M. Marsden... Carried.

OUTING REPORT. Mr. R. McCosker reported that 30 members and friends attended the monthly outing to Bald Rock Creek. A most enjoyable and energetic day was had by all.

NEXT OUTING. PLACE. 'The Caves'

DATE. Sunday 23rd. July 1978.

LEADER. Mr. D. LIGHTFOOT.

Members are asked to assemble at the OLD CAVES ROAD near the BY-PASS by 1.00p.m..

NEXT MEETING

As this will be the Annual Meeting members are asked to bring slides of 'Remember last year' but that they request that they be left with Robin Mc. Cosker one week before the meeting. Supper will be served and members are requested to provide a plate. Meeting ... Wednesday 26th. July 1978 at 8.00 pm.

GENERAL BUSINESS A letter from Mr. Spiller concerning the closure of an access road to the 'Caves' was discussed but it was moved by Mr. W. Cathcart that no decision be made until after the outing to this area..... Carried. Mrs. J. Harslett moved that the letter from Mr. J. Webb concerning small crustaceans found in the Stanthorpe area, be published in the newsletter..... Carried.

Being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45. Mrs. J. Harslett introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Vernon, ornithologist of the Queensland Museum. He presented a talk on endangered species of Queensland, illustrated with bird skins together with slides of modern exhibits in England.

Janet Hockings
 Hon Secretary.

It was good to see one of our newer members, Mr. Doug of Urbenvaille make a special and quite long trip to hear our guest speaker. Also present at the meeting was Mr. Peter Haselgrove recently appointed ranger at Girraween National Park and we extend to him a warm welcome to the district. Another new appointee is Mr. Marc Hockings and he comes as an Interpreter Officer at the new complex at Girraween and also works with schools in the area. Welcome also to Mr. Hockings.

JULY OUTING. This outing is to be a half day outing (See minutes for details) However at the meeting it was decided that the point for members to meet would be at the northern end of the road. Since Mr. Don Lightfoot has done a pre-outing run and found that section of the road not trafficable. PLEASE NOTE WE ARE NOW MEETING NEAR WHERE THE 'OLD CAVES ROAD' JOINS THE HIGHWAY AT THE NORTHERN END OF THE BY-PASS. The purpose of this outing is to follow up the letter from Mr. Tom Spiller to the club re objecting to the closure of this road and asking for some interest from the club. The object of the outing is to give members some idea of the area, before a decision either way is considered.

JULY MEETING. Note it is important, the Annual Meeting, slide requested and supper (see details in minutes).

THANKS. With the year drawing to a close, as bulletin editor I would like to record my thanks for the many articles and notes which have been given to me for inclusion in the newsletter. This has been a great help to me, thank you. However perhaps of more importance is the fact that it has added variety and interest to the publication. Such loyal support, especially from outing leaders has been splendid. I am disappointed that there have not been from members a few more observations (no matter how simple, some may appear) These original observations have a more far reaching impact than you may think. eg. Mr. Vernon spoke of the need to put in print any observations and here is a very easy way. 2. A young gentleman from the Geology Dept wrote, who has read and noted a possible source of information. 3. Member Zaidee Newman was surprised a few years ago to see her name listed in an Australian Bibliography of entomology. Why? Original notes on observation of an insect printed in our newsletter.

A letter from a post graduate student requests information on Conchostracans in the Stanthorpe District.

Mr. John Webb says his research is concerned with Conchostracans, which are small crustaceans generally 4-6 mm. long and enclosed in a translucent bivalve shell. They inhabit temporary rainwater pools and are not generally found in dams, streams or other permanent water bodies. They are usually quite active swimmers and burrowers and occur in quite considerable numbers, dozens or even hundreds in the one pool.

A species of Conchostracan occurs in the Granite Belt, apparently always in rainwater pools on bare granite outcrops. It has been

recorded from the "Sow and Pigs" near Amiens, the summit of Mount Norman and the summit of Bald Rock. Mr. Webb would like to know more about this species, particularly its distribution, and habits.

He would like recorded the locality, the date, the time of day, and any behavioural notes, e.g. mode of swimming, burrowing, feeding etc. Often they occur in only a few of a number of nearby pools; the governing factors are thought to be the size and depth of the pools, so if these could be noted it would be helpful.

Also helpful would be the approximate numbers of conchostracans. Any faunal associates e.g. insect larvae, slugs etc. and when the pool was filled with water. Some will only hatch out if their pools are filled in Summer months and this may well be possible in Stanthorpe. Finally it would be excellent if you could send me 10-20 specimens, preserved in formalin or alcohol from each general locality, where you find conchostracans. (I will refund postage) and no doubt he means outside the National Park areas. His address is Mr. John Webb, Care Department of Geology University of Queensland, St. Lucia Qld. 4067.

NATURE ORIENTATED STAMPS.

Two issues of stamps lately must give pleasure to the nature lovers, namely the "Tree Issue" depicting the Illawarra Flame Tree, Ghost Gum Trees, Grass Trees and Cootamundra Wattle. Closely followed by the issue for the Northern Territory Government showing the native Hibiscus known in the Territory as Sturt's Desert Rose. These stamps appeared on the 1st. July. On the 3rd. July arrived a new bird issue with the new postage rates. These depict a Little Grebe and a Lotus bird. The cover design for the First Day Cover for this latter issue was painted by Kay Breeden and is also a Lotus Bird. Mrs Breeden will be well remembered by some of our members.

BALD ROCK CREEK OUTING REPORT.

Mr. Robin Mc. Cosker has given us this report on the June outing:

At last the weather was fine for our Nats outing which was postponed from May. With sunny sky and a chilly wind we set off, about thirty in all, from Weeroona Park for a pleasant drive via Storm King Dam and Eukey to Wyberba. Those of us who seldom use this road were delighted with the views of the Pyramids, Mount Norman and Castle Rock as we wound around and down the twisty Devil's Elbow.

We stopped at the junction picnic area and after the farewells to the non-walkers, our party of about seventeen set off down the junction track. At the junction although the flow was not very great in Bald Rock Creek, the recent rainy weather was evident from the amount of water seeping down the rocky creek banks. These were quite a hazard to negotiate, and the photographers were at the ready to catch the action, should someone happen to slip and fall in. Fortunately there was plenty to occupy the photographers with unusual rock formations, waterfalls, rock pools and wild-flowers

The only wildflowers in bloom that I can recall were the pale flowering prickly wattle, *Acacia ulicifolia*, the beautiful blue daisy, *Olearia ramosissima*, the tall growing *Banksia*, *Banksia integrifolia*, a Guinea flower, *Hibbertia* sp. and a white heath. The heavy show of buds on other species of wattle as well as large areas of *kunzea*, *hovea* and flannel flowers show promise of spectacular spring displays. Perhaps another outing can be organized to this area in September or October to view these wildflowers in bloom.

About halfway down the watercourse we met Bill Goebel and Peter Haselgrove from Girraween National Park. They had driven to Brian Mc. Donagh's place and walked upstream from there. Bill was happy to lead us across country from the 'Square Hole', to short-cut two large bends in the creek and we reached the lunch spot, and the remainder of the party at about 1.30 p.m.

A few billies were boiled and we enjoyed a restful lunch beside a large rockpool. After a much appreciated lunch we browsed around the waterhole and tried to find where the water came from, underneath the large rock face overlooking our lunch spot. We then made our way slowly on down stream to Brian Mc. Donagh's house, and after arranging transport back to the cars left at Wyberba we went our separate ways thus concluding another enjoyable Nats outing.

Robin Mc. Cosker.

JUNE MEETING GUEST SPEAKER.

The club members were favoured with an outstanding programme for this meeting. Our guest speaker was Mr. Don Vernon from the staff of the Queensland Museum. Mr. Vernon is an ornithologist and has had 32 years in the Brisbane museum and 9 years at the Melbourne Museum so is well versed in Museum procedure, work and planning. He is also well known for his field work and taxonomy. He brought with him, for our interest and information a fine collection of

JUNE MEETING REPORT Cont... bird skins which created a lot of interest. Mr Vernon brought samples of some of the endangered species, and those which have not been recorded for a long time, and which are within the possibility of being seen again in areas including our district and adjacent districts. It was of particular interest for some of our members to actually see at very close quarters and handle these specimens, thus in a new way familiarizing themselves with particular species, which because of their rarity or shyness they have only had a fleeting glimpse of before.

Whilst many mammals have become extinct in Australia since the arrival of white man, the story is not so grim for birds. Nevertheless some species are greatly reduced in numbers and others alas! are becoming extremely scarce. Mr. Vernon believes that very useful and special work is and could be done by the amateur observers, but he also urged to get observations in print, no matter how modest. This in turn added to the knowledge of species, their range and movements. He spoke of some observers who over a life time gained tremendous local knowledge, and referred to them as "noble souls" in the realms of natural history study. It was great to hear him refer to Bill Goebel in the capacity of "noble souls". There are many who have learnt to appreciate his knowledge of a specific area.

Mr. Vernon concluded his programme with a good cross-section of slides of museums of the world, including the famous Peter Scott reserve. He has recently returned from a three month tour (study tour) of such institution and reserves.

Our President Tom Archer moved an appreciative vote of thanks.

TIGER CAT RECORD. Recently I was asked by Mr. Ross Sweet to look at an unusual animal near Thorndale, shot in a fowl run on Mr. Wayne Stanley's property. Here it had done spectacular damage with the almost complete destruction of the fowl yards population. The offender was a Tiger Cat (*Dasyurus maculatus*) This is yet another record of this animal in the Granite Belt. There would appear to be a slight increase in the population of this animal, which was not uncommon in the very early days, and then appeared not to be recorded for many years.

Jean Harslett

PIGS IN THE AMIENS AREA.

Pigs have been appearing in the Amiens State Forestry, and over the last 10 months have been seen both in the Amiens and Passchendaele forestry in both cases where it is adjacent to rough gully country. I do not think they have been seen much, if at all, here before. There is protection in the Forestry area, but at least six have been shot where they have been found in vegetable crops. We know that pigs have been recorded and very unfavourably, on the eastern sector of the district, for many years.

Jean Harslett