

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

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

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1983 - 1984

PRESIDENT	John O'Donnell (852 344)
VICE-PRESIDENTS	Frank Wilkinson Robin McCosker
SECRETARY	Joan Stevenson (811 009)
TREASURER	Dot Archer (811 754)
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Jean Harslett B.E.M.
NEWSLETTER SUB-COMMITTEE	Janet Hockings Ian Jackson
PUBLICITY	Joan Stevenson
LIBRARIAN	Milly Marsden
FLORA OFFICER	Dore McCosker
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 Roy Werner
<u>AUDITOR</u>	Mrs. Joan Ferris

MEETINGS 4th Wednesday of each month at the C.W.A. Rooms at 8 P.M.

OUTINGS Each SUNDAY PRECEDING the FOURTH WEDNESDAY of the Month.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Single - \$5.00

Family - \$8.00

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 ON MARCH 28th. 1984 AT 8PM.

PRESENT 19 ..... APOLOGIES 6.

The President welcomed all to the meeting with a special welcome to Mrs.Doss Till and Doug Undrid.

MINUTES :- That the minutes be taken as read was moved by T.Archer and seconded by L.Thompson..... Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

INWARD:-1 Australia Post Letter-box account \$20.

2 N.P.A. Press Statements 6.

3. Contact issn 0728-7569.

4. N.P.A. News No154 No.2 March.

5. Richmond Valley Newsletter March.

6 Darling Downs Naturalist March No.358

7. Down Under Vol.23 No.1 March.

8 R.A.O.U. Info. Atlas Aust Birds by Margaret Blakers, Stephen Davies and Pauline Reilly Release offer \$39 plus post.

OUTWARD:-1. Speleological Soc. re swap of Magazines

2. 4QS. Outing and meeting notices.

MOTION. Moved that the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed by M. Marsden seconded by B. Mc.Donagh. Carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT February 22nd. 1984.

January 25th. 1984 Cr. Balance Forward....

145.05

Receipts

Jan 25th 1984 Room Rent Collection.....

2.25

147.30

Payments:-

Jan. 25th. 1984 January Magazine Postage 8.50

" " Duplication 5.00

January Room Rent 6.00

February 22nd. 1984 Actual Book Balance 19.50

Outstanding Cheques 245039 8.50 127.80

" 245040 5.00

13.50

February 22nd. Bank Balance ..... 141.30

Moved by Dot Archer that the above report be received and the following accounts be passed for payment

Room Rent 6.00

Mag. Duplication 5.00

Mag. Postage 8.50

Duplication Paper 11.20 Seconded by Rob. Mc.Cosker ..Carried.

OUTING REPORT The cross country walk from Eukey to Girraween was undertaken by 28 people. A good start was made under clear skies with access being made through private property at Eukey. One owner took them to Petzlers Hill near Girraween Park boundary. Crossing through a saddle a view was obtained of the Pyramids in the distance.

It was most unfortunate that the clubs first accident occurred on the Slip Rock, but resources of our members provided the correct treatment this minimising any further pro-

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-blems for the young lad.

NEXT OUTING This falls on Easter Sunday, but the members decided to keep to our normal day or rather date. It was agreed that members join with the Marsden's at (Aspinalls) near Cherry Gully for the day.

NEXT MEETING This also falls on a public holiday - Anzac Day but will be held as usual. There won't be any one guest speaker, but request any member to bring a programme of about 10 minutes. One member has a short programme on "Mootwingee" while the President is prepared to answer questions on "New Dimensions for the Naturalist" (referring to his article in the March Magazine.)

SPECIMENS. We regret the demise of a marsupial mouse but members benefitted by seeing it. John O'Donnell brought the specimen and gives us the following account about it.

A Brown Marsupial Mouse (*Antechinus stuartii*). It looks similar to the introduced house mouse, but has a longer, thinner snout. Opening its mouth revealed a set of teeth similar in layout to that of a dog. This species usually feeds on insects, caught around tree trunks and logs, but the specimen was caught inspecting cheese in a shed. The previous day an house mouse was caught, the previous week an introduced rat was caught in the same trap and location. Did this mouse enter the shed when the usual occupants had been dispatched, or can these species co-exist in some way. 8.4.1984.

BUSINESS Peter Ingall thanked the club members for their attention to Brett, while on the outing. He assured us that the Doctor was very complimentary of the first aid given.

Reference to be made to the constitution as to Clubs liabilities or not.

An invitation has been received from Bill Barker of College Road for any members to see the Burke Parrots and Quarrior (Cockatiel) at his residence.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20.

Members were privileged to hear a tape made by Mr. Sid Curtis of a Lyre Bird heard at Girraween. The number of different calls was remarkable and the imitation of other birds and sounds shows its versatility.

Joan Stevenson (Secretary)

#### OUTING REPORT

#### EUKEY - GIRRAWEEEN THROUGH WALK 25.3.84. by ERROL WALKER

Low mountain mists clung to the granite peaks at 7.30am as cars and people sorted themselves out next to the Eukey Hall for the Eukey - Girraween through walk. I wonder how many of us remembered standing around the same hall almost three years ago, contemplating the same walk as the rain fell. That was another story which has been well documented and indelibly imprinted into some minds.

Cars were left at the rangers barracks in Girraween National Park and the drivers were back at the hall by 8am. Twenty-eight people started the walk, and we received apologies from three. Quite a few visitors joined us for this outing, including Marcell Moran an Honary Ranger with the Conservation and Bush Rescue Association



EUKEY - GIRRAWEEEN THROUGH WALK CONT.  
at Goodna.

The convoy of cars used an old track to gain access to the base of Petzler's Hill where we were met by Robert Simcocks and his two children. Robert was most willing to show us his static garden which occupies over an acre of land on a high saddle overlooking the bald Pyramid to the south. He then led us up to Petzler's Hill where excellent views were the order of the day. The mist had cleared and with binoculars it was possible to see Grant Kenny paddling on Storm King Dam. This outing co-incided with the Australian Canoeing Championships, held at Stanthorpe's Storm King Dam.

The more adventurous of us managed to scramble to the top of some tors, where even better views rewarded us. The price of the views was a little skin and a bit of persuading.

Our route to the Slip-Rock lay ahead, but Robert had to leave us after pointing out some of the more prominent landmarks. Robert's dog "Sunday" followed us for almost a kilometre before the thick headed leader realised we were about to enter a National Park, where dogs are taboo. Half an hour of coaxing would not convince "Sunday" to go home to her owner, while we pushed on. President John gallantly volunteered to return the dog to her owner, returning while the rest of the party continued on.

Crossing Petzler's Gully we were soon in the Park, climbing for the high ridge which terminates at the Slip-Rocks. Lunch was in everybody's mind when the top of the ridge was gained about 11.30am.

We had lost a little time on Petzler's Ridge and also with our canine friend, so without morning tea the inner man came first.

We were surprised how many flowers were still in bloom. While I was counting heads and checking the route, Millie Marsden kindly compiled a list of flowers in bloom, which is included with this newsletter.

When we eventually came upon the Sliprocks, I noted all cameras were out and working. It was indeed, a magnificent view embracing practically all of Girraween with vistas beyond towards Sundown.

I had allowed an hour to explore these granite heights, but an innocent accident changed the course of the day dramatically. Young Brett Ingall fell while playing on the bare granite and injured his left knee. The injury looked bad so the leg was splinted and a makeshift stretcher of saplings, rope and raincoats was constructed to carry Brett some two kilometres and 300 hundred metres below to the cars.

Jean Harslett and Marg Hoey volunteered to raise the alarm, or rather arrange the ambulance, and went on ahead, while Ray Marsden took over the leadership for the rest of the group, not involved with the stretcher party.

Marcell was able to put his bush rescue techniques to good use and accompanied the stretcher with Brett's father and mother and Peter Langdon while I tried to find a clear path ahead.

The descent was not without incident, as we had to traverse some slippery and steep granite surfaces, where Marcell temporarily lost his footing and needed a little help to regain composure. I guess we can all learn from the experience in an unfamiliar environment.



A must commend the perseverance and stamina exhibited by Peter Ingall and Peter for most of the day.

An ambulance arrived soon after we reached the cars and Brett was transported to medical care.

While waiting for the rest of the party to descend, Jean and I were lucky enough to see a Wonga Pigeon, no more than thirty metres distant.

Thanks are extended to Robert Simcocks, and Syd Muller for the use of their properties and also to the National Parks and Wildlife Service for allowing vehicular access to the barracks. Their concern for Brett is also acknowledged.

It was the first serious accident to occur on a Mats. outing, but it was good to see we had the expertise to handle the situation. Young Brett at last report, is back on the soccer field none the worse for the ordeal.

Errol Walker.

Errol Walker displayed his usual care for detail in organization, and everything arranged went off like clockwork. Thank you Errol. Those things not planned were carried out more smoothly for his care and sensitivity for the situation and we all compliment you,  
Editor.

Millie Marsdens list of plants actually seen in flower on the day are as follows. Three orchids, Ladies Tresses (*Spiranthes australis*) Spotted Hyacinth Orchid (*Dipodium punctatum*) very spotted form, and a Mosquito orchid. *Dactylis collina* and late Flannel Flowers. Small mauve-blue Westringia (*W. longifolia*), *Hardenbergia*; *Pultenaea*; and both the yellow and white lace flowers, *Helichrysum obcordatum* and *diosmifolium* respectively; purple "Match-heads" (*Comesperma retsum*) "Prickly Moses" (*Acacia lineifolia*) Trigger Plants; and a few late flowers of *Veronica*, showing the intense clear blue of this lovely plant of the more elevated areas *Veronica*.

#### NEXT OUTING

Ray and Millie have done a pre-outing to decide where their base will be over Easter  
Next Easter Sunday. Suggested times of departure, your own choice where you meet 4.2pm Warragamba Park 9.30am John O'Donnell turn off to Mountain Park on Palmyra - Cherry Creek Rd. or where outing takes place at the KERRICK TURN-OFF. Further down and near Aspinall's home you will see the group camped from the road at KERRICK TURN-OFF  
LEADERS Ray and Millie Marsden.

HAPPY TRAVELLING to members Frank and Ailsa Wilkinson who fly out for England and Sweden on Easter Saturday, the well wishes of the members go with you and we will miss your cheerful company on outings for a while. DON and TOM ARCHER will have also departed for Victoria and a visit to their daughter, happy times.

NEW DIMENSIONS FOR NATURALISTS PART 2 BY JOHN O'DONNELL

Last month I gave a brief outline of the occult world. Most of us would find it difficult to imagine that a thought originates outside the head! Of course it starts somewhere in the mental body - somewhere in that invisible fifth dimension cocoon which surrounds each of us.

The next plane 'above' the mental deserves special mention. The Buddhic plane (probably the sixth dimension) is known as the source of intuition, or the higher self. This is what we tap if we sleep on a problem and find an answer next day. A person who is fully conscious on this plane can be 'anywhere' at the one moment, and has access to all available information: There is a record of all that has ever happened on Earth on the mental and buddhic planes, like a global camcorder. On the mental plane one can change consciousness and view an event (at the desired speed) as if one was actually present at the scene. On the buddhic plane, however, time and space lose their meaning. An event on this plane, say the long voyage of the "Endeavour" to Australia would be seen and known in an instant. The buddhic plane is the 'lowest' where the theme "Oneness" is experienced. On this plane a person knows that all life and matter on earth are parts of one consciousness. For example, one doesn't look at a tree, one feels part of that tree, there is no separation. It is important to accept this theme before proceeding.

This is the theme of ecology - that whatever we do or think affects all around us. Everything is interlinked and interdependent. We cannot 'beat' Nature - as we destroy it so we destroy ourselves. The answer

to crime lies not in a better Police Force, but in a return towards a oneness with Nature - greater awareness and respect. For example orchards are an ecological disaster. Perhaps someone will come up with a more balanced way of growing fruit. It is unlikely that science will help here as the scientific mind depends mainly on thought (mental plane) which is just a shadow of the power of intuition (buddhic plane).

Evil vibrations are coarse and so are confined to the astral plane. On the mental plane, where there is no evil, 'live' a host of entities called devas or angels. Some are concerned with the evolution of plants, others with animals, and others with the supervision of simpler astral entities such as nature spirits (playful entities, sometimes seen by children). Devas 'feed' on radiation and have a beamed colour language. They may clothe themselves in physical matter and appear to people as giants.

Certain caring people, such as Dorothy Maclean at Findhorn have received and recorded their messages. Some are practical suggestions, others abstract philosophy. Basically they convey the sadness of what Man is doing to his world and to himself, and suggestions as to steps out of this dilemma we call advanced civilisation. As we have lost communication with devas so we have become more alienated from Nature. There is no evil on the mental plane, therefore power is positive and aids evolution. The devas say that we should be able to share much more power than we have at present.

The devas repeated the fact that a scarcity of mature trees

NEW DIMENSIONS FOR NATURALISTS . PART 2. by JOHN O'DONNELL

reduces the peace and stability of mankind. They told Dorothy that they were the skin of the Earth, giving not only physical stability, but also a part in the interplay of invisible forces, which only the primitive people understand and respect. Ancient Man knew these strange forces, and lived by and with them. Superstition is perhaps the degenerate remnant of this old understanding.

Well that might be enough as an introduction ! I am not advocating that we all become involved with psychic phenomena. The essence is that we should be aware of the existence of these unseen forces and that they are shaping events, and that <sup>the</sup> sooner we move towards a oneness with Nature, the sooner we may experience real progress.

John O'Donnell.

Remember the April meeting programme and if you can contribute a small segment ,it will be appreciated.

ED.

