

Feb '82.

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

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

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1981 - 1982

PRESIDENT	John O'Donnell
VICE-PRESIDENTS	Robin McCosker Frank Wilkinson
SECRETARY	Joan Stevenson
TREASURER	Dot Archer
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Jean Harslett
NEWSLETTER SUB-COMMITTEE	Janet Hockings Ian Jackson
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FAUNA OFFICER	Brian McDonagh
GEOLOGY OFFICER	Maurice Passmore
YOUTH OFFICER	Errol Walker
BUSHWALKING OFFICER	Ray Marsden
<u>COMMITTEE</u>	Colin Hockings David Pfrunder Tom Archer Ailsa Wilkinson Lyle Thompson Jean Harslett

MEETINGS - 4th WEDNESDAY of each MONTH at C.W.A. ROOMS at 8p.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 NEWSPAPER.

THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE STANTHORPE
FIELD NATURALIST CLUB HELD AT THE C.W.A. ROOMS, 28.11.1981.

ATTENDANCE:- Present 23Apologies 6.

The President welcomed all present at the meeting,
and especially those who are visitors to the club, and a
"Happy Christmas to you all from the Executive"

MINUTES:- That the minutes be taken as read per the magazine
was moved by F. Wilkinson and seconded by M. Marsden &
Carried.

Correspondence:- Inward was received from Peregrine Travel,
Tasmanian Wilderness Sec. re Gordon Franklin
Rivers, A.C.F. re Franklin River Tas. Richmond
Valley Nats Newsletter, R. and L. Thompson return
of thanks.

Outward was written to R. Petzler thanks for Lee Hill
outing, Keith Frazer for speaking to our October
meeting. John Walter inviting him to speak at
our Nov. meeting and 4 QS.

BUSINESS FROM CORRESPONDENCE: The request for action re the
Gordon /Franklin/S.W. Tas. issue to counter the
proposal of the hydro-development was discussed.
Graham Greenup moved that a letter be sent to the
Senate Select Committee on S.W. Tas. in Canberra
suggesting that investigation be made further to
find alternative power or to explore of to equalise
the cost between domestic and commercial power.
Seconded by J. Davies.... Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:- STATEMENT

Oct. 28th 1981	Bank Balance.....	\$142.00
<u>Receipts</u>	Subs	\$16.00
	Room rent Coll.	\$4.00
	Room rent Donation.	\$5.00
	(for year)	<u>\$25.00</u>
		\$167.08

<u>Payments</u>	Oct. 28th.	
	Sept. and Oct Mag Postage	\$12.64.
	Sept and Oct Mag duplication	\$10.00
	Sept and Oct. Room rent	<u>\$12.00</u>
		<u>\$34.64</u>

Nov. 27th 1981	Bank Balance.....	<u>\$132.44</u>
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D. Archer moved that a credit balance of \$132.44 be re-
-ceived, and the following accounts be passed for payment.
Rent \$6.00, Magazine Dup. \$5.00 and Magazine Postage \$5.62
all for Nov. Seconded by D. Pfrunder... Carried.

OUTING REPORT:- R. Marsden reported on a very successful walk
and camp-out, commencing at the High School, over Mount
Banca to the Amiens Road where camp was set up for the
night. Next day the Little Broadwater Valley was follow-
-ed, then across towards Applethorpe and down Funker's
Gap Creek, and back to the High School. There were several

OUTING REPORT CONT. highlights in the way of flowers,-- (bottlebrushes) and birds.

Mrs. J. Harslett offered thanks on behalf of those who participated, to Millie and Ray and their family for all the careful organization and help, to make it such an enjoyable outing.

NEXT OUTING. This will be the Christmas get together to be held on "Mountain Park" at Dálveen. John O'Donnell has offered to supply the lamb for the BBQ. but members to bring the trimmings. Sunday December 6th. at 5pm.

SPECIMENS. David Pfrunder brought a Grey Fantails nest which was neatly built and in an exotic pine tree. Of the three chicks only one survived, and this only after being rejected and then reclaimed by the parent.

John O'Donnell had gathered and had in a vase "Some Wildflowers of the Future" They had been collected on his property and were all introduced. They were a varied and quite numerous collection and quite a thought provoking exhibit.

BUSINESS. A committee meeting has been arranged for Jan. 18th 1982 at 7.30pm to be held at Archer's home, to plan the programme from now to July 1982.

A letter of thanks to be sent to Leo Butler for for the use of his property for the camp was moved by M. Marsden seconded by Jean Harslett and Carried.

Mr. John Walter spoke of the new book "Hawks in Focus" by Jack and Lindsay Cupper and suggested that members ordered through him who in turn would do it through the Toowoomba Nats. Club. and thus gain by a bulk order of 10 quite a concession price. Orders close on Dec. 4th 1981. The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

GUEST SPEAKER John Walker opened by thanking the club for changing the meeting night to suit his plans. John and Ruth Walter then took us "From Goyders to Mount Isa in a most picturesque way and this was enlightened by a commentary of interest and humour. Their deep interest in birds was such as to stir enthusiasm in those present. The trip had been arranged specially to view some of the less observed birds to be seen in the Channel Country and S.W. and west of Queensland, and because of fair seasons the wildflowers sprinkled in between were beautiful and of interest too.

J. Harslett offered a vote of thanks, complimenting them both on good pictures, interesting subject matter much of which most of us had little chance of seeing, and a good commentary jointly given. Members well supported her.

Millie Marsden has kindly provided us with a report on the Camp-out.. Thank-you.

CAMP=OUT AND HIKE by MILLIE MARSDEN.

The Walk-out Camp-out held in November proved to be a most interesting item on the calendar of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalists Club. Intending walkers brought their overnight gear and requisits to the starting point at the Stanthorpe High School. From here the camping items were loaded into the trailer and taken by our son to the camp site to await the arrival of the walkers.. At noon eleven walkers headed off into the undergrowth, across the paddock and up to Mount Banca. The lunch stop was to be the large rock outcrop on the south-eastern side with a splendid view overlooking the town. In reverse towns-folk sometimes see young people practising their absailling from this outcrop. Thus it was a splendid grandstand view of the town nestling below in a sea of gold provided by the abundant flowering of corriopsis. The lunch stop took longer than expected, a cicade chose to display the miracle of emerging from its fearsome looking cocoon to a winged looking 'princess'. John had a puzzle for us, "Find the Bird in the Tree" eventually it materialised to everyone, a frogmouth superbly camouflaged. Speaking of defensive camouflage, Rene Thompson was heard to say, "snake" but a slightly less hasty decision proved it to be a lizard, Burton's Legless 'S' oops nearly typed snake instead of lizard, so remarkable was its likeness. This lizard, on small skinks so one could not quite call it a caninibal, perhaps some of our readers can supply the correct word for this habit. In the daytime they frequently rest in young bushy gum saplings. This one chose to nestle amongst some dropped and browned gum leaves the colouring of which exactly matched its pinkish-brown colouring. Its very pointed snout-like head is a give away to its identity, and there are very few who are not 'fooled' by it at first siting, others are reluctant to believe you anyway!! that its not 'snake'.

After lunch we were urged on across Happy Valley with its wonderful little stream of crystal clear water, and colony of little birds and then up on to "Flower Garden Rock". This really un-named, rock faces the south with good views of the surrounding country along with masses of flowers amongst the most prevalent were Boronia Flannel Flowers, Baekea, Eriostemon and numerous other gay little chaps.

We pressed on into the scrub, up hill and down hill seeing many flowers, birds and rock formations, and came out of the thick area to transverse Mr. Doug Walkers property & then into thick undergrowth again, Hibbertias, Boronia and Zieria seen, then on to eastern flat of the Little Broadwater where an old sawmill was positioned in early times. The valley was almost parklike and mown to walk along.

We were delighted to find a fine stand of the very pale mauve Callistemon (the un-named Happy Valley one) and increasing its range. Two hundred yards further on was a lemon Callistemon (C. pallidus). A leatherhead's swinging nest was inspected, bird sitting, and as afternoon was drawing on we were pleased to reach the campsite. Frank W. being first to arrive thoughtfully had fires stoked. Visitors Mr. & Mrs. Leo Butler & family & the Walker family were already in residence. Our camp-oven meal was smartly put on, while we waited a pizza entree, cooked in the camp oven was served. (It would for sheer deliciousness knock one of Mamma Luigi's best into a cock hat. Ed.) Then the youngsters had a go at making a damper and it was a joyous success. Twenty-one were at the campfire and 9 camped overnight, & were up bright & early to try & beat the flies, but lost!! The flies were very bad, but life wasn't meant - - -. After breakfast all helped to break camp and load goods into the trailer to be picked up later by our helpers (silent) & delivered back to base one.

We left camp on the appointed time of 8am., crossed the creek to a flat rock, with unusual shaped rock pools and 'gardens' of vivid penetrating blue of *Stypandra grandis*, oh! so well named and mint bush. A truly delightful interlude, of interesting shapes (& positions of photographers) bent on getting the best picture. I understand John O'Donnell had a 45 bird list for the outing.

Morning-tea was served from an elusive spring high on the side hillside. Its sight, although known to oldtimers eluded us on the pre-outing trip and nearly on this one too, Ray and Tom persevering until it was located. Billy tea was very acceptable and we also had the privilege of watching a black snake at close quarters, searching for food in the swamp, completely unaware of our presence until two camera shutters clicked, & he was off like a shot.

Weather began to deteriorate, with one or two showers, light, before lunch at a rock on the Allen property at Applethorpe where we investigated a deep round rock hole, on a flat rock full of water its said never to overflow or dry up. During droughts it has been the only water about and stock have survived because of it. We marvelled also at the remains of a garden nearby, & the chimney of the old Bertram home, the garden must have been wonderful in its time, roses were still blooming & an orange tree yielded several sweet easily peeled oranges. After lunch our thoughts were for home before our legs dropped off! We headed south down through the late George Sim's property where we looked at a Queensland Nut tree planted by him many years ago, in a sheltered place. It has reached the statue of 30 feet, I mean 10 metres, & is known to fruit quite well some years. We headed along the valley of Funker's Gap Creek quite rugged on the top end and were pleased to find a well worn little track, the easiest way of descent also worn by the late Mr. Sims enroute to town. Along at the back of the Experimental Station and in-

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-to Mr. Tom Spiller's property, down to the Caves area and back to the starting place. In a thicket on Spiller's place we had a fine look at a Nankeen Night Heron. (The name of 'nankeen' comes from the colour of 'Nankeen Cotton' which used to be imported from China, and describes the colour of back of the bird. We arrived back at 2.50pm and quite a big storm broke at 3pm., so the timing was perfect. Sure we were leg weary, but we enjoyed the experience and the company & the knowledge that so much can be seen within a radius of 6 or 7 kms. of Stanthorpe, with numerous deviations, of course. Thanks are extended to all landholders who allowed us to cross their properties & the Butlers for the campsite.

Millie Marsden.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our Australia Day Quart Pot Billy Boiling Champion, Robin Mc. Cosker on his win.

NEXT OUTING

LEADER ..Mr. Peter Langdon..... DATE Sunday 21st Feb. 1982.

PLACE Passchendaele State Forest. TIME 10am. Passchendaele.

DIRECTIONS Cars leaving Stanthorpe should depart about 9.30am, and the meeting place will be The

PASSCHENDAELE FORESTRY STATION at 10am. Cars may proceed along the Stanthorpe Bapaume, Passchendaele and Thulimbah road, from either end, depending upon your convenience, or make it a round trip. Mr. Keith Fraser, the forester-in-charge will spend some time with us soon after our arrival. Mr. Peter Langdon will be our leader. The necessary permits for a Forestry area have been obtained. Lunch will be within the Forestry area, so PLEASE thermos tea, and NO FIRES. Beside the Forestry regulations, none of us want to be put to shame by our Australian Quart Pot Billy-boiling Champion !! Some exploring and not too heavy rock climbing will be on the programme. Plants adjacent to the junction of "Trap" and Granite will provide interest and if it rains, a short time will be spent in a fairly well known local gully named Turkey Gully. The proposed distance covered within the forestry area will be about 12 kms.

NEXT MEETING. WED. 24th FEB.

C.W.A. ROOMS 8pm. Mr. & Mrs. Frank Wilkinson & Mr. & Mrs. Ray Marsden will jointly present a programme on the Carnarvan Gorge National Park, with pictures and surprises !!!

CHRISTMAS PARTY

A wonderful round up members, in excess of 40, very good with another Christmas Party and a farewell to Dyers, taking regulars. A great evening of fellowship, John O'Donnell provided succulent lamb chops for the BBQ. and squeezed endless lemons for a popular fruit-cup, and the ladies side dishes and salads. John also thanks them for the good tidy up afterwards too. After a look over the homestead, Christmas carols were sung and fellowship enjoyed. The account may be short, owing to lack of room, but the function was deemed a great success, by those present.

Yours in Nats.. Jean.