

August 1979

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE

STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB

P.O. BOX 154
STANTHORPE, Q., 4380.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1979-1980

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENTS

SECRETARY
TREASURER
NEWSLETTER EDITOR
NEWSLETTER SUB-COMMITTEE

PUBLICITY OFFICER
LIBRARIAN
FLORA OFFICER
FAUNA OFFICER
GEOLOGY OFFICER
YOUTH OFFICER
BUSHWALKING OFFICER
COMMITTEE

COLIN HOCKINGS
TOM ARCHER
ROBIN MC COSKER
DAVID PFRUNDER
DOT ARCHER
JEAN HARSLETT
JANET HOCKINGS
IAN JACKSON
JOAN STEVENSON
MILLIE MARSDEN
DORE MC COSKER
BRIAN MC DONAGH
MAURICE PASSMORE
TOM DUNN
ERROL WALKER
DON LIGHTFOOT
DESLEY MC DONAGH
LYLE THOMPSON
JOHN O'DONNELL
FRANK WILKINSON

MEETINGS - 4th WEDNESDAY of each MONTH at C.W.A. ROOMS at 8 P.M.

OUTINGS - Each SUNDAY PRECEDING the FOURTH WEDNESDAY of the Month.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

SINGLE - \$4.00

FAMILY - \$6.00

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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AUGUST 1972.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STANIHORPE FIELD
NATURALIST CLUB HELD AT THE C.W.A. ROOMS, WEDNESDAY 25th. July
1972.

OPENING. 8.13 p.m.

MINUTES. Motion, That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting be confirmed was moved by Mrs. J. Hockings seconded by Mr. L. Thompson..... Carried.

TREASURES REPORT.

July 26th. July 1972 Bank Balance.... \$6.24.

Receipts for the year.

Subscriptions \$213.00

Rent Collections..... \$47.54

Special Collection... \$9.50

Half cost of P.O. Box rental
from Camera Club. Box. 154. \$7.50

Bank Interest..... \$2.32.

Total \$279.86.

Payments for the year.

Magazine ... Postage..... \$64.75.

Printing..... \$30.00

Stencils & Paper.. \$73.90.

Total \$168.65.
(For Magazine)

Room rent for

Meetings \$45.00

Repayment of loan

to Mrs. Archer ... \$32.00

Rent P.O. Box 154 \$15.00

Subscription to Habitat Mag. \$7.00

Part Payment of speakers Travelling Exp. \$15.00

Total Exp. \$282.65.

Receipts.... \$279.86

Bank Bal. 1978. \$6.24.

Total..... \$286.10

Total Expences. \$ 282.65

Bank Balance 1st. July 1972... \$3.45.

Motion. Moved Mrs D. Archer and seconded by Mr. David Pfrunder that the Annual Financial Statement be adopted.
Carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:-

The retiring President Mr. C. Hockings thanked Members for their support of both outings and meetings and extended a special thanks to the leaders of outings and also the secretary, Mrs. J. Hockings, treasurer, Mrs. Dot Archer, newsletter editor, Mrs. Jean Harslett and also to Mr. Ian Jackson for arranging the printing of the newsletter and Mrs. Aileen McAllister for its dispatch. All had served a most useful year.

Motion. Moved Mr. Colon Hockings and seconded by Mrs. J. Harslett that the Annual Report be adopted.. Carried.
In seconding the motion Mrs. Harslett congratulated the President on the high standard of outings and guest speakers provided and on his very successful year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS The election of officers for the next 12 months was as follows:-

PRESIDENT Mr. Colon Hockings

VICE PRESIDENTS Mr. Robin McCosker

ELECTION OF OFFICERS. Cont.

VICE PRESIDENTS:-.....	Mr. Tom Archer.
SECRETARY.....	Mr. David Pfrunder.
TREASURER.....	Mrs. Dot Archer
NEWSLETTER EDITOR.....	Mrs. Jean Harslett
NEWSLETTER SUB-COMMITTEE...	Mrs. J. Hockings
	Mr. Ian Jackson.
PUBLICITY OFFICER.....	Mrs. Joan Stevenson.
LIBRARIAN.....	Mrs. Millie Marsden.
FLORA OFFICER.....	Mrs. Dore Mc. Cosker.
FAUNA OFFICER.....	Mr. Brian Mc. Donagh.
GEOLOGY OFFICER....	Mr. Maurice Passmore.
YOUTH OFFICER.....	Mr. Tom Dunn.
BUSH WALKING OFFICER...	Mr. Errol Walker.
COMMITTEE MEMBERS.....	Mr. Don Lightfoot.
	Miss D. Mc. Donagh.
	Mr. Frank Wilkinson
	MR. Lyle Thompson.
	Mr. John O'Donnell.

General Business. A committee meeting will be held on Thursday August 2nd. at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Tom Archer at 7.30
Please bring a plate for supper.
Annual meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

GENERAL MEETING FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL MEETING JULY 25th. 1979.

Present 21..... Apologies 7.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

Motion. That the minutes "taken as read" in the newsletter be confirmed. Moved Miss D. Mc. Donagh, seconded by Mr. R. Mc. Cosker:..... Carried.

Correspondence.... Inward:-

1. Letter from Society for Growing Australian Plants. re flowers for display.
2. Ditto for the Australian Heritage Festival.
3. Newsletter from Richmond Valley Naturalist Club.
4. Press statements by the Minister for National Parks and Recreation.
5. Pamphlets and booklets from the National Parks Wildlife Service.

Outward Correspondence.

1. 4QS advertising July Meeting and outing.

Motion. Moved Mrs. M. Marsden and seconded by Mr. E. Walker that the Inward Correspondence be received and the outward be endorsed..... Carried.

Business arising from the Correspondence.

It was decided to again to support the requests for flowers for S.G.A.P. 8th. and 9th. September. and the Australian Heritage Festival 15th. to 21st. August 1979.

Treasurers Report. Credit Balance July 1st. 1979. \$3.45.

Accounts . Postage \$7.79
Rent... \$5.00

Motion. Moved by Mrs. D. Archer and seconded Mr. L. Thompson that the treasurers report be adopted and accounts passed for payment.... Carried.

August 1979

Minutes of the General Meeting Cont.

Outing Report. Mrs. Jean Harslett reported on the outing to the Blue Gorge led by Mr. Bill Goebel, on 22nd. July, and 26 explorers attended.

Next Outing. Sunday 19th. August, Maryland area, leader Mr Tom Chapman. Depart Weeroona Park 9.30.am. DATE NOW 26th

TO SUIT MORE MEMBERS.

Next Meeting. Wed. 22nd Aug. Q.C.W.A. Rooms 8 pm. Guest speaker to be decided and details to be advised in the Newsletter.

General Business

Discussion on submissions re Sundown National Park. It was moved by Mr. Errol Walker and seconded by Mr. R. Mc. Cosker that we prepare a submission... Carried. It was decided to form a small sub-committee for this purpose, R. Mc. Cosker, E. Walker, T. Dunn, J. Harslett and R. Marsden being nominated and it was decided to ask the National Parks for more information.

Motion. It was moved by Mrs. J. Harslett and seconded by Mrs. D. Archer that a letter of thanks be sent to the auditor, Mr. Arthur Baker.

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

After Meeting Programme. "Remember Last Year" compiled and presented by Mr. R. Mc. Cosker and Mr. E. Walker. The evening closed with supper.

BLUE GORGE OUTING. A really splendid outing for July, to the Blue Gorge, was led by Mr. Bill Goebel. He had planned the route to give us the maximum variety, some thick undergrowth to negotiate, some ups and some downs, a long walk through a deep twisting extremely rocky creek bed, so rocky and harsh you wondered how it found its course through the rough terrain. Yet along its stony but shady banks were a variety of small ferns and particularly orchids. Greenhoods (*Pterostylis*) of three species, *Acianthus* (Gnat and Mosquito Orchids) and *Chilodactylis* were to be seen in surprising quantity.

We returned via the upper part of the Blue Gorge Creek, and thence along a fence line which is on the edge of the new park area. Twenty-six people took part ranging in age from 4 years to (no I'm not game to say!), some were muscle or foot sore, but all were elated by the challenge. Lunch on top of the gorge afforded beautiful views. It was of particular interest to see part of an area which has so recently been acquired for the National Park. Warming ourselves like lizards on the rocks, and with little else for company, surveying the valley below, we all felt a wonderful spirit of well being. The multitude of folding hills and valleys layed out before us, splendid in beauty, with rich blue shadows, sprinkled about, and made by the shadows of fleeting clouds in an otherwise blue sky. Rich ochre and red cliffs of rugged design created a dramatic foreground, and the shadows filled the narrow gorge in shades of deep ultramarine blue, from which the area aptly gets its name. Somehow the ultramarine not only described the colour, so well but the origin of the word (beyond the sea) set thought processes going, and wondering just how ancient the area is and had it always be so divorced from the sea. This indeed, recalls odd imprints of shell-like shape, seen many years ago in the river immediately below the gorge. We all felt, even if not expressed, what a splendid thing it was that the National Park

BLUE GORGE Cont.

authorities saw fit to acquire this area.

The first to the top saw a single goat sunning itself, and the ubiquitous wedge tail of mountain tops. The last to leave heard the bleat of another goat right down in the valley, and for a moment they thought it was a plaintive human cry for help. I noted with considerable pleasure, that the plants on top were less chewed by goats than on the last visit.

Those walkers who nearly got left behind may care to have the names of the plants checked, the cause of their delay. The fine samples of "Native Olives" (*Notelaea longifolia*) the lovely soft grey-green foliage and white daisy flowers (*Olearia canescens*) and the sample of the ancient *Macrozamia* was *M. flexuosa* (describing its spiral character). Thanks Bill for a great outing.

Jean Harslett.

BIRD NOTES FROM MR. ALAN SWEET.

Two rather unusual observations by Alan and Ian Sweet are recorded for your interest, both were observed on Ian Sweet's property. The first involves a Peregrine Falcon and a Pied Shag. The Shag was obviously changing its dining place from one dam to another, had not long been air borne when the Falcon swooped down on it and dropped it like a stone. (It is estimated that a falcon's dive reaches speeds of 300 kms per hour, so experts say) Therefore you can picture the impact. By the time Alan had got over to the spot where the ~~Paleen~~ Shag had fallen Magpies were advertising the event. The Shag was flapping around, appeared to have its wing seriously damaged at the joint, and after several futile attempts to fly, finally and very haltingly made the dam it had recently left. Alan was amazed that the Falcon would and could attack, with success, something a good deal more sizeable than itself.

Story two was a day or so later and Alan was drawn to the fowl yard by very agitated calls from the yard's normal inhabitants. To his surprise he found a very large visitor in the yard in the form of a Wedge Tailed Eagle. The fowls were unharmed, but no doubt the Eagle had initially, evil intent. The fowls were either in the shelter shed or huddled, frightened in one corner, witnessing the predicament of their unexpected visitor. The Eagle was taking a few quick but futile steps to assist in becoming air borne, but its eight foot wing span, and the confined area completely prevented that happening. Alan opened the gate and tried to shepherd it out, but even that was not easy, with its huge bulk and flustered state, and the rather narrow gateway. However, at last it was through, and after quite a long run it was in the air, and sweeping off, and to that wonderful freedom of limitless skies. The visitor, if left alone may have waxed fat, but he made the serious tactical error, for he would have sacrificed his freedom forever, without Alan's guiding assistance.

Two very interesting observations which we are so pleased to print. Thank you for them.

ORANGE PEEL Etc. Most people feel it is in order to leave the peel of fruit near picnic areas. In fact some believe it is

ORANGE PEEL Cont.

added humus. However, tests recently published, show that orange peel, in dry areas take seven years to completely disappear. Let us set a good example and carry our orange and other peels home or bury them, and not dispoil an area for what may be quite a long time.

AUGUST OUTING:-- 26th. August

BY Leader Tom Chapman.

Leave Weeroona Park at the normal time, that is on the dot of 9am. PLEASE NOTE THE DATE 26th Aug. (NOT 19th.)

We will travel to Mr. Greenups property "Maryland", anyone late can catch up later, there. In the morning the main interest will be historical including Victor's private museum and the general historical interest of "Maryland".

From there we will drive to Mr. Col Aiken's property, "Dalmoak" and have lunch by a beautiful waterhole on the Maryland River. Cars can be taken to the edge of the water, and an ideal place for boiling the billy and lunch. The afternoon will be spent along the Maryland River in an area of general interest and birds in particular. Mrs Aiken has recorded 150 species of birds in their area and is very enthusiastic about sharing her rich bird life with us. If you have binoculars, please bring them, if not maybe you can borrow a pair, as it is anticipated that we will be able to see some birds on this outing. NOTE DATE 26th. & TIME 9am.

LIFE IN THE CITY by Mr. TOM CHAPMAN.

While staying with our daughter Mary in Brisbane recently, Irene and I went for a walk after dinner. Much to our surprise we saw two unfamiliar birds, unconcernedly standing under the lights at a street intersection. We were able to approach quite closely, as they just sidled away, not offering to fly. Despite the strange environment, I am quite sure they were Bush Stone Curlews.

As Mary lives close to a large expanse of parkland along Enoggera Ck. in the vicinity of Ballymore Rugby Union Grounds, I presume they had wandered up from there, evidently finding mown footpaths & gardens to their liking. While we were studying them & approaching them as close as possible, we realised they were drifting away from the park towards New Market Road. Not wanting them to become involved with traffic, we did some careful herding, and succeeded in driving them back towards the parks.

Fortunately no one saw us during these manouvers. I can imagine the reaction of most people, if they had been watching us & were told, that we only driving the birds back to the park. Regardless of the thoughts of strangers, we were thrilled to see two such beautiful and uncommon birds, & hope they don't get involved in crazy traffic. After all we did advise them very strongly, to stay in parks, away from roads, in the future.

Tom Chapman.

Tom has provided us with an excellent Wedge Tail Eagle note for Bird of the Month, but owing to the extra (Annual Meeting) reports you will have to look forward to September for that. By then Tom and Irene, will be winging themselves, like birds, across Asia to Europe and England. I'm sure they will make the most of all their new experiences, and enjoy also seeing so many birds in the flesh that become so familiar to us all, in literature and poetry.

The Club members wish you safe and happy travelling and look forward to your return and to the tales you will be able to relate.

We all wish secretary David's mother a quick return to better health, too.