

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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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 STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB  
HELD AT THE Q.C.W.A. ROOMS, WEDNESDAY 26th. MAY 1982 at 8

ATTENDANCE:- Present 18.... Apologies 7.

The President welcomed members and visitors to the meeting.

MINUTES:- That the minutes be taken as read was moved by Tom Archer and seconded by Ray Marsden..Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE. Inward was received from:-

1. Australia Post re increase in bulk postage as from 11th.Oct. 1982.

2. John Tremasonis (USA) re fauna in Australia.

3. Graham and Kate Greenup letter of thanks.

4. Richmond Valley Nats re "campout"

5. S.G.A.P. re exhibition wildflowers 11th-12th. September.

6. A.C.F. Publications.

7. Dept. National Parks and Wildlife, 4 press statements.

8. N.P.A. Vol 52 No. 3, May 1982 magazine.

9. Q.N.C. June/July 1982 Magazine.

10. Outward correspondence:-

1. Mr. and Mrs McKenzie letter of thanks re programme

2. 4QS. re meeting and outing.

3. Barney and Keith Belford thanks for access to their property and the May outing.

Moved by Joan Stevenson and seconded by Ailsa Wilkinson that the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed..... Carried.

BUSINESS FROM CORRESPONDENCE:-

The Richmond Valley Nats campout in January was put to the meeting and further details will be obtained later. Some members hope to be participating

TREASURERS STATEMENT:-

FINANCIAL REPORT May 26th. 1982.

April 28th. 1982 Bank Balance forward..... \$49.84

Receipts received

April Room Rent Collection..... \$2.40

\$2.40

\$52.24.

Payments for the month.

April 28th. Magazine Postage.. \$6.51.

" " Magazine Duplication. \$5.00

" " Room Rent..... \$6.00

\$17.51.

May 26th 1982 Bank Balance

= \$34.73

Moved Dot Archer that the report be adopted and the following accounts be passed for payment, and

May Magazine Postage..... \$6.61.

May Magazine Duplicating..... \$5.00

May Room Rent..... \$6.00

Seconded by Ailsa Wilkinson and Carried.

OUTING REPORT:- Tom Archer reported on an enthusiast-ic party being taken through very interesting country near Girraween National Park by brothers Mr Barney and Keith Belford. Being on the eastern side the variety of dense timber was noted, while delicate greenhoods and ferns were seen. Rock outcrops provided the party with speculations as to their making, and their unusual shapes came alive. The Banksias growing at the headwaters of the Quart Pot Creek were very interesting.

NEXT OUTING:- Tom Archer reported that he would be investigating the campout site the following weekend. Details for this campout on June 19th/20th. will be given in the magazine.

NEXT GUEST SPEAKER:-

We hope that Jack and May Bennie will be able to be with us and give another of their interesting talks on June 23rd.

SPECIMENS:-

Ailsa Wilkinson brought along wattle leaves, which came from Taroom and were Acacia bandcroftii. John O'Donnell brought a nightjar that was the family cat's intended meal.

BUSINESS:-

In reply to the Bi-centennial Authority request for a project for this celebration, we plan to incorporate the "Year of the Tree", with it as a progressive effort.

For the "Year of the Tree" Mr. Ted Fitzgerald from the Shire Council has outlined a plan of tree planting at Storm King Dam. Further contact is to be made with him. Ailsa Wilkinson moved that we keep in touch with him (Mr. Fitzgerald) and it was seconded by Ray Marsden and carried.

One member attended a tree pulling Field Day and found the outcome to be the opposite of the Club's ideas. Through burning and heavy grazing the regrowth was controlled.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Mr. Tom Chapman then gave his experiences while on a six week tour of Russia, starting with the Trans Siberian rail trip and then visiting places down to Lake Baikal and the Caspian Sea areas, and back up to Moscow. Thanks Tom.

Joan Stevenson

Hon. Secretary.

At the Q.O.S. Camp at Easter at Harsletts property the most unusual sighting by two of the members was a Barn Swallow, and this is an interesting increase in range of this species.



O.O.S. Camp Cont:-

A couple of small groups of Southern Whitefaces gave a lot of interest and pleasure. Ninety-eight species were seen at Amiens and sixty-one as they "bounced" into Red Rock Gorge on the back of our truck.

MAY DAY a GAY DAY to BELFORD'S PROPERTY, FOR NATS.

By Jean Harslett.

The May outing was to Belford's property, where four generations have resided in the vicinity, thus we were treated to a leader who had a storehouse of stories.

Barney Belford was our guide for the day with brother Keith assisting. Barney had gone to no end of trouble to grade paddock roads to make the way easy for us, fit for a king or should I say a Mercedes. He had also given a good deal of thought on how to make this a good day for a bunch of 'Nats'. If interesting rock formations, unusual plants, fine trees and a perfect autumn day, were not enough, the day was enlivened by anecdotes, snippets of history, yarn spinning, told with the inimitable humour of our guides. Barney takes a great interest in the plants and fauna on his property and led us to many of his treasures. The day provided a great deal of variety in the "home paddocks".

For generations timber has been cut from the area, however, many fine trees still stand. The first major effort was timber for the construction of the building of the railway to Wallangarra in 1885-87. The signs of old roads and old mill sights are still visible. We saw some fine specimens of Grey Gums and other stands of surprisingly dense nature and containing excellent trees. Barney has the ability to look at a tree as a fine

specimen and a thing of beauty as well as to assess its quality as timber. One very handsome specimen of *Eucalyptus dalrympleana* which was new to us. The "Green" and "Black" wattles were looked at closely as the former and not the latter yield suitable bark for the tanning industry and we learned a good deal about its harvesting and the correct time and way to do it.

Some very good samples of *Bulbophyllum exiguum* or *B. minutissimum* were seen as well as the more common one *B. elisea*. Greenhoods *Pterostylis longifolia* were seen in flower and this is not often seen here and is distinctive in having quite long and numerous leaves up the stem. "Gnat orchids were also in flower. Everyone enjoyed the fine specimens of *Banksia collina*, handsome golden candles that invited to be picked. This mountain form is enhanced by black stamens which give it the name of "Hairpin Banksia). This species is proving useful in the 'approach' grafting experiments, especially in introducing some of the West Australian varieties, which have shown cultural problems, and hereby hangs another tale.!! But suffice to say all had a good day.

Name above = *Eucalyptus dalrympleana*. Jean Harslett.

June 1982.

Journey through U.S.S.R..an illustrated talk by  
Mr. Tom Chapman.

As an introduction, Tom told us some of the pitfalls and strange problems of planning the journey. The Russians prefer people to travel through in groups, couples such as Tom and Irene are given low priority and are referred to as travelling alone. The entire tour must be worked out (and paid for) before leaving Australia. One can stay only at Intourist Hotels, and each city has one or more of these (each with the name 'Intourist Hotel'!) and the itinerary does not state which one you have been booked into for the night. Only the guide and the Hotel concerned have this information!! Tom shuddered to think of the dislocation which would occur, by a delay on the journey, every booking for weeks ahead would have to be altered.

Anyway the tour started at the far eastern end near Korea. The railway line passed fairly close to the Peoples Republic. We were amused to hear that the Russians here are not intimidated by the nearness of the Chinese masses, they might have "quantity, but we have the ~~quantity~~ quality".

The railway journey is about 4,000 miles across Siberia etc. to Moscow. Much of the Eastern part was through coniferous forests, broken only by occasional sawmills or villiages with wooden (why not?) houses.

The guided tour of each town showed the heroes of Socialism, but it was interesting to see the State parks and gardens, with tendid (usually by older women) and most had plenty of trees.

After Moscow & the North-West, some nice shots of Palaces, Cathedrals & some new Hotels; the Chapmans flew south to Georgian, Kazakhstan & Uzbekistan. Parts of these Republics are very arid & the towns are real oases. Each had a flood irrigation system, which allowed a large variety of trees to flourish. The autumn leaves were lovely in this otherwise barren area.

At one place only were the Chapmans allowed to wander off into the hills without an escort. The country side was very pleasant, although cool.

There are so many facets of this forbidding land. At one spot, passengers alighted from the bus, walked into a nearby field and assisted with the cotton harvest, pulling a few bolls by hand! Tom also harvested his share for the cause. Construction work looked solid from the outside, but Tom claimed that the inside walls of the Hotels, start cracking after a few years. Another of their quirks is an apparent widespread reluctance to instal toilets, and Tom is contemplating writing a book on ablution blocks of the U.S.S.R.

All in all a very enjoyable, although necessarily biased look at that vast area of Asia and Europe, which few of us in the West have ever seen and even

U.S.S.R. Cont.

fewer understand in detail.

Ian Jackson moved a vote of thanks carried in the usual manner.

John O'Donnell.

We thank John for this report of a programme which some of us had to miss. I was one and I appreciate John's thoughtfulness in doing this report for the bulletin.

Specimens.

A few further notes on the Owlet Nightjar by John O'Donnell

I brought this bird to the meeting, because it is one of the many species of bush birds which are seldom seen. They are the smallest of our nocturnal birds & feed mainly on the ground (no doubt where my short clawed cat caught this one). They have branched bristles on either side of the broad bill, which look to be useful for catching insects while in flight, the bristles forming a sort of scoop. Colouring is different in various parts of Australia, this specimen was a soft grey over the back, with lighter coloured bars on the tail.

John O'Donnell.

THE YEAR OF THE TREE by courtesy of Frank Wilkinson.

As this is the 'Year of the Tree', I thought this account from the History of Tyalgum and Dist', which is situated on the Upper Tweed Valley, Middle Arm, and is also where Ailsa had charge of the school.

" In 1911 while fossicking, Jim Louttit & Dan Kerr noticed a branch of cedar growing out of a fig tree. The find was reported to Charles Bryant, who with his two sons commenced the task of felling.

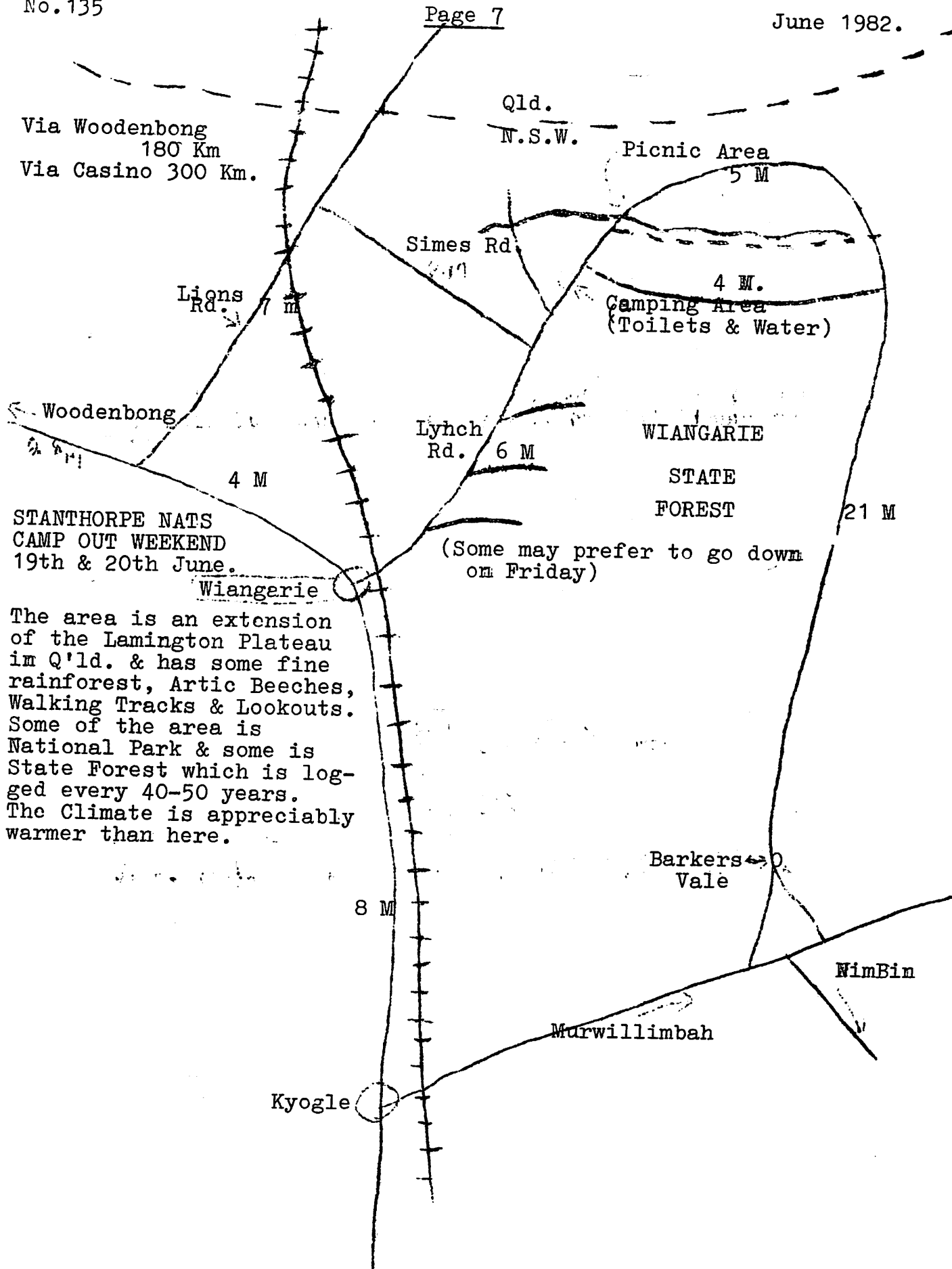
This giant of the forest had an enormous fig tree entwined around it, which took the three cutters two weeks to clear, before work started on the cedar.

When felled the barrell measured 58 feet in circumference, contained four 12 foot logs for 11,000 super feet of cedar, and the butt log, having a girth of 18 feet 6 ins. yielded 3,600 super feet. Six logs in the limbs of eleven feet girth yielded 6,000 super feet.

Bullocks conveyed the logs to Byangum where they were rafted to Murwillumbah, and then loaded on a boat for Sydney. The cedar was purchased for \$365.0.0. (or \$730)

From the time the first blow was struck against the encircling fig, it had taken these three men two months to get the cedar to Byangum. For their discovery Jim and Dan were rewarded with a suit of clothes each, costing ~~\$30.0.0~~ £5.0.0 (Or \$10.) "

Frank Wilkinson (Contribution.)



The area is an extension of the Lamington Plateau in Q'ld. & has some fine rainforest, Artic Beeches, Walking Tracks & Lookouts. Some of the area is National Park & some is State Forest which is logged every 40-50 years. The Climate is appreciably warmer than here.

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[illegible]

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WASH. FRONTIER  
CAMPION - THE  
1911 1912 1913

1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 26

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